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The Communicator

The Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists

The New Rules Are Here!

The revised rules are currently being printed and mailed to all licensees. The Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapist Board Rules were amended and adopted on November 22, 1996. The following are sections in the rules that are either new or have significant changes:

- §801.19 Fees
- §801.261 Continuing Education Requirements
- §801.299 Administrative Penalties
- §801.300 Suspension of License for Failure to Pay Child Support

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call this office.



LICENSE TYPES ☞

The three different types of licenses provided by the Board are; a Temporary License, a Provisional License for those who complete all requirements and successfully pass the exam. Those who hold a licensure

as a marriage and family therapist in another state may apply for a Provisional License. A may apply for a Provisional License. A temporary license will be issued to a qualified associate, for a period of 30 months and may be extended for (180) days with the Board's approval. For more information on these licenses types or required elements may be found in Sections 801.92, 801.203, and 801.204 of the Board Rules.

disciplinary action will be printed in future Board newsletters along with the individuals name, license number, type of violation, and action taken.

COMPLAINT HOTLINE ☞

Those who wish to file a complaint against a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist may call the Board office at 1-800-942-5540. This toll free number is for complaints against marriage and family therapists only!

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

As a result of an order issued by the Board; revocations, suspensions, probations, reprimands and any other

The Board is under legislative constraints concerning lobbying. If you feel strongly about a particular issue which may affect you, the public, or the profession of marriage

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and family therapy. You are encouraged to call or write the Board, your State Senator, State Representative, or the Texas Association of Marriage and Family Therapy.

VERY INTERESTING!

Three of the mental health profession regulatory boards are now housed under the Texas Department of Health's Professional Licensing and Certification Division; the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists, the Texas State Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, and the Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners. Remember, if you are applying for licensure with one or more of the above mentioned programs you **MUST** send all applicable documentation to each program along with the required applications and fees.

EXAMINATION INFORMATION

The Texas Marriage and Family Therapy examination was developed by Applied Measurement Services, a testing company from New Jersey, with the guidance of various professional members of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists, a national panel of professionals at Princeton and Educators from several universities throughout Texas which offer marriage and family therapy degree programs.

The test consists of 200 multiple choice questions. Examinees are given four hours to complete the test. The examination is broken down into the following content areas:
Assessment and Diagnosis - 19%

Designing a Treatment Plan - 17%
Conducting a Course of Treatment - 21%
Establishing and Maintaining Appropriate Networks - 12%
Assessing the Outcome of Treatments - 15%
Maintaining Professional Standards - 16%

EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR 1997

The marriage and family therapy examination was given in Austin, Texas on June 14th, 1997. There was a total 29 test given, 3 failures, with a 90% pass rate at the June exam. The next exam will be given on October 11, 1997.

FUTURE TEST DATES ☺

Future examinations will be held on the second Saturday of February, June, and October of each year. All tests will be held in Austin, Texas. Applicants meeting the qualifications for examination will be notified of the exact times and locations. Additional information regarding testing procedure may be found in Subchapter H. of the Board rules, or by contacting the board office.

FAREWELLS'

We would like to say good-bye and wish Donna Roberts, Word Processing Operator III the best of luck. Mrs. Roberts has left this agency due to health reasons.

BARBARA'S BIT!

Please remember when mailing renewals in with payment, to separate correspondence from the money with the two different addresses provided to you. This will prevent delays in the processing your renewal. Also,

please remember to make sure that your name appears on the check or money order, not your husband, wife or employer's name.

FREQUENTLY REQUESTED NUMBERS & ADDRESSES

Texas State Board of Marriage and Family Therapists
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756
(512) 834-6657

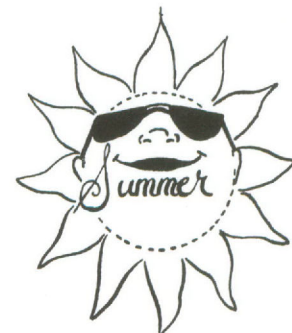
Texas State Board of Medical Examiners (Psychiatrists)
1812 Centre Creek Dr., Ste. 300
P.O. Box 149134
Austin, TX 78714-9134
(512) 305-7000

Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists
333 Guadalupe, Ste 2-450
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 305-7700

Texas State Board of Examiners of Social Workers
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756
(512) 719-3521

Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756
(512) 834-6658

Texas Commission of Alcohol & Drug Abuse
710 Brazos, Suite 403
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 867-8700



The Bobby Schmidt Corner

- By Bobby D. Schmidt, Executive Director

This office sends out your renewal notice 45-days prior to your expiration date. The renewal envelope has the renewal letter, survey form, continuing education documentation form, renewal coupon, and a color-coded envelope. You must return the survey form, the continuing education form (documenting 20-hours of continuing education) and the coupon with the \$40.00 renewal fee. All items should be submitted together in the color-coded envelope. If the renewal envelope is **NOT** postmarked on or before the last day of the renewal month, you are subject to applicable late fees, and your license status is "expired". You cannot practice under Texas Civil Statutes, Article 4512c-1 as a Marriage and Family Therapist until you have satisfied all renewal requirements.

Please remember that ALL licensees are required to submit documentation of 20 hours of continuing education per licensure cycle annually. **For example**, if your birthday is in March; your licensure cycle runs from April 1 to March 31 EVERY YEAR. Your licensure expiration date is March 31 of each year. In addition, you must submit 3 hours of ethics every three years. This is a very simple process, please do not "what if" it to death - take it at face value. This is not meant to be critical or demeaning in any way, but we answer these questions at least 50 or more times a month.

I would like to take this opportunity to say farewell to Donna Roberts. Donna has had some medical problems that have escalated in recent months and disabilities beyond her control. We will all miss her very much. In the interim this program has been short staffed since October. I would like to personally thank and commend Sandy Guyn and Barbara Jackson for their hard work. I appreciate their diligence and determination.

If at any time you have questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to call our office. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Q's & A's

Q - Is it possible for those licensees who maintain dual licenses (ie, LPC, LMSW etc... to combine their continuing education hours and apply them as a "group" at this time.

A -No. At this time, each profession has its' own continuing education requirements and guidelines. Although many seminars often contain materials that are applicable to a myriad of professions, most are geared towards a specific function. This is an idea to be considered though; keep reading The Communicator for any changes!

Q - Is it possible to list continuing education courses in future issues of "The Communicator".

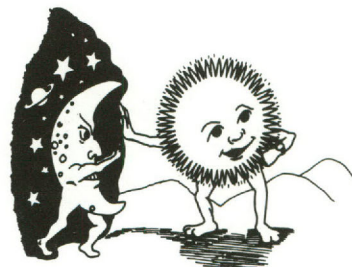
A -Not at this time. Remember, this agency approves continuing education sponsors for 5-year cycles, not each individual continuing education course.

HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?

Licensees and applicants **MUST** notify the Board office of any address changes. The Board is not responsible for lost, misdirected or undelivered correspondence if sent to the last address reported in writing to the Board. 🐾

SANDY'S VIEW POINT!

Hello again! Is it just me, or has this year really flown by? I hope that all licensees, or at least the majority of them have received their copy of the revised board rules. I apologize for the delay in getting these out, but things are finally settling down. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the rules, board meetings, etc...Have a great summer.



Up close and personal...

This month, Maria T. Flores, Ph.D.

Meet Maria T. Flores, Ph.D., one of the original board members, chair of the Ethics Committee, and currently the Director of the Marriage and Family Institute of San Antonio where she is in full-time clinical practice. She also teaches graduate students at these local universities, University of Texas at San Antonio, and Our Lady of the Lake University. She received her doctorate from Purdue University in Marriage and Family Therapy with a related area in Psychology. She is an approved clinical supervisor for AAMFT, LMFT, LPC and a member of the American Family Therapy Academy. She is the author of several journal articles, book chapters and book reviews. She was the principal Psychological Consultant of the Spanish translation of "The Introduction to Types," by Isabel Briggs Myers.

Straight from Maria Flores "One of my jobs on the State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists is to be the Chair of the Ethics Committee. It is a very serious matter to deliberate over allegations against therapists who are accused of violating rules governing the practice of helping others, "the art of healing". A case against a therapist who violate patients that have come to them for emotional, mental, and behavioral problems is a very serious matter. The investigators take their job very seriously and do a very thorough investigation of any allegation.

There are two other members of the Ethics Committee besides myself; George Pulliam, M.S.S.W. (Professional member) and Leslie Goolishian (public member). We meet ¹ in an Executive Session which is closed to other board members and the public. In these meetings, we come prepared with both case notes and the investigative report of the complaint scheduled for deliberations, In these executive sessions, we hear the investigators verbal report and ask pertinent questions. If we do not think we have enough information to make a decision to dismiss a case and/or invoke disciplinary action, we ask the investigator to continue with a more lengthy inquiry. Our legal counsel is present to explain any legal aspects and/or questions we may have about how a

particular case violates the board statute or rule and what penalties we can impose. Also present is the Executive Director, Bobby Schmidt and the Executive Assistant, Sandra Guyn. Who process the follow-up paperwork from this committee. These deliberations are difficult, lengthy and sober; we eventually come to a decision. Sometimes we postpone a deliberation for more information, or when we have a complete, detailed report, make recommendations such as revocation or suspension of a license. We may put a license on probation, send them a letter of reprimand or recommend a disciplinary action depending on the violation. We can now also place a financial penalties (sanctions) on a licensee. In some cases, complaints do not have sufficient evidence and/or the licensee has not violated a rule governing the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy; these complaints are closed and the licensee and complainant is informed in writing of such by the Executive Director. After these deliberations, we exit executive session and go into open session for formal recommendations. Since this session is open to the public, we make our recommendations using only case numbers. At the board meeting usually held the next day, we ask the full board to accept our report. Again, we only use case numbers, no names or detail. Confidential procedures are in place to protect all parties involved.

The Ethics Committee of the TSBEMFT is in place to protect the public from psychotherapists that have violated their own standard of integrity by violating a rule of conduct governing the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy.

People have been asking for feedback from the Ethics Committee on distinct violations. Please feel free to ask us questions, and I with the other members of the Ethics Committee will attempt to clarify your concerns. **(If you have a complaint please call 1-800-942-5540 or call (512) 834-6657 and we will forward a complaint form to you).**

Upcoming Issues:

Complaints..... An In-depth look!



THE COMMUNICATOR

is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) by the Texas Department of Health for the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists (TSBEMFT). A subscription to THE COMMUNICATOR is included with licensure. Notice of address change should be sent to the [TSBEMFT; 1100 West 49th Street; Austin, Texas 78756-3183, or sent via facsimile at (512) 834-6677]. The telephone number for the board's office is (512) 834-6657 or on the World Wide Web bschmidt; sguyn, or bjackson@licc.tdh.state.tx.us

Comments concerning THE COMMUNICATOR or suggestions for future article(s) to be included in upcoming issues should be forwarded to the board's office:

THE BOARD STAFF

**Bobby Schmidt, Executive Director
Sandy Guyn, Executive Assistant
Barbara Jackson, Administrative Assistant**

↳Let Us Hear From You...☛

Let Us Hear From You...

The Communicator is published to provide licensees and applicants with current information about board operations. Please drop us a note listing any topics you would like to see addressed in the newsletter or questions for the Q's & A's section.

**Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756-3183**

EXAMPLE:

CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) RECORD

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

LICENSEE'S

NAME: _____

LICENSE # _____

CE ACTIVITIES COMPLETED:

ADDRESS: _____

SSN# _____

FROM (_____) TO (_____)

PHONE # (____) _____

Month/Year

Month/Year

Title of Program	Name of School, Provider, or Organization conducting Program	Sponsor	Date (Mo/Day/Yr)	Type of Program	# of Hours
GAMBLING DISORDERS	UNIVERSITY OF CLEAR-LAKE	GHT. INC	05/26/97	SEMINAR	2.0

↓
name of program.

“ ”

↓
organization behind, setup, some times are same

↓

↓
seminar, workshop, conference, etc.



WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

Do you have a special article which you would like to see printed in **The Communicator**? We encourage you to submit your ideas, suggestions, and comments. Please fill out and return the form provided below to the Editor, c/o TSBEMFT, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756-3183.

SUGGESTIONS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SUGGESTION(S): _____

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS
Austin, TX 78756-3183
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