

SENATE BILL NO. 707

November 13, 2025, Introduced by Senators KLINEFELT and CHANG and referred to Committee on Health Policy.

A bill to amend 1978 PA 368, entitled
"Public health code,"
by amending sections 16903 and 16909 (MCL 333.16903 and 333.16909),
section 16903 as amended by 2006 PA 388 and section 16909 as
amended by 1997 PA 188, and by adding sections 16909a and 16914.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 16903. (1) An individual licensed under this part as a
2 marriage and family therapist shall use only the title "licensed
3 marriage and family therapist" or "licensed marriage counselor" or

the abbreviation "l.m.f.t." in representing ~~his or her~~ **the individual's** services in the practice of marriage and family therapy to the public.

(2) Unless exempt under section 16905(3), only an individual licensed under this part may advertise that ~~he or she~~ **the individual** offers ~~marriage~~ **any of the following:**

(a) **Marriage** and family therapy. ~~;~~ ~~marriage~~

(b) **Marriage** or family counseling service or advice. ~~;~~ ~~marriage~~

(c) **Marriage** or family guidance service or advice. ~~;~~ ~~marriage~~

(d) **Marriage** or family relations service or advice. ~~;~~ ~~marriage~~

(e) **Marriage** or family problems service or advice. ~~;~~ ~~marriage~~

(f) **Marriage** or family relations advice or assistance. ~~;~~ ~~service~~

(g) **Service** in the alleviation of a marital or family problem. ~~;~~ ~~or service~~

(h) **Service** of similar import or effect that is included in the practice of marriage and family therapy.

(3) The board may grant a limited license to an individual who has met the requirements of section ~~16909(a) and (b)~~ **16909(1) (a) and (b) or 16909a(1) (a) and (b)** in order to permit that individual to obtain the experience required under section ~~16909(e)~~ **16909(1) (c) or 16909a(1) (c)**. The board shall not renew a limited license for more than 6 years. A limited licensee shall do all of the following:

(a) Use only the title "limited licensed marriage and family therapist" or "limited licensed marriage counselor".

(b) Not represent that ~~he or she~~ **the limited licensee** is engaged in the independent practice of marriage and family therapy.

(c) Practice only under the supervision of a fully licensed marriage and family therapist.

(d) Confine ~~his or her~~ **the limited licensee's** practice to an organized health care setting or other arrangement approved by the board.

(4) An individual engaged in obtaining experience required under section ~~16909(b)~~ **16909(1)(b) or 16909a(1)(b)** may use the title "marriage and family therapist intern" or "marriage and family therapist trainee" during the training period. The board shall not require an individual obtaining experience required under section ~~16909(b)~~ **16909(1)(b) or 16909a(1)(b)** to hold a limited license.

(5) The following words, titles, or letters or a combination thereof, with or without qualifying words or phrases, are restricted in use only to those individuals authorized under this part to use the terms and in a way prescribed by this part: "marriage advisor" or "marriage consultant"; "family counselor", "family advisor", "family therapist", or "family consultant"; "family guidance counselor", "family guidance advisor", or "family guidance consultant"; "marriage guidance counselor", "marriage guidance advisor", or "marriage guidance consultant"; "family relations counselor"; "marriage relations counselor", "marriage relations advisor", or "marriage relations consultant"; or "marital counselor" or "marital therapist".

Sec. 16909. (1) The board shall grant a license as a marriage and family therapist to an individual who meets all of the following requirements:

(a) Provides satisfactory evidence to the board of meeting either of the following educational qualifications:

1 (i) Has a master's or higher graduate degree from an accredited
2 training program in marriage and family therapy approved by the
3 board.

4 (ii) Has a master's or higher graduate degree from an
5 accredited college or university approved by the board and has
6 completed all of the following graduate-level courses at an
7 accredited college or university approved by the board:

8 (A) Three courses in family studies that total at least 6
9 semester or 9 quarter hours.

10 (B) Three courses in family therapy methodology that total at
11 least 6 semester or 9 quarter hours.

12 (C) Three courses in human development, personality theory, or
13 psychopathology that total at least 6 semester or 9 quarter hours.

14 (D) At least 2 semester or 3 quarter hours in ethics, law, and
15 standards of professional practice.

16 (E) At least 2 semester or 3 quarter hours in research.

17 (b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), provides
18 satisfactory evidence to the board of having completed supervised
19 clinical marriage and family therapy experience in conjunction with
20 the applicant's educational program. The clinical marriage and
21 family therapy experience described in this subdivision ~~shall~~**must**
22 meet all of the following requirements:

23 (i) Be obtained either in a clinical practicum during graduate
24 education or in a postgraduate marriage and family institute
25 training program acceptable to the board.

26 (ii) Be obtained over not less than 8 consecutive months.

27 (iii) Be verified by a supervisor who has a master's or higher
28 graduate degree from an accredited college or university approved
29 by the board and meets 1 of the following:

1 (A) Is a marriage and family therapist.

2 (B) Is a ~~certified~~**licensed master's** social worker ~~or a social~~
3 ~~worker registered under article 16 of the occupational code, 1980~~
4 ~~PA 299, MCL 339.1601 to 339.1610.~~**as that term is defined in section**
5 **18501.**

6 (C) Is a licensed professional counselor as **that term is**
7 defined in section 18101.

8 (D) Is a physician as **that term is** defined in section 17001 or
9 17501 and practicing in a mental health setting.

10 (E) Is a ~~fully licensed~~ psychologist as **that term is** defined
11 in section 18201 **and is fully licensed.**

12 (F) Is an approved supervisor or supervisor-in-training
13 through a program conducted by the American ~~association~~**Association**
14 for ~~marriage and family therapy~~**Marriage and Family Therapy** and
15 approved by the board.

16 (iv) Include not less than 300 direct client contact hours in
17 supervised clinical marriage and family therapy experience, at
18 least 1/2 of which were completed in a setting in which families,
19 couples, or subsystems of families were physically present in the
20 therapy room.

21 (v) Be supervised in a ratio of at least 1 hour of supervision
22 for each 5 hours of direct client contact, for a total of not less
23 than 60 hours of supervision concurrent with the 300 hours of
24 supervised direct client contact.

25 (c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), provides
26 satisfactory evidence to the board of having completed a minimum of
27 1,000 direct client contact hours in supervised marriage and family
28 therapy experience, at least 1/2 of which was completed with
29 families, couples, or subsystems of families physically present in

1 the therapy room, that meets all of the following conditions:

2 (i) Is verified by the supervising licensed marriage and family
3 therapist.

4 (ii) Is obtained following the completion of the degree
5 required by subdivision (a) (i), is obtained following the completion
6 of the degree required by subdivision (a) (ii) and concurrent with or
7 following the course work specified in subdivision (a) (ii) (A), (B),
8 (C), (D), and (E), or is obtained as part of a doctoral program in
9 marriage and family therapy from an accredited college or
10 university approved by the board, which experience may include
11 experience obtained under subdivision (b) (i).

12 (iii) Is supervised in a ratio of at least 1 hour of supervision
13 for each 5 hours of experience, for a total of not less than 200
14 hours of supervision concurrent with the 1,000 hours of supervised
15 experience. Not less than 100 hours of supervision under this
16 subparagraph ~~shall~~**must** be individual supervision with no more than
17 1 other supervisee present. The remaining supervision under this
18 subparagraph may be group supervision involving no more than 6
19 supervisees with 1 supervisor. The supervision ~~shall~~**must** be given
20 in face-to-face contact with the individual obtaining marriage and
21 family therapy experience.

22 (2) The board shall waive the requirements of subsection
23 (1) (b) and (c) for an applicant who provides satisfactory evidence
24 to the board of having obtained a doctoral degree from an
25 accredited doctoral training program in marriage and family therapy
26 approved by the board.

27 **(3) This section is repealed effective January 1, 2028.**

28 **Sec. 16909a. (1) Beginning January 1, 2028, subject to this**
29 **section, to be granted a license as a marriage and family**

1 therapist, an individual must meet all of the following
2 requirements:

3 (a) The individual provides satisfactory evidence to the
4 department that the individual holds a master's or higher graduate
5 degree from an accredited training program in marriage and family
6 therapy approved by the board, the Commission on Accreditation for
7 Marriage and Family Therapy Education, or a regionally accredited
8 body. The department, in consultation with the board, shall
9 promulgate rules establishing standards to approve programs under
10 this subdivision.

11 (b) The individual provides satisfactory evidence to the
12 department of having completed supervised clinical marriage and
13 family therapy experience in conjunction with the applicant's
14 educational program.

15 (c) The individual provides satisfactory evidence to the
16 department of having completed 3,000 hours of supervised postdegree
17 clinical marriage and family therapy experience in not less than 24
18 months, at least 500 hours of which were completed in a setting in
19 which families, couples, or subsystems of families were present in
20 the same location or a setting in which families, couples, or
21 subsystems of families met by way of 2-way real-time secure
22 technology that allowed direct, contemporaneous interaction by
23 sight or sound. The supervision required under this subdivision
24 must include not less than 100 hours of supervision by a fully
25 licensed marriage and family therapist with not less than 50 of the
26 100 hours consisting of either individual supervision or dyadic
27 supervision with no more than 1 other supervisee present. The
28 remaining supervision under this subdivision may be group
29 supervision involving no more than 6 supervisees with 1 supervisor.

1 The supervision must consist of not less than 50 hours of face-to-
2 face contact with the individual obtaining the supervised clinical
3 marriage and family therapy experience and use not more than 50
4 hours of 2-way real-time secure technology with the individual
5 obtaining the supervised clinical marriage and family therapy
6 experience. To qualify as a supervisor under this subdivision, an
7 individual must meet the requirements described in subsection (4).
8 The department, in consultation with the board, may promulgate
9 rules to do the following:

10 (i) Revise the number of supervised clinical hours required
11 under this subdivision if necessary to ensure a marriage and family
12 therapist's eligibility to enroll as a provider with Medicare.

13 (ii) Supplement the requirements for supervisors under this
14 subdivision, including, but not limited to, by requiring additional
15 professional experience or the completion of continuing education.

16 (2) The board shall waive the requirements of subsection
17 (1)(b) and (c) for an applicant who provides satisfactory evidence
18 to the board of having obtained a doctoral degree from an
19 accredited doctoral training program in marriage and family therapy
20 approved by the board.

21 (3) The department, in consultation with the board, shall
22 promulgate rules to supplement the requirements for licensure under
23 this part as a marriage and family therapist as the department
24 determines is necessary or appropriate. The rules may adopt the
25 standards of the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and
26 Family Therapy Education or a similar accreditation organization,
27 and any updates or amendments to the standards described in this
28 subsection.

29 (4) To qualify as a supervisor under subsection (1)(c), an

1 individual must be 1 of the following:

2 (a) A marriage and family therapist.

3 (b) A licensed master's social worker as that term is defined
4 in section 18501.

5 (c) A licensed professional counselor as that term is defined
6 in section 18101.

7 (d) A psychologist as that term is defined in section 18201
8 who is fully licensed.

9 (e) An approved supervisor through a program conducted by the
10 American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and approved
11 by the board.

12 (5) As used in this section, "Medicare" means that term as
13 defined in section 2701.

14 Sec. 16914. (1) Notwithstanding the requirements of part 161,
15 the department, in consultation with the board, shall promulgate
16 rules requiring a licensee seeking renewal of a license to furnish
17 the department with satisfactory evidence that, during the license
18 cycle immediately preceding the application for renewal, the
19 licensee has attended continuing education courses or programs
20 approved by the board in subjects related to the practice of
21 marriage and family therapy and designed to further educate
22 licensees.

23 (2) As required under section 16204, the department, in
24 consultation with the board, shall promulgate rules requiring each
25 applicant for license renewal to complete as part of the
26 educational courses or programs required under subsection (1) an
27 appropriate number of hours or courses in pain and symptom
28 management.

29 (3) The continuing education requirements of this section

1 apply beginning with the first renewal cycle after January 1, 2028.