

MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPIST

Licensing Authority Paulette Lappe
Board of Behavioral Science
Iowa Department of Public Health
Lucas State Office Bldg 5th Fl
321 E 12th St
Des Moines IA 50319-0075
Phone: (515) 281-4422
Fax: (515) 281-3121
E-mail: plappe@idph.state.ia.us

Legal Authority Iowa Code Chapter 154D; Iowa Administrative Code, 645, 30-31

Job Description Marital and family therapists apply counseling techniques in the assessment and resolution of emotional conditions. This includes the alteration and establishment of attitudes and patterns of interaction relative to marriage, family life, and interpersonal relationships. They collect and analyze information about clients to determine advisability of counseling or referral to other specialists or institutions; review notes and information collected to identify problems and concerns; and, evaluate the results of counseling methods to determine reliability and validity of the treatment used. Therapists interact with other professionals to discuss therapy or treatment, new resources or techniques and to share information.

Education & Experience Required An applicant must hold a 45-hour master's degree or doctoral degree in Marital and Family Therapy or its equivalent from an accredited college or university, have two years of supervised clinical experience, and obtain a passing score set by the national exam service on the Examination in Marital and Family Therapy.

An applicant who has obtained American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy clinical membership is considered to have met the education and clinical experience requirements.

Provisions for licensure by interstate endorsement have been made if another state's requirements are equivalent to Iowa's.

Since April 2, 1998, licensure to practice the profession of Marital and Family Therapy has been mandatory. Qualified members of other professions may provide services of a marital and family therapy nature consistent with the accepted standards of their respective professions, but these persons shall not use a title or description denoting that they are licensed marital and family therapists without first securing licensure. The Iowa Department of Public Health can be contacted to ascertain the various exemptions associated with this Act.

Continuing Education Forty hours of continuing education are required biennially for license renewal.

Examination After receiving approval from the Board, applicants are sent information regarding how to make arrangements with Professional Testing Service to take the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Board (AMFTRB) Examination.

Fees Application: \$100
Duration: Two years
Renewal: \$100
Exam: \$295

SOC Code, Title & Avg. Hourly Wage 21-1013 – Marriage and Family Therapists (\$15.14)

Number of Licenses Issued Total number of licenses active as of December 31,
2001: 191
2000: 168

For Additional Information Iowa Department of Public Health Web site:
<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure>