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RULE ADOPTION
LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
Continuing Education

Adopted New Rules: N.J.A.C. 13:34-8

Proposed: July 7, 2003 at 35 N.J.R. 2831(a).

Adopted: September 11, 2003 by the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, Florence Schatten, President.

Filed: September 15, 2003 as R.2003 d.398, with a technical change not requiring additional public notice and comment (see N.J.A.C. 1:30-6.3).

Authority: N.J.S.A. 45:8B-24.1.

Effective Date: October 6, 2003.

Expiration Date: October 22, 2003.

Federal Standards Statement

A Federal standards analysis is unnecessary as there are no Federal standards or requirements which address the subject matter. The Board adopts these new rules pursuant to the State statutes governing the profession of marriage and family therapy.

Full text of the adoption follows:

SUBCHAPTER 8. CONTINUING EDUCATION

<< NJ ADC 13:34-8.1 >>

13:34-8.1 Continuing education requirement for license renewal

All licensed marriage and family therapists shall complete 40 contact hours of continuing education for license renewal. The licensed marriage and family therapist shall confirm on the renewal application that the licensee has completed the required continuing professional education programs, courses or articles as specified in this subchapter during the biennial period preceding the application for the renewal.

<< NJ ADC 13:34-8.2 >>

13:34-8.2 Contact hour requirement for licensed marriage and family therapists

(a) A marriage and family therapist applying for renewal for the first renewal period following <<-(the effective date of these rules)->> <<+October 6, 2003+>> shall complete a minimum of 40 contact hours of continuing education directly related to the profession of marriage and family therapy during this renewal period.

(b) A licensee shall complete at least five of the 40 contact hours of continuing education as required by N.J.A.C. 13:34-8.1 in ethical and legal standards related to marriage and family therapy, regardless of the number of hours accrued during the biennial period.

(c) If a licensee earns more than 40 contact hours of continuing education during a biennial period, the licensee may carry those extra hours, up to a maximum of 10 contact hours, into the next succeeding biennial period as long as those contact hours were earned within the last six months of the biennial period.

<< NJ ADC 13:34-8.3 >>

13:34-8.3 Approval of continuing education programs and courses

(a) The following are acceptable sources of continuing education as long as the course, program, or article is applicable to marriage and family therapy or falls within the content areas set forth in (c) below:

1. Courses and programs approved by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC); the American Counseling Association (ACA); the American Psychological Association (APA); the American Psychiatric Association (APA); the National Association of Social Workers (NASW); the National Association of Social Workers-New Jersey (NASW-NJ); the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT); the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy of New Jersey, Inc. (AAMFT-NJ); the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselors Certification (CRCC); the American Ortho-Psychiatric Association; the American Medical Association (AMA); the American Nursing Association (ANA); the National Association of Drug Abuse Counselors (NADAC); a member of the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium/Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse, Inc.; the Commission of Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE); the American Family Therapy Association (AFTA); or the American Society of Addiction Medicine;
2. Teaching or completing graduate coursework at a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
3. Authoring an article published in a professional refereed journal within the preceding biennial period;
4. Completing and having accepted a doctoral dissertation from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
5. Presenting a new course, program or workshop approved by one of the organizations listed in (a)1 above; and
6. Developing and completing courses or programs that provide distance learning opportunities approved by one of the organizations listed in (a)1 above or a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

(b) If a licensee seeks approval of continuing education credit from the Board for attending or presenting a course or program that has not been approved by any of the organizations listed in (a)1 above, the licensee shall first apply to and obtain approval from one of the listed organizations prior to seeking approval of continuing education credit from the Board.

(c) The following are acceptable content areas for continuing education:

1. Marriage and family therapy concepts, theory and practice of human behavior and family/social systems which provide basic theories, principles and techniques of therapy and their specific application to marriage and family therapy settings;
2. Personal and professional ethics, ethical and legal practice considerations, contractual agreements with clients (fees, payment plans, third party payers, treatment plans), confidentiality issues, recordkeeping, uses of computers and other technologies, distance and e-therapy, liabilities of practice and basic concepts in family law;
3. The helping relationship which provides broad understanding of philosophical bases of helping processes, basic and advanced helping skills, consultation theories and their applications, client self-help, self- understanding, and self-development, and facilitation of client change;
4. Human growth, development and maladaptive behavior which provides a broad understanding of the nature and needs of individuals at all developmental levels, normal and abnormal behavior, personality theory, life-span theory, and learning theory within cultural contexts;

5. Practice in theories of family systems, treatment approaches, assessment of family function and dysfunction, and specific system treatment options as both science and art;
6. Programs that address anger management, family violence, patterns of behavior and substance addiction;
7. Lifestyles and career development which provide a broad understanding of differing lifestyles, career development theories, occupational and educational information sources and systems, career and leisure counseling, guidance and education, lifestyles and career decision-making, career development program planning, resources, and career option identification;
8. Group dynamics, processes, counseling and consulting which provide a broad understanding of group development dynamics, group counseling theories, group leadership styles, basic and advanced group therapy methods and skills, and other approaches to work with groups;
9. Appraisals of individuals which provides broad understanding of group and individual psychometric theories and approaches to appraisal, data and information gathering methods, validity and reliability, psychometric statistics, factors that influence appraisals, use of appraisal results in the helping process and the specific ability to administer and interpret tests and inventories that assess abilities, aptitudes, interest, and identify career options--within the regulations for licensed marriage and family therapist's scope of practice;
10. Research and evaluation which provides a broad understanding of types of research, basic statistics, research and report development, research implementation, program evaluation, needs assessment, efficacy of treatment, publication of research information;
11. Social and cultural foundations which provide a broad understanding of societal changes and trends, human roles, societal subgroups, social mores and interaction patterns, social policy, multi cultural and pluralistic trends, differing lifestyles, and major societal concerns including discrimination, domestic violence, person abuse, stress, substance abuse, and methods of alleviating these concerns; and
12. The marriage and family therapy profession which provides a broad understanding of professional roles and function, business practices including finances, management and recordkeeping, professional goals and objectives, professional organizations and associations, professional history and trends, ethical and legal standards, professional preparation standards, professional credentialing, and supervised clinical training.

<< NJ ADC 13:34-8.4 >>

13:34-8.4 Contact hour calculations

(a) The Board shall grant credit only for continuing education courses or programs that are at least one contact hour long, and are directly related to the practice of marriage, family and individual therapy. For purposes of this subchapter, a contact hour represents a 60-minute clock hour containing no less than 50 minutes of content within the hour. Programs may include one 10-minute break for each contact hour.

(b) A licensee shall complete and be able to verify completion of a continuing education course, program or article as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:34-8.3 in order to receive continuing education credit. The Board shall grant continuing education credit to a licensee in each biennial renewal period as follows:

1. Completing graduate or post-graduate coursework at a regionally accredited institution of higher education: 15 contact hours of continuing education for each semester course credit awarded beyond the required educational standards which an applicant must complete for licensure as set forth in N.J.S.A. 45:8B-18 and N.J.A.C. 13:34-4.3;
2. Teaching graduate or post-graduate courses or programs offered at a regionally accredited institution of higher education: 15 contact hours of continuing education for each semester course credit awarded for each new course which a licensee teaches. For the purposes of this subsection, "new" means a course that the licensee has not taught previously in any educational setting;

3. Authoring an article published in a professional refereed journal within the preceding biennial period: 15 contact hours of continuing education per article with a maximum of 30 contact hours of continuing education per biennial period;
4. Completion and acceptance of a doctoral dissertation verified by letter of committee chairperson accepting the dissertation for a doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy or a closely related field: 40 contact hours of continuing education per biennial period;
5. Attending conferences, programs, courses or workshops: one contact hour of continuing education for each hour of attendance, or the number of contact hours of continuing education as calculated by the organization, whichever is greater;
6. Presenting a course, program or workshop: one and one-half contact hours of continuing education for each new course, program or workshop, up to a maximum of nine contact hours of continuing education. For the purposes of this subsection, "new" means a course that the licensee has not taught previously in any educational setting; and
7. Developing and completing programs that provide distance learning opportunities, such as Internet, video, audio, or CD-Rom, through the use of integrated technology/communication systems, verified with details of the program, such as learning objectives, verification of assignments completed, achievements of stated learning objectives, inclusive dates and number of enrollees: the amount of continuing education contact hours as calculated by the endorsing organization, up to a maximum of 20 contact hours of continuing education per biennial period.

<< NJ ADC 13:34-8.5 >>

13:34-8.5 Documentation of continuing education credit

- (a) A licensee shall retain documentation of the continuing education hours which he or she completes in order to verify program attendance and activity completion. Each licensee shall submit such documentation to the Board upon its request. The Board may periodically audit the records of licensees on a random basis to determine compliance with continuing education requirements of this subchapter.
- (b) A licensee shall verify attendance at continuing education courses or programs by a certificate of attendance or by a written statement from the course or program instructor. The verification shall include the name of the licensee, the name of the sponsor, the title, location and date of the course or program, the signature of a program official and the number of continuing education hours awarded.
- (c) A licensee shall verify continuing education activities by retaining the following:
 1. For publications, a copy of the published article;
 2. For program presentations, copies of the program, syllabus, outlines and bibliographies;
 3. For teaching, copies of the syllabus, bibliography, course outline and verification from the academic institution that the course was "new" as defined by N.J.A.C. 13:34-8.4(b)2;
 4. For distance learning, a certificate of successful completion from the endorsing professional organization; and
 5. For graduate coursework, an official transcript.
- (d) A licensee shall maintain verification documentation for six years following the renewal period for which the Board has granted the licensee continuing education credit.
- (e) Falsification of any information submitted with the renewal application, or the audit, or failure to complete continuing education requirements may result in disciplinary action by the Board.

13:34-8.6 Waiver of continuing education requirements

(a) The Board may waive continuing education requirements on an individual basis for reasons of hardship such as illness, disability, active service in the military or other good cause as established by the licensee.

(b) A licensee who seeks a waiver of the continuing education requirements shall provide to the Board, in writing, during the biennial period for which waiver is sought, the specific reasons for requesting the waiver and such additional documentation as the Board may request in support of the waiver.

SUBCHAPTER 9. (RESERVED)