

State Board of Marriage & Family Therapy Examiners

consumer *brief*

This 12-member board was established on January 10, 1969 (pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:8B-1 et seq.) to oversee New Jersey's licensed marriage and family therapists.

Board members, who are appointed by the Governor, must be New Jersey residents. The Board is comprised of six licensed practicing marriage and family therapists; one licensed professional counselor serving on the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee; one licensed alcohol and drug counselor serving on the Alcohol and Drug Counselors Committee; three members of the general public; and one State executive department member. Except for the State executive department member, all members are appointed for three-year terms. (Two committees fall under the Board: the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee and the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee.)

The Board meets on the second Thursday of each month at 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BOARD IS:

- to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of New Jersey;
- to regulate the practice of marriage and family therapy; and
- to take action against the unprofessional, improper, unauthorized or unqualified practice of marriage and family therapy and guard against unprofessional conduct by the licensed individuals who practice marriage and family therapy.

HOW DOES THE BOARD ACCOMPLISH ITS PURPOSE?

The Board protects the public by:

- making sure all marriage and family therapists

meet the requirements set by statute;

- investigating and prosecuting marriage and family therapists who break the State's consumer protection laws; and
- requiring all marriage and family therapists to be licensed and renew their licenses biennially.

HOW DO MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS BECOME LICENSED BY THE STATE?

Any applicant seeking a license to practice marriage or family therapy must pass an examination and prove to the Board that he/she is at least 21 years old, of good moral character, and has not engaged in any practice or conduct in violation of the Board's rules and regulations.



Applicants must have a minimum of a master's degree in marriage and family therapy; master's degree in social work; or equivalent course work content and training to a master's degree in marriage and family therapy (measured by a curriculum specified in the Board's regulations) from a regionally accredited institution. The basic experiential

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requirement is five years of full-time therapy, two of which must be in supervised marriage and family therapy. Detailed information on the requirements for licensure can be found in the statute ([N.J.S.A. 45:8B-1 et seq.](#))

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS AS A CONSUMER IF I HAVE A COMPLAINT ABOUT A MARRIAGE OR FAMILY THERAPIST?

Every consumer has a right to file a complaint against a marriage and family therapist by writing to:

State Board of Marriage and
Family Therapy Examiners

124 Halsey Street
P.O. Box 45007
Newark, NJ 07101

HOW ARE COMPLAINTS RESOLVED?

If the complaint is within the Board's jurisdiction:

- the complaint may be referred to an investigator who may contact you for additional information;
- the marriage and family therapist will be asked to respond to your concerns; and
- the Board will evaluate the complaint and the marriage and family therapist's response to determine if the complaint involves a violation of the law.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- If a violation has occurred, the Board may issue a reprimand, or revoke or suspend the license of the marriage and family therapist. The Board may impose monetary penalties or take other appropriate action.
- During disciplinary proceedings, licensees may be represented by an attorney and are given the right to demonstrate their compliance with the law. Once the Board has taken action against the licensee, he or she has the right to appeal the action.

CONSUMER TIPS

- Before visiting a marriage and family therapist, call the Board at 973-504-6415 to make sure the individual is currently licensed and is in good standing.

- The Board can also provide you with a marriage and family therapist's date of licensure, license number and business address.
- Ask if there are any public disciplinary actions the Board has taken against the marriage and family therapist. Public actions on file with the Board include: filed complaints from the Division of Law, consent orders or final orders imposing the revocation of licenses, and other public disciplinary or remedial actions taken against a marriage and family therapist such as a suspension, reprimand, probation or fine.
- If possible, select a marriage and family therapist the way you would a physician, lawyer or dentist: ask those you know and trust to make a recommendation.

If you have any questions, you may contact the Board at 800-242-5846, 973-504-6415, or via e-mail at AskConsumerAffairs@lps.state.nj.us.

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS



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