

NC Marriage and Family Licensure Board - *CORONAVIRUS IMPACT*

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board has received many questions from anxious licensees as well as students. We are sharing the answers we have at this time and will provide updates and information as the situation evolves. At this point we have received the most questions regarding telehealth and License Renewal/Continuing Education (CE) requirements.

First, please note that Board staff will be working remotely. While this may impact speed of internet and delivery of mail and processing times, the expectation is that Board functions will be minimally impacted. However, if you do experience a delay in receiving a response from Board staff during this fluid and unprecedented situation, your understanding and patience will be appreciated, keeping in mind that the Board and staff have responsibility for the safety of their health and family as well. You are encouraged to first review information available on the Board's website and then if you have additional questions, contact the Board office via email - ncmftlb@nc.rr.com.

MAIL/SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS: As the Board office is closed to visitors at this time, you should send, and not hand deliver, all materials to the Board office. If possible, send .pdf attachments via email (*i.e. ethical complaints, name changes, verifications for other states, etc.*).

LMFTAs: Quarterly supervision reports or supervision agreements may be sent via email attachment, directly from the supervisor's email (supervisors should copy the LMFTA on the email).

TELEHEALTH: In response to telehealth, any licensee can practice telehealth within North Carolina. ***However, electronic practice must be in compliance with the Ethics Code and HIPPA. The Board cannot advise on how to implement telehealth services. If this is your first time implementing, you may wish to consult with colleagues or other licensees who have such a system in place.*** If you wish to practice telehealth into another state in which you are not licensed, we advise you to contact that state to determine if their laws and regulations would allow such practice.

Students and Telehealth: Students enrolled in university programs, who are completing practicums, should consult with their university and supervisors for guidance. While guidelines state "licensed" professionals may utilize telehealth/telemedicine services, there is no language that prohibits interns or students completing practicums from using telehealth. The university has jurisdiction and responsibility for enrolled students and for setting the parameters for their programs.

LICENSE RENEWAL: In response to the many people asking how they will complete their CEs required for this year's renewal or if there is an extension for renewing,

- 1) All CE may be completed on-line, including the ethics requirement. The course must be structured (meaning a course with a test component) and as always, the content must be MFT or related to the practice of MFT.
- 2) In accordance with current statutes and rules, the Board is implementing a two-month extension (***until September 1***). While you are encouraged to renew by July 1 if possible, this will allow those who had planned to attend 'live' courses the opportunity to sign up for on-line courses. There is no need to contact the Board to request the extension as it will be automatically granted.

NATIONAL MFT EXAMS: For those scheduled or planning to register for an exam with the exam service, please see this link for more information. <https://amftrb.org/coronavirus/>

APPLICANTS: Applicants for the exam and licensure, please be aware that processing time of your application may be impacted.

BOARD MEETINGS: The Board meeting scheduled for April will be virtual with a compressed agenda. Only essential matters will be addressed, specifically, application reviews/decisions and ethical complaints.

***The NC MFT Board will continue to do our best to meet the needs of our applicants and licensees.
Thank you for your patience, and please stay healthy.***