
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1802

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Veloria, Dellwo, Ballasiotes, Romero, Flemming, Lisk and Thibaudeau)

Read first time 03/03/93.

1 AN ACT Relating to certification of marriage and family therapists;
2 and amending RCW 18.19.130.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.19.130 and 1991 c 3 s 28 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The department shall issue a certified marriage and family
7 therapist certificate to any applicant meeting the following
8 requirements:

9 (a)((+i)) A master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family
10 therapy ((or its equivalent from an approved school that shows evidence
11 of the following course work:—(A) Marriage and family systems, (B)
12 marriage and family therapy, (C) individual development, (D) assessment
13 of psychopathology, (E) human sexuality, (F) research methods, (G)
14 professional ethics and laws, and (H) a minimum of one year in the
15 practice of marriage and family therapy under the supervision of a
16 qualified marriage and family therapist;

17 (ii) Two years of postgraduate practice of marriage and family
18 therapy under the supervision of a qualified marriage and family
19 therapist; and

1 ~~(iii) Passing scores on both written and oral examinations~~
2 ~~administered by the department for marriage and family therapists; or~~

3 ~~(b) In the alternative, an applicant completing a master's or~~
4 ~~doctoral degree program in marriage and family therapy or its~~
5 ~~equivalent from an approved graduate school before or within eighteen~~
6 ~~months of July 26, 1987, may qualify for the examination)), or a~~
7 ~~behavioral science master's or doctoral degree and the program~~
8 ~~equivalency as determined by rule by the department based on nationally~~
9 ~~recognized standards;~~

10 ~~(b)(i) After receiving a master's or doctoral degree in marriage~~
11 ~~and family therapy, two years of postgraduate practice of marriage and~~
12 ~~family therapy, under the supervision of a qualified marriage and~~
13 ~~family therapy supervisor;~~

14 ~~(ii) After receiving a master's or doctoral degree in a behavioral~~
15 ~~science, two years of postgraduate practice in marriage and family~~
16 ~~therapy under supervision of a qualified marriage and family~~
17 ~~supervisor, which may be accumulated concurrently with completion of~~
18 ~~the program equivalency as adopted by the department by rule.~~

19 ~~(2) ((Except as provided in RCW 18.19.160, an applicant is exempt~~
20 ~~from the examination provisions of this section under the following~~
21 ~~conditions if application for exemption is made within twelve months~~
22 ~~after July 26, 1987:~~

23 ~~(a) The applicant shall establish to the satisfaction of the~~
24 ~~secretary that he or she has been engaged in the practice of marriage~~
25 ~~and family therapy as defined in this chapter for two of the previous~~
26 ~~four years; and~~

27 ~~(b) The applicant has the following academic qualifications: (i)~~
28 ~~A doctorate or master's degree in marriage and family therapy or its~~
29 ~~equivalent from an approved graduate school; and (ii) two years of~~
30 ~~postgraduate experience under the supervision of a marriage and family~~
31 ~~therapist who qualifies for certification under this chapter or under~~
32 ~~the supervision of any other professional deemed appropriate by the~~
33 ~~secretary.~~

34 ~~(3)) The practice of marriage and family therapy is that aspect of~~
35 ~~counseling that involves ((the assessment and treatment of impaired~~
36 ~~marriage or family relationships including, but not limited to,~~
37 ~~premarital and postdivorce relationships and the enhancement of marital~~
38 ~~and family relationships via use of educational, sociological, and~~
39 ~~psychotherapeutic theories and techniques)) the rendering of~~

1 professional marriage and family therapy services to individuals,
2 couples, and families, singly or in groups, whether such services are
3 offered directly to the general public or through organizations, either
4 public or private, for a fee, monetary or otherwise. "Marriage and
5 family therapy" means the diagnosis and treatment of mental and
6 emotional disorders, whether cognitive, affective, or behavioral,
7 within the context of marriage and family systems. Marriage and family
8 therapy involves the professional application of psychotherapeutic and
9 family systems theories and techniques in the delivery of services to
10 individuals, couples, and families for the purpose of treating such
11 diagnosed nervous and mental disorders.

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