



Notice of Proposed Changes in the Regulations of the Alaska Board of Marital and Family Therapy

Proposed Regulations - FAQ

March 2025

1. What is the purpose of the proposed regulations? What will this regulation do?

12 AAC 19.110. License by Examination These changes will update the process on how applicants can schedule the Professional Examination Service's Examination in Marital and Family Therapy. In addition, the term 'courses' will be changed to 'course work' due to the updated term in statute by HB 126 which goes into effect July 1, 2025.

The current regulations provide an outdated process for scheduling an examination. This change will be positive as there will be less confusion for applicants. No negative consequences are expected.

- **How do I schedule an examination?** Email the board for scheduling at: boardofmaritalandfamilytherapy@alaska.gov

12 AAC 19.120. Substitution of Post Degree Courses (Course Work) or Practice These changes will update the term 'courses' to 'course work' throughout this section, per HB 126 changes, which will provide clarity and consistency throughout. The title of this section will also be changed to use the term 'course work'. No negative consequences are expected.

12 AAC 19.130. Supervised Experience These changes are technical in nature, updating cross-references in accordance with state drafting conventions. No negative consequences are expected.

12 AAC 19.200. License for Supervised Practice The addition of the proposed regulation will provide an official process for a holder of a license for supervised practice of marital and family therapy to extend their license due to reasonable cause or excusable neglect. These changes are to ensure regulations are in alignment with the statute changes from HB 126.

This change will benefit licensees. They will now be able to complete their hours by extending their license for supervised practice in certain situations. No negative consequences are expected.

- **Does this mean I can now extend my associate license?** Yes, with good cause shown.

12 AAC 19.320. Approved Continuing Education Activities These changes will remove the "American Association for Marital and Family Therapy" and the "Alaska Association for Marital and Family Therapy" as specifically approved providers for continuing education courses. These changes will also update and clarify 'synchronous' vs. 'individual study' continuing education.

These changes will clarify that not only specific providers are approved for continuing education. This will decrease confusion for licensees regarding which continuing education providers are accepted. No negative consequences are expected.

- **Why is my organization not listed?** The removal of all organizations prevents the board from being required to maintain an updated and comprehensive list of acceptable providers.
- **Will classes from my organization still be accepted?** As long as they have met the requirements of this section, yes. This change is not decreasing the approvals.

12 AAC 19.340. Failure to Meet Continuing Education Requires and License Reinstatement This change will remove the definition for the term "reasonable cause or excusable neglect". The definition for this term is being moved to section 12 AAC 19.990 (definitions) to clarify that the definition may be used throughout the regulations, rather than only in this specific section.

This change provides clarity in the regulations. No negative consequences are expected.

12 AAC 19.990. Definitions Definitions are proposed to be updated or added for the following terms: "one year of supervised clinical practice", "asynchronous", "synchronous", "jurisdiction", and "reasonable cause or excusable neglect".

These changes will clarify definitions to ensure they are up to date, accurate, and provide the best understanding for licensees. No negative consequences are expected.

If I have a license in Canada, is it considered an equivalent license to apply by credentials with the new definition of "jurisdiction"? Unfortunately, no. "Jurisdiction" only includes other states or territories in the United States.

2. What are the costs to comply with the proposed regulations?

There is no expected cost to comply with the proposed regulation.

3. What are the positive and negative consequences of the regulations?

The positive and negative consequences are noted above, below the explanation of each regulation change.

4. When will the regulations be effective?

After the public comment deadline, comments received are compiled and given to the Board for consideration. The Board may adopt the regulation as written/publicly noticed, may amend and adopt them, choose to take no action, or may withdraw the proposed regulations in part or in its whole. After Board action, the adopted regulations go to Department of Law (DOL) for final review/approval. DOL either approves or disapproves regulations. Once approved by DOL, it

goes to the Lt. Governor for filing. Regulation takes effect on the 30th day after they have been filed by the Lt. Governor.

Do you have a question that is not answered here? Please email RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov so it can be added.