

**Maryland General Assembly  
Department of Legislative Services**

**Proposed Regulations  
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
(DLS Control No. 16-188)**

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**Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact**

The regulations clarify the requirement regarding supervised clinical experience hours for licensed graduate marriage and family therapists and correct a regulatory inconsistency regarding the supervised clinical experience required to be licensed as a licensed clinical marriage and family therapist.

The regulations present no legal issues of concern.

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

**Regulations of COMAR Affected**

**Department of Health and Mental Hygiene:**

Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists: Supervision Requirements for Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapists and Licensed Graduate Marriage and Family Therapists: COMAR 10.58.15.03 and .04

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**Legal Analysis**

**Summary of Regulations**

The regulations amend COMAR 10.58.15.03 to clarify that 80% of the supervised clinical experience hours required for a licensed graduate marriage and family therapist must be completed under the supervision of an approved supervisor who is a licensed clinical marriage and family therapist. The remaining 20% may be completed under the supervision of specified mental health care providers who are not licensed clinical marriage and family therapists, but who have certain experience in delivering marriage and family therapy services.

The regulations also amend COMAR 10.58.15.04 to require that an applicant for a license to practice as a licensed clinical marriage and family therapist complete 100 face-to-face clinical supervision hours, of which at least 50 must be face-to-face individual supervision and 50 hours may be in face-to-face group supervision. The changes make the requirement in COMAR 10.58.15.04 consistent with the requirement in COMAR 10.58.08.03C(2).

## **Legal Issues**

The regulations present no legal issues of concern.

## **Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent**

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene cites § 17-101, 17-205, 17-301, 17-303, 17-308, and 17-309 of the Health Occupations Article as statutory authority for the regulations. More specifically, § 17-205(a) authorizes the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to adopt regulations to carry out the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act. Section 17-303(e) and (g) govern the supervised clinical experience and related documentation required to be licensed as a licensed clinical marriage and family therapist. Section 17-309(a) authorizes the board to adopt regulations to allow an individual to practice under clinical supervision as a licensed graduate marriage and family therapist. The remaining cited authority is not relevant to these regulations.

The relevant cited authority is correct and complete. The regulations comply with the legislative intent of the law.

## **Fiscal Analysis**

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

## **Agency Estimate of Projected Fiscal Impact**

The department advises that the regulations have no impact on State or local governments because the regulations clarify existing requirements and correct an inconsistency within existing requirements. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

## **Impact on Budget**

There is no impact on the State operating or capital budget.

## **Agency Estimate of Projected Small Business Impact**

The department advises that the regulations have minimal or no economic impact on small businesses in the State. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

## **Contact Information**

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