

CHAPTER 49

AN ACT concerning marriage and family therapists and amending P.L.1968, c.401.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. Section 6 of P.L.1968, c.401 (C.45:8B-6) is amended to read as follows:

C.45:8B-6 Unlicensed persons, certain activities permitted.

6. An individual who is not a licensed practicing marriage and family therapist shall not be limited in his activities:

(a) As part of his duties as an employee of:

(1) an accredited academic institution, a federal, State, county or local governmental institution or agency, or a research facility while performing those duties for which he was employed by the institution, agency or facility;

(2) an organization which is nonprofit and which is, in the opinion of the board, a bona fide community agency, while performing those duties for which he was employed by the agency;

(3) a proprietary organization while performing those duties for which he was employed by the organization, provided his marriage and family therapy duties are under the direct supervision of a licensed practicing marriage and family therapist.

(b) As a student of marriage and family therapy, marriage and family therapy intern or person preparing for the practice of marriage and family therapy under qualified supervision in a training institution or facility recognized by the board, provided he is designated by such titles as "marriage and family therapy intern," or others, clearly indicating the training status.

(c) As a practicing marriage and family therapist for a period not to exceed 10 consecutive business days or 15 business days in any 90-day period, if he resides outside and his major practice is outside of the State of New Jersey, and gives the board a summary of his qualifications and a minimum of 10 days' written notice of his intention to practice in the State of New Jersey under this subsection, provided he (1) is certified or licensed in another state under requirements the board considers to be the equivalent of requirements for licensing under this act, or (2) resides in a state which does not certify or license marriage and family therapists and the board considers his professional qualifications to be the equivalent of requirements for licensing under this act; and is not adjudged and notified by the board that he is ineligible for licensing under this act.

(d) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2005, c.49.)

(e) As a practicing marriage and family therapist for a period not exceeding three years under the supervision of a licensed practicing marriage and family therapist, or a person designated by the board as an eligible supervisor, if he has a temporary permit therefor which the board shall issue upon presentation by the applicant of satisfactory evidence of his completion of all the educational requirements as provided in subsection (a) of section 18 of P.L.1968, c.401 (C.45:8B-18) and filing and review of an application for a temporary permit under this act.

2. Section 7 of P.L.1968, c.401 (C.45:8B-7) is amended to read as follows:

C.45:8B-7 Persons not entitled to assert exceptions.

7. The exceptions specified in subsections (c) and (e) of section 6 of P.L.1968, c.401 (C.45:8B-6) shall not be available to any person who has been found by a court of this or any State of the United States to have been convicted of, or engaged in acts constituting, any crime or offense involving moral turpitude or relating adversely to the activity regulated by the board. For the purposes of this section, a judgment of conviction or a plea of guilty, non vult, nolo contendere or any other such disposition of alleged criminal activity shall be deemed a conviction. An action to determine whether any person asserting an exception under subsection (c) or (e) of section 6 of P.L.1968, c.401 (C.45:8B-6) has committed one or more of the acts listed in this section may be brought by the Attorney General on behalf of the board.

3. Section 18 of P.L.1968, c.401 (C.45:8B-18) is amended to read as follows:

C.45:8B-18 Qualifications for admission to examination.

18. A person applying to the board, after January 1, 1970, may be admitted to an examination

if he meets the qualifications set forth in subsections (a), (b) and (c) of section 14 of P.L.1968, c.401 (C.45:8B-14) and provides evidence satisfactory to the board that he has met educational and experiential qualifications as follows:

(a) Educational Requirement:

To meet the educational requirements, an applicant shall have a minimum of a master's degree in marriage and family therapy, a master's degree in social work, or a graduate degree in a related field and shall demonstrate that he has completed substantially equivalent course work content and training to a master's degree in marriage and family therapy; and the degree shall have been obtained from an accredited institution so recognized at the time of granting of the degrees.

Pursuant to regulations adopted by the board, an applicant with a graduate degree in a related field which does not provide training and course work substantially equivalent in content to a master's degree in marriage and family therapy, shall be deemed to meet the educational requirements set forth in this section upon satisfactory completion of either a post graduate degree recognized by the board, or a program of training and course work at an institute or training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.

(b) Experience Requirements:

To meet the experience requirements, an applicant shall have three years of full-time counseling experience, or its equivalent, of a character approved by the board, two years of which shall have been in marriage and family therapy; two of the three required years shall have been under the supervision of a person holding a degree specified in subsection (a) of this section and who has himself had no less than five full-time years of professional experience or the equivalent. For those with a master's degree, two of the three required years shall occur after the applicant has earned the master's degree, and for those with a post-master's or doctoral degree, one of the three required years shall occur after the applicant has earned the post-master's or doctoral degree.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved March 21, 2005.