

AB 462 FAQ: Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCCs): Elimination of Additional Requirements to Assess or Treat Couples and Families and Elimination of Requirement for 150 Hours of Clinical Experience in a Hospital or Community Mental Health Setting

With the passage of [AB 462](#) (Chapter 440, Statutes of 2021), the following LPCC-related requirements are removed:

- The requirement that applicants for LPCC licensure must gain at least 150 hours of clinical experience in a hospital or community mental health setting; and
- The requirement that LPCCs must complete additional specified education (6 semester or 9 quarter units, or a named specialization/emphasis in marriage and family therapy), supervised experience (500 hours working directly with couples, families, or children), and continuing education (6 hours specific to marriage and family therapy each renewal cycle) in order to assess or treat couples or families.

This becomes effective on January 1, 2022.

Elimination of the Licensure Requirement for 150 Hours of Clinical Experience in a Hospital or Community Mental Health Setting

Applicants for LPCC licensure no longer need to complete these hours. Please note that if you have already completed these hours, they will still count generally as experience hours toward your required 3,000 hours.

- If you have already submitted your LPCC application to the Board and have completed the 150 hours in a hospital/community mental health setting, your application will continue to process in the order received.
- If you have already submitted your LPCC application to the Board but have not yet completed the 150 hours in a hospital/community mental health setting you are not required to. The 150 hours will be considered a deficiency until January 1, 2022. On that date, the Board will automatically clear that deficiency. It is not necessary to re-submit your application. (Please note that if you have other deficiencies besides the 150 hospital/community mental health setting hours, you must still clear those deficiencies within the timeframe specified in your deficiency letter.)

- If you have not submitted your LPCC application yet, and you are ready to do so other than that you have not completed the 150 hospital/community mental health setting hours, you may submit your application at any time. You will no longer need to complete those hours. The lack of completion of these hours will be treated as a deficiency until January 1, 2022, however on that date the Board will automatically clear that deficiency.
- Please note that the total number of experience hours required for licensure has not changed. Applicants for an LPCC license must still complete at least 3,000 total post degree experience hours, of which 1,750 must still be direct clinical counseling with individuals, groups, couples or families.

Elimination of the Requirement that LPCCs Must Complete Additional Specified Education, Supervised Experience, and Continuing Education in Order to Assess or Treat Couples or Families

The requirement that LPCCs must complete additional specified education (6 semester or 9 quarter units, or a named specialization/emphasis in marriage and family therapy), supervised experience (500 hours working directly with couples, families, or children), and continuing education (6 hours specific to marriage and family therapy each renewal cycle) in order to assess or treat couples or families is eliminated. As of January 1, 2022, LPCCs may assess or treat couples and families without completing these additional requirements.

Please note that although authorized to treat couples and families as of January 1, 2022, when working in any specific practice area, Board licensees should always consider whether that practice area is within their scope of competence, as established by one's education, training, or experience. If a specific practice area is outside of this scope of competence, then the client should be referred to another health care professional who is competent in that area.

What this means for LPCC Licensees

- As of January 1, 2022, you may assess or treat couples and families without meeting the additional education and experience previously required by law to assess or treat couples and families. You also no longer need to complete the continuing education specific to marriage and family therapy each renewal cycle.
- You no longer need to obtain written confirmation from the Board that you meet the additional requirements to assess or treat couples and families. If you have already obtained this confirmation, you are no longer required to provide a copy of it to your couple and family clients prior to commencement of treatment, and you are no longer required to provide a copy of it to your Associate Marriage and Family Therapist (AMFT) and MFT Trainee supervisees prior to commencing supervision.

- LPCC licensees are now permitted to serve as child custody evaluators without meeting the additional education, experience, and continuing education requirements previously required by law to assess or treat couples or families. (There are still other specified requirements that must be met to serve as a child custody evaluator, see Family Code [Section 3110.5](#) for more information.)

What this means for Employers of LPCCs

- As of January 1, 2022, LPCCs that you employ no longer need to meet the additional education, experience, and continuing education requirements previously required by law in order to assess or treat couples and families. They no longer need to obtain a verification letter from the Board stating that they have met the additional requirements to do so. If they already have obtained such a letter, they are no longer required to provide a copy of it to their couple and family clients prior to commencement of treatment.
- Any LPCCs you employ that serve as supervisors may now also supervise AMFTs and MFT Trainees without meeting the additional requirements to assess or treat couples and families. They are no longer required to obtain and provide a copy of a verification letter from the Board that they meet these requirements to their AMFT and MFT Trainee supervisees prior to commencing supervision.

What this means for Associate Professional Clinical Counselors

- If you are an APCC who wishes to assess or treat couples and families as a licensee, you no longer need to plan on completing the additional education and experience previously required by law in order to do so.

What this means for LPCCs who Supervise Associate Marriage and Family Therapists or MFT Trainees

- As of January 1, 2022, LPCCs who serve as supervisors are now permitted to supervise AMFTs and MFT Trainees without meeting the additional education, experience and continuing education previously required by law to assess or treat couples and families. This means you are no longer required to obtain and provide a copy of a verification letter from the Board that you meet these requirements to your AMFT and MFT Trainee supervisees prior to commencing supervision.