

CHANGES TO THE LAW FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST INTERNS AND TRAINEES DISCLOSURES AND ADVERTISING

AB 956 (Chapter 166, Statutes of 2011) makes several changes in law regarding disclosures to patients, as well as advertisements for marriage and family therapy services. These changes will become effective on January 1, 2012.

The changes to the law are as follows:

MFT Interns:

1. **Disclosure:** Requires an unlicensed marriage and family therapist intern to provide each client or patient, prior to performing any professional services, with the following information (BPC §4980.44(c)):
 - a. That he or she is an unlicensed marriage and family therapist registered intern (current law);
 - b. His or her registration number (new provision);
 - c. The name of his or her employer (new provision); and
 - d. Indicate whether he or she is under the supervision of a licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed clinical social worker, licensed psychologist, or a licensed physician and surgeon certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (current law, but now the MFT intern must indicate the type of supervising licensee).

2. **Advertising:** Requires any advertisement by or on behalf of a marriage and family therapist intern must include, at a minimum, all of the following (BPC §4980.44(d)):
 - a. That he or she is a marriage and family therapist registered intern;
 - b. The intern's registration number;
 - c. The name of his or her employer; and
 - d. That he or she is supervised by a licensed person.

The use of the abbreviation "MFTI" in an advertisement is prohibited unless the title "marriage and family therapist registered intern" appears in the advertisement. (BPC §4980.44(d)(2)).

MFT Trainees:

1. **Disclosure:** Requires an MFT trainee to inform each client or patient, prior to performing any professional services, of the following (BPC §4980.48(a)):

- a. That he or she is an unlicensed marriage and family therapist trainee (current law);
 - b. The name of his or her employer (new provision);
 - c. Indicate whether he or she is under the supervision of a licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed clinical social worker, licensed psychologist, or a licensed physician certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (current law, but now the MFT trainee must indicate the type of supervising licensee).
2. **Advertising:** Requires any advertisement of services performed by a trainee must include, at a minimum, all of the following (BPC §4980.48(b) and (c)):
- a. Trainee's name, and that he or she is a marriage and family therapist trainee;
 - b. The name of his or her employer; and
 - c. That he or she is supervised by a licensed person, and the supervisor's license designation or abbreviation, and license number.