

Other Law Changes

Amendments listed in this document reflect changes made by [SB 801](#) (Chapter 647, Statutes of 2021). All changes are effective January 1, 2022, unless otherwise noted

Telehealth Services: Associate Clinical Social Workers, Associate Professional Clinical Counselors

Clarifies that associate clinical social workers and associate professional clinical counselors may provide services via telehealth.

New Email Requirement for all Licensees, Registrants, and Applicants

Effective July 1, 2022, all licensees, registrants, and applicants who have an email address must provide it to the Board. The Board must be notified of any changes to your email address within 30 calendar days of the change.

The email address that you provide the Board is for communication related to your license, registration, or examination status only, and will not be disclosed to the public. The email address can be added or updated to your Breeze account by logging in and by accessing the 'change of address application' located within the drop-down menu under 'manage your license' on Breeze.

Scope of Practice: Marriage and Family Therapy

Amendments have been made to the marriage and family therapy scope of practice in order to modernize and clarify it. The marriage and family therapy scope of practice now reads as follows:

BPC §4980.02.

(a) For the purposes of this chapter, the practice of marriage and family therapy shall mean the application of psychotherapeutic and family systems theories, principles, and methods in the delivery of services to individuals, couples, or groups in order to assess, evaluate, and treat relational issues, emotional disorders, behavioral problems, mental illness, alcohol and substance use, and to modify intrapersonal and interpersonal behaviors.

(b) The application of marriage and family therapy principles and methods includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

- (1) Assessment, evaluation, and prognosis.*
- (2) Treatment, planning, and evaluation.*
- (3) Individual, relationship, family, or group therapeutic interventions.*
- (4) Relational therapy.*
- (5) Psychotherapy.*
- (6) Client education.*
- (7) Clinical case management.*
- (8) Consultation.*
- (9) Supervision.*
- (10) Use, application, and integration of the coursework and training required by Sections 4980.36, 4980.37, and 4980.41, as applicable.*

(c) The amendments to this section made by the act adding this subdivision do not constitute a change in, but are declaratory of, existing law. It is the intent of the Legislature that these amendments shall not be construed to expand or constrict the existing scope of practice of a person licensed pursuant to this chapter.

Required LMFT and LPCC Coursework: Prognosis

In the 2019 Committee Bill (SB 786, which was signed into law and became effective January 1, 2020), the Board sponsored an amendment to Business and Professions Code (BPC) sections 4980.36, 4980.37, 4980.81, 4999.32, and 4999.33.

Previously those sections, which list required education and practicum for LMFT and LPCC licensure, required training in assessment, diagnosis, and prognosis.

The Board proposed an amendment replacing the term “prognosis” with the term “treatment planning,” because it believed treatment planning is a more accurate representation of the course of psychotherapy. This became law via SB 786.

However, an unintended consequence of this change was that some other mental health professions began interpreting the Board’s law change as meaning LMFTs and LPCCs are not permitted to perform prognosis. This was not Board’s intent, and therefore the word “prognosis” has been added back into the above-listed sections.

LCSW Continuing Education

An amendment was made to permit clinical social workers to obtain continuing education from a school accredited by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) or approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE). (Previously, the law did not permit clinical social workers to gain continuing education from a school accredited by the US Department of Education (USDE) or approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE), unless it was from a school of social work

accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education.)