



1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to clinical, counseling, and  
3       psychotherapy services; amending s. 491.004, F.S.;  
4       deleting an obsolete provision; conforming provisions;  
5       amending s. 491.0045, F.S.; requiring registered  
6       interns to remain under supervision while maintaining  
7       registered intern status; providing for noncompliance;  
8       providing for the expiration of intern registrations;  
9       prohibiting specified persons from applying for an  
10      intern registration; amending s. 491.0046, F.S.;  
11      correcting cross-references; prohibiting specified  
12      persons from applying for a provisional license;  
13      amending s. 491.005, F.S.; revising the requirements  
14      for a clinical social worker license, a marriage and  
15      family therapist license, and a mental health  
16      counselor license; deleting a provision requiring  
17      certain registered interns to be certified as having  
18      met specified licensure requirements; amending s.  
19      491.0057, F.S.; providing for future repeal of  
20      provisions providing for dual licensure as a marriage  
21      and family therapist; amending s. 491.006, F.S.;  
22      revising requirements of licensure or certification by  
23      endorsement; amending s. 491.007, F.S.; deleting a  
24      provision providing certified master social workers a  
25      limited exemption from continuing education  
26      requirements; deleting a provision requiring the Board  
27      of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy,  
28      and Mental Health Counseling to establish a procedure



29 | for the biennial renewal of intern registrations;  
 30 | providing an effective date.

31 |  
 32 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

33 |  
 34 | Section 1. Subsections (3) through (7) of section 491.004,  
 35 | Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

36 | 491.004 Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family  
 37 | Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling.—

38 | ~~(3) No later than January 1, 1988, the Governor shall~~  
 39 | ~~appoint nine members of the board as follows:~~

40 | ~~(a) Three members for terms of 2 years each.~~

41 | ~~(b) Three members for terms of 3 years each.~~

42 | ~~(c) Three members for terms of 4 years each.~~

43 | (3)~~(4)~~ As the terms of the initial members expire, the  
 44 | Governor shall appoint successors for terms of 4 years; and  
 45 | those members shall serve until their successors are appointed.

46 | (4)~~(5)~~ The board shall adopt rules ~~pursuant to ss.~~  
 47 | ~~120.536(1) and 120.54~~ to implement and enforce the provisions of  
 48 | this chapter.

49 | (5)~~(6)~~ All applicable provisions of chapter 456 relating  
 50 | to activities of regulatory boards shall apply to the board.

51 | (6)~~(7)~~ The board shall maintain its official headquarters  
 52 | in the City of Tallahassee.

53 | Section 2. Section 491.0045, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 54 | to read:

55 | 491.0045 Intern registration; requirements.—

56 | (1) ~~Effective January 1, 1998,~~ An individual who has not



57 satisfied ~~intends to practice in Florida to satisfy~~ the  
58 postgraduate or post-master's level experience requirements, as  
59 specified in s. 491.005(1)(c), (3)(c), or (4)(c), must register  
60 as an intern in the profession for which he or she is seeking  
61 licensure before ~~prior to~~ commencing the post-master's  
62 experience requirement. ~~or~~ An individual who intends to satisfy  
63 part of the required graduate-level practicum, internship, or  
64 field experience, outside the academic arena for any profession,  
65 must register as an intern in the profession for which he or she  
66 is seeking licensure before ~~prior to~~ commencing the practicum,  
67 internship, or field experience.

68 (2) The department shall register as a clinical social  
69 worker intern, marriage and family therapist intern, or mental  
70 health counselor intern each applicant who the board certifies  
71 has:

72 (a) Completed the application form and remitted a  
73 nonrefundable application fee not to exceed \$200, as set by  
74 board rule;

75 (b)1. Completed the education requirements as specified in  
76 s. 491.005(1)(c), (3)(c), or (4)(c) for the profession for which  
77 he or she is applying for licensure, if needed; and

78 2. Submitted an acceptable supervision plan, as determined  
79 by the board, for meeting the practicum, internship, or field  
80 work required for licensure that was not satisfied in his or her  
81 graduate program.

82 (c) Identified a qualified supervisor.

83 (3) An individual registered under this section must  
84 remain under supervision while practicing under registered



85 ~~intern status until he or she is in receipt of a license or a~~  
86 ~~letter from the department stating that he or she is licensed to~~  
87 ~~practice the profession for which he or she applied.~~

88 ~~(4) An individual who has applied for intern registration~~  
89 ~~on or before December 31, 2001, and has satisfied the education~~  
90 ~~requirements of s. 491.005 that are in effect through December~~  
91 ~~31, 2000, will have met the educational requirements for~~  
92 ~~licensure for the profession for which he or she has applied.~~

93 ~~(4)(5) Individuals who have commenced the experience~~  
94 ~~requirement as specified in s. 491.005(1)(c), (3)(c), or (4)(c)~~  
95 ~~but failed to register as required by subsection (1) shall~~  
96 ~~register with the department before January 1, 2000. Individuals~~  
97 ~~who fail to comply with this section ~~subsection~~ shall not be~~  
98 ~~granted a license under this chapter, and any time spent by the~~  
99 ~~individual completing the experience requirement as specified in~~  
100 ~~s. 491.005(1)(c), (3)(c), or (4)(c) before ~~prior to~~ registering~~  
101 ~~as an intern shall not count toward completion of the ~~such~~~~  
102 ~~requirement.~~

103 ~~(5) An intern registration shall be valid for 5 years. Any~~  
104 ~~subsequent intern registration must result from applying for a~~  
105 ~~registration and meeting the requirements adopted by the board~~  
106 ~~by rule.~~

107 ~~(6) Any registration issued on or before June 30, 2011,~~  
108 ~~shall expire July 1, 2016, and may not be renewed or reissued.~~  
109 ~~Any registration issued after June 30, 2011, shall expire 60~~  
110 ~~months after the date it is issued. Any subsequent intern~~  
111 ~~registration shall be issued at the discretion of the board.~~

112 ~~(7) A person who has held a provisional license issued by~~



113 the board may not apply for an intern registration in the same  
114 profession.

115 Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section  
116 491.0046, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (5) is  
117 added to that section, to read:

118 491.0046 Provisional license; requirements.—

119 (2) The department shall issue a provisional clinical  
120 social worker license, provisional marriage and family therapist  
121 license, or provisional mental health counselor license to each  
122 applicant who the board certifies has:

123 (c) Has met the following minimum coursework requirements:

124 1. For clinical social work, a minimum of 15 semester  
125 hours or 22 quarter hours of the coursework required by s.  
126 491.005(1)(b)2.b.

127 2. For marriage and family therapy, 10 of the courses  
128 required by s. 491.005(3)(b)1.a. ~~491.005(3)(b)1.a.-e.~~, as  
129 determined by the board, and at least 6 semester hours or 9  
130 quarter hours of the course credits must have been completed in  
131 the area of marriage and family systems, theories, or  
132 techniques.

133 3. For mental health counseling, a minimum of seven of the  
134 courses required under s. 491.005(4)(b)1.a. ~~491.005(b)1.a.-e.~~

135 (5) A person who has held an intern registration issued by  
136 the board may not apply for a provisional license in the same  
137 profession.

138 Section 4. Section 491.005, Florida Statutes, is amended  
139 to read:

140 491.005 Licensure by examination.—



141 (1) CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK.—Upon verification of  
142 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by  
143 board rule, plus the actual per applicant cost to the department  
144 for purchase of the examination from the American Association of  
145 State Social Worker's Boards or a similar national organization,  
146 the department shall issue a license as a clinical social worker  
147 to an applicant who the board certifies:

148 (a) Has submitted an ~~made~~ application ~~therefor~~ and paid  
149 the appropriate fee.

150 (b)1. Has received a doctoral degree in social work from a  
151 graduate school of social work which at the time the applicant  
152 graduated was accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by  
153 the United States Department of Education or has received a  
154 master's degree in social work from a graduate school of social  
155 work which at the time the applicant graduated:

156 a. Was accredited by the Council on Social Work Education;

157 b. Was accredited by the Canadian Association of Schools  
158 of Social Work; or

159 c. Has been determined to have been a program equivalent  
160 to programs approved by the Council on Social Work Education by  
161 the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on  
162 Social Work Education. An applicant who graduated from a program  
163 at a university or college outside of the United States or  
164 Canada must present documentation of the equivalency  
165 determination from the council in order to qualify.

166 2. The applicant's graduate program must have emphasized  
167 direct clinical patient or client health care services,  
168 including, but not limited to, coursework in clinical social



169 work, psychiatric social work, medical social work, social  
170 casework, psychotherapy, or group therapy. The applicant's  
171 graduate program must have included all of the following  
172 coursework:

173 a. A supervised field placement which was part of the  
174 applicant's advanced concentration in direct practice, during  
175 which the applicant provided clinical services directly to  
176 clients.

177 b. Completion of 24 semester hours or 32 quarter hours in  
178 theory of human behavior and practice methods as courses in  
179 clinically oriented services, including a minimum of one course  
180 in psychopathology, and no more than one course in research,  
181 taken in a school of social work accredited or approved pursuant  
182 to subparagraph 1.

183 3. If the course title which appears on the applicant's  
184 transcript does not clearly identify the content of the  
185 coursework, the applicant shall be required to provide  
186 additional documentation, including, but not limited to, a  
187 syllabus or catalog description published for the course.

188 (c) Has had at least ~~not less than~~ 2 years of clinical  
189 social work experience, which took place subsequent to  
190 completion of a graduate degree in social work at an institution  
191 meeting the accreditation requirements of this section, under  
192 the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker or the  
193 equivalent who is a qualified supervisor as determined by the  
194 board. An individual who intends to practice in Florida to  
195 satisfy clinical experience requirements must register pursuant  
196 to s. 491.0045 before ~~prior to~~ commencing practice. If the



197 applicant's graduate program was not a program which emphasized  
198 direct clinical patient or client health care services as  
199 described in subparagraph (b)2., the supervised experience  
200 requirement must take place after the applicant has completed a  
201 minimum of 15 semester hours or 22 quarter hours of the  
202 coursework required. A doctoral internship may be applied toward  
203 the clinical social work experience requirement. A licensed  
204 mental health professional must be on the premises when clinical  
205 services are provided by a registered intern in a private  
206 practice setting. A registered intern may not engage in his or  
207 her own independent private practice. ~~The experience requirement~~  
208 ~~may be met by work performed on or off the premises of the~~  
209 ~~supervising clinical social worker or the equivalent, provided~~  
210 ~~the off-premises work is not the independent private practice~~  
211 ~~rendering of clinical social work that does not have a licensed~~  
212 ~~mental health professional, as determined by the board, on the~~  
213 ~~premises at the same time the intern is providing services.~~

214 (d) Has passed a theory and practice examination provided  
215 by the department for this purpose.

216 (e) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of  
217 the board, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the  
218 practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy,  
219 and mental health counseling.

220 (2) CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK.—

221 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1)(b),  
222 coursework which was taken at a baccalaureate level shall not be  
223 considered toward completion of education requirements for  
224 licensure unless an official of the graduate program certifies





225 | in writing on the graduate school's stationery that a specific  
226 | course, which students enrolled in the same graduate program  
227 | were ordinarily required to complete at the graduate level, was  
228 | waived or exempted based on completion of a similar course at  
229 | the baccalaureate level. If this condition is met, the board  
230 | shall apply the baccalaureate course named toward the education  
231 | requirements.

232 |       (b) An applicant from a master's or doctoral program in  
233 | social work which did not emphasize direct patient or client  
234 | services may complete the clinical curriculum content  
235 | requirement by returning to a graduate program accredited by the  
236 | Council on Social Work Education or the Canadian Association of  
237 | Schools of Social Work, or to a clinical social work graduate  
238 | program with comparable standards, in order to complete the  
239 | education requirements for examination. However, a maximum of 6  
240 | semester or 9 quarter hours of the clinical curriculum content  
241 | requirement may be completed by credit awarded for independent  
242 | study coursework as defined by board rule.

243 |       (3) MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY.—Upon verification of  
244 | documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by  
245 | board rule, plus the actual cost to the department for the  
246 | purchase of the examination from the Association of Marital and  
247 | Family Therapy Regulatory Board, or its successor ~~similar~~  
248 | ~~national organization~~, the department shall issue a license as a  
249 | marriage and family therapist to an applicant who the board  
250 | certifies:

251 |       (a) Has submitted an ~~made~~ application ~~therefor~~ and paid  
252 | the appropriate fee.



253 (b)1. Has a minimum of a master's degree from a program  
254 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and  
255 Family Therapy Education, from a mental health counseling  
256 program with a marriage and family track from a university in  
257 this state accredited by the Council for Accreditation of  
258 Counseling and Related Educational Programs, from a program  
259 accepted by the board as meeting these coursework requirements  
260 ~~with major emphasis in marriage and family therapy,~~ or a program  
261 in a closely related field as determined by the board, and has  
262 completed all of the following requirements:

263 a. ~~Sixty~~ Thirty-six semester hours or ~~80~~ 48 quarter hours  
264 ~~of graduate coursework, which must include a minimum of 3~~  
265 ~~semester hours or 4 quarter hours of graduate-level~~ coursework  
266 ~~course credits in each of the following nine areas:~~ dynamics of  
267 marriage and family systems; marriage therapy and counseling  
268 theory and techniques; family therapy and counseling theory and  
269 techniques; individual human development theories throughout the  
270 life cycle; personality theory or general counseling theory and  
271 techniques; psychopathology; human sexuality theory and  
272 counseling techniques; psychosocial theory; ~~and~~ substance abuse  
273 theory and counseling techniques; legal, ethical, and  
274 professional standards issues in the practice of marriage and  
275 family therapy; individual evaluation, assessment, and testing;  
276 and behavioral research which focuses on the interpretation and  
277 application of research data as it applies to clinical practice.  
278 ~~Courses in research, evaluation, appraisal, assessment, or~~  
279 ~~testing theories and procedures; thesis or dissertation work; or~~  
280 ~~practicums, internships, or fieldwork may not be applied toward~~



281 ~~this requirement.~~

282 ~~b. A minimum of one graduate-level course of 3 semester~~  
283 ~~hours or 4 quarter hours in legal, ethical, and professional~~  
284 ~~standards issues in the practice of marriage and family therapy~~  
285 ~~or a course determined by the board to be equivalent.~~

286 ~~e. A minimum of one graduate-level course of 3 semester~~  
287 ~~hours or 4 quarter hours in diagnosis, appraisal, assessment,~~  
288 ~~and testing for individual or interpersonal disorder or~~  
289 ~~dysfunction; and a minimum of one 3 semester hour or 4 quarter-~~  
290 ~~hour graduate-level course in behavioral research which focuses~~  
291 ~~on the interpretation and application of research data as it~~  
292 ~~applies to clinical practice. Credit for thesis or dissertation~~  
293 ~~work, practicums, internships, or fieldwork may not be applied~~  
294 ~~toward this requirement.~~

295 ~~b.d.~~ A minimum of one supervised clinical practicum,  
296 internship, or field experience in a marriage and family  
297 counseling setting, during which the student provided 400 ~~180~~  
298 direct client contact hours of marriage and family therapy  
299 services under the supervision of an individual who met the  
300 requirements for supervision under paragraph (c). This  
301 requirement may be met by a supervised practice experience which  
302 took place outside the academic arena, but which is certified as  
303 equivalent to a graduate-level practicum or internship program  
304 which required a minimum of 400 ~~180~~ direct client contact hours  
305 of marriage and family therapy services currently offered within  
306 an academic program of a college or university accredited by an  
307 accrediting agency approved by the United States Department of  
308 Education, or an institution which is publicly recognized as a



309 member in good standing with the Association of Universities and  
310 Colleges of Canada or a training institution accredited by the  
311 Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy  
312 Education ~~recognized by the United States Department of~~  
313 ~~Education~~. Certification shall be required from an official of  
314 such college, university, or training institution.

315 2. If the course title which appears on the applicant's  
316 transcript does not clearly identify the content of the  
317 coursework, the applicant shall be required to provide  
318 additional documentation, including, but not limited to, a  
319 syllabus or catalog description published for the course.

320  
321 The required master's degree must have been received in an  
322 institution of higher education which at the time the applicant  
323 graduated was: fully accredited by a regional accrediting body  
324 recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary  
325 Accreditation; publicly recognized as a member in good standing  
326 with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada; or  
327 an institution of higher education located outside the United  
328 States and Canada, which at the time the applicant was enrolled  
329 and at the time the applicant graduated maintained a standard of  
330 training substantially equivalent to the standards of training  
331 of those institutions in the United States which are accredited  
332 by a regional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on  
333 Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation. Such foreign  
334 education and training must have been received in an institution  
335 or program of higher education officially recognized by the  
336 government of the country in which it is located as an



337 institution or program to train students to practice as  
338 professional marriage and family therapists or psychotherapists.  
339 The burden of establishing that the requirements of this  
340 provision have been met shall be upon the applicant, and the  
341 board shall require documentation, such as, but not limited to,  
342 an evaluation by a foreign equivalency determination service, as  
343 evidence that the applicant's graduate degree program and  
344 education were equivalent to an accredited program in this  
345 country. An applicant with a master's degree from a program  
346 which did not emphasize marriage and family therapy may complete  
347 the coursework requirement in a training institution fully  
348 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and  
349 Family Therapy Education or the Council for Accreditation of  
350 Counseling and Related Educational Programs ~~recognized by the~~  
351 ~~United States Department of Education.~~

352 (c) Has had at least ~~not less than~~ 2 years of clinical  
353 experience during which 50 percent of the applicant's clients  
354 were receiving marriage and family therapy services, which must  
355 be at the post-master's level under the supervision of a  
356 licensed marriage and family therapist with at least 5 years of  
357 experience, or the equivalent, who is a qualified supervisor as  
358 determined by the board. An individual who intends to practice  
359 in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience requirements must  
360 register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before ~~prior to~~ commencing  
361 practice. If a graduate has a master's degree with a major  
362 emphasis in marriage and family therapy or a closely related  
363 field that did not include all the coursework required under  
364 sub-subparagraph (b)1.a. ~~sub-subparagraphs (b)1.a.-c.~~, credit



365 for the post-master's level clinical experience shall not  
366 commence until the applicant has completed coursework in at  
367 least a minimum of 10 of the areas courses required under sub-  
368 subparagraph (b)1.a. sub-subparagraphs (b)1.a.e., as determined  
369 by the board, and at least 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours  
370 of the course credits must have been completed in the area of  
371 marriage and family systems, theories, or techniques. Within the  
372 2 3 years of required experience, the applicant shall provide  
373 direct individual, group, or family therapy and counseling, to  
374 include the following categories of cases: unmarried dyads,  
375 married couples, separating and divorcing couples, and family  
376 groups including children. A doctoral internship may be applied  
377 toward the clinical experience requirement. A licensed mental  
378 health professional must be on the premises when clinical  
379 services are provided by a registered intern in a private  
380 practice setting. A registered intern may not engage in his or  
381 her own independent private practice ~~The clinical experience~~  
382 ~~requirement may be met by work performed on or off the premises~~  
383 ~~of the supervising marriage and family therapist or the~~  
384 ~~equivalent, provided the off-premises work is not the~~  
385 ~~independent private practice rendering of marriage and family~~  
386 ~~therapy services that does not have a licensed mental health~~  
387 ~~professional, as determined by the board, on the premises at the~~  
388 ~~same time the intern is providing services.~~

389 (d) Has passed a theory and practice examination  
390 designated provided by the board department for this purpose.

391 (e) Has demonstrated, ~~in a manner designated by rule of~~  
392 ~~the board,~~ knowledge of the laws and rules governing the



393 practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy,  
 394 and mental health counseling as determined by the board.

395 (f) For the purposes of dual licensure, the department  
 396 shall license as a marriage and family therapist any person who  
 397 meets the requirements of s. 491.0057. Fees for dual licensure  
 398 shall not exceed those stated in this subsection. This paragraph  
 399 expires July 1, 2020.

400 (4) MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING.—Upon verification of  
 401 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by  
 402 board rule, plus the actual per applicant cost to the department  
 403 for purchase of the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor  
 404 Examination ~~from the Professional Examination Service for the~~  
 405 ~~National Academy of Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselors~~  
 406 ~~or a similar national organization,~~ an examination managed by  
 407 the National Board of Certified Counselors or its successor, the  
 408 department shall issue a license as a mental health counselor to  
 409 an applicant who the board certifies:

410 (a) Has submitted an ~~made~~ application ~~therefor~~ and paid  
 411 the appropriate fee.

412 (b)1. Has a minimum of an earned master's degree from a  
 413 mental health counseling program accredited by the Council for  
 414 ~~the~~ Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs  
 415 that consists of at least 60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours  
 416 of clinical and didactic instruction, including a course in  
 417 human sexuality and a course in substance abuse. If the master's  
 418 degree is earned from a program related to the practice of  
 419 mental health counseling that is not accredited by the Council  
 420 for ~~the~~ Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational



421 Programs, then the coursework and practicum, internship, or  
422 fieldwork must consist of at least 60 semester hours or 80  
423 quarter hours and meet the following requirements:

424 a. Thirty-three semester hours or 44 quarter hours of  
425 graduate coursework, which must include a minimum of 3 semester  
426 hours or 4 quarter hours of graduate-level coursework in each of  
427 the following 11 content areas: counseling theories and  
428 practice; human growth and development; diagnosis and treatment  
429 of psychopathology; human sexuality; group theories and  
430 practice; individual evaluation and assessment; career and  
431 lifestyle assessment; research and program evaluation; social  
432 and cultural foundations; ~~counseling in community settings; and~~  
433 substance abuse; and legal, ethical, and professional standards  
434 issues in the practice of mental health counseling. Courses in  
435 research, thesis or dissertation work, practicums, internships,  
436 or fieldwork may not be applied toward this requirement.

437 b. ~~A minimum of 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours of~~  
438 ~~graduate-level coursework in legal, ethical, and professional~~  
439 ~~standards issues in the practice of mental health counseling,~~  
440 ~~which includes goals, objectives, and practices of professional~~  
441 ~~counseling organizations, codes of ethics, legal considerations,~~  
442 ~~standards of preparation, certifications and licensing, and the~~  
443 ~~role identity and professional obligations of mental health~~  
444 ~~counselors. Courses in research, thesis or dissertation work,~~  
445 ~~practicums, internships, or fieldwork may not be applied toward~~  
446 ~~this requirement.~~

447 e. The equivalent, as determined by the board, of at least  
448 700 ~~1,000~~ hours of university-sponsored supervised clinical





449 | practicum, internship, or field experience that includes at  
450 | least 280 hours of direct client services, as required in the  
451 | accrediting standards of the Council for Accreditation of  
452 | Counseling and Related Educational Programs for mental health  
453 | counseling programs. This experience may not be used to satisfy  
454 | the post-master's clinical experience requirement.

455 |         2. If the course title which appears on the applicant's  
456 | transcript does not clearly identify the content of the  
457 | coursework, the applicant shall be required to provide  
458 | additional documentation, including, but not limited to, a  
459 | syllabus or catalog description published for the course.

460 |

461 | Education and training in mental health counseling must have  
462 | been received in an institution of higher education which at the  
463 | time the applicant graduated was: fully accredited by a regional  
464 | accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education  
465 | or its successor ~~Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary~~  
466 | ~~Accreditation~~; publicly recognized as a member in good standing  
467 | with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada; or  
468 | an institution of higher education located outside the United  
469 | States and Canada, which at the time the applicant was enrolled  
470 | and at the time the applicant graduated maintained a standard of  
471 | training substantially equivalent to the standards of training  
472 | of those institutions in the United States which are accredited  
473 | by a regional accrediting body recognized by the Council for  
474 | Higher Education or its successor ~~Commission on Recognition of~~  
475 | ~~Postsecondary Accreditation~~. Such foreign education and training  
476 | must have been received in an institution or program of higher



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477 education officially recognized by the government of the country  
478 in which it is located as an institution or program to train  
479 students to practice as mental health counselors. The burden of  
480 establishing that the requirements of this provision have been  
481 met shall be upon the applicant, and the board shall require  
482 documentation, such as, but not limited to, an evaluation by a  
483 foreign equivalency determination service, as evidence that the  
484 applicant's graduate degree program and education were  
485 equivalent to an accredited program in this country. Effective  
486 July 1, 2020, an applicant must have a master's degree  
487 accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and  
488 Related Educational Programs consisting of at least 60 semester  
489 hours or 80 quarter hours to apply for licensure under this  
490 subsection. The applicant's graduate program must have  
491 emphasized the common core curricular experience to include at  
492 least 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours of coursework  
493 specifically addressing the diagnostic process, including  
494 differential diagnosis and the use of the current diagnostic  
495 tools, such as the current edition of the Diagnostic and  
496 Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

497 (c) Has had at least ~~not less than~~ 2 years of clinical  
498 experience in mental health counseling, which must be at the  
499 post-master's level under the supervision of a licensed mental  
500 health counselor or the equivalent who is a qualified supervisor  
501 as determined by the board. An individual who intends to  
502 practice in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience  
503 requirements must register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before ~~prior~~  
504 ~~to~~ commencing practice. If a graduate has a master's degree in



505 ~~with a major related to the practice of~~ mental health counseling  
506 or a closely related field that did not include all the  
507 coursework required under sub-subparagraph (b)1.a. ~~sub-~~  
508 ~~subparagraphs (b)1.a.-b.,~~ credit for the post-master's level  
509 clinical experience shall not commence until the applicant has  
510 completed a minimum of seven of the courses required under sub-  
511 subparagraph (b)1.a. ~~sub-subparagraphs (b)1.a.-b.,~~ as determined  
512 ~~by the board, one of which must be a course in psychopathology~~  
513 ~~or abnormal psychology.~~ A doctoral internship may be applied  
514 toward the clinical experience requirement. A licensed mental  
515 health professional must be on the premises when clinical  
516 services are provided by a registered intern in a private  
517 practice setting. No registered intern may engage in his or her  
518 own independent private practice ~~The clinical experience~~  
519 ~~requirement may be met by work performed on or off the premises~~  
520 ~~of the supervising mental health counselor or the equivalent,~~  
521 ~~provided the off-premises work is not the independent private~~  
522 ~~practice rendering of services that does not have a licensed~~  
523 ~~mental health professional, as determined by the board, on the~~  
524 ~~premises at the same time the intern is providing services.~~

525 (d) Has passed a theory and practice examination  
526 designated ~~provided~~ by the department ~~for this purpose.~~

527 (e) Has demonstrated, ~~in a manner designated by rule of~~  
528 ~~the board,~~ knowledge of the laws and rules governing the  
529 practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy,  
530 and mental health counseling as determined by the board.

531 ~~(5) INTERNSHIP. An individual who is registered as an~~  
532 ~~intern and has satisfied all of the educational requirements for~~



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533 | ~~the profession for which the applicant seeks licensure shall be~~  
534 | ~~certified as having met the educational requirements for~~  
535 | ~~licensure under this section.~~

536 |       (5)~~(6)~~ RULES.—The board may adopt rules necessary to  
537 | implement any education or experience requirement of this  
538 | section for licensure as a clinical social worker, marriage and  
539 | family therapist, or mental health counselor.

540 |       Section 5. Section 491.0057, Florida Statutes, is amended  
541 | to read:

542 |       491.0057 Dual licensure as a marriage and family  
543 | therapist.—

544 |       (1) The department shall license as a marriage and family  
545 | therapist a ~~any~~ person who demonstrates to the board that he or  
546 | she:

547 |       (a)~~(1)~~ Holds a valid, active license as a psychologist  
548 | under chapter 490 or as a clinical social worker or mental  
549 | health counselor under this chapter, or is certified under s.  
550 | 464.012 as an advanced registered nurse practitioner who has  
551 | been determined by the Board of Nursing as a specialist in  
552 | psychiatric mental health.

553 |       (b)~~(2)~~ Has held a valid, active license for at least 3  
554 | years.

555 |       (c)~~(3)~~ Has passed the examination provided by the  
556 | department for marriage and family therapy.

557 |       (2) This section is repealed July 1, 2020.

558 |       Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 491.006, Florida  
559 | Statutes, is amended to read:

560 |       491.006 Licensure or certification by endorsement.—



561 (1) The department shall license or grant a certificate to  
562 a person in a profession regulated by this chapter who, upon  
563 applying to the department and remitting the appropriate fee,  
564 demonstrates to the board that he or she:

565 (a) Has demonstrated, ~~in a manner designated by rule of~~  
566 ~~the board,~~ knowledge of the laws and rules governing the  
567 practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy,  
568 and mental health counseling as defined by rule of the board.

569 (b)1. Holds an active valid license to practice in the  
570 profession for which the applicant seeks licensure ~~and has~~  
571 ~~actively practiced the profession for which licensure is applied~~  
572 ~~in another state for 3 of the last 5 years immediately preceding~~  
573 ~~licensure.~~

574 2. Meets the education requirements of this chapter for  
575 the profession for which licensure is applied or has  
576 demonstrated proof of substantially equivalent education as  
577 defined by rule of the board.

578 3. Has passed the licensure examination designated by the  
579 board or has passed a substantially equivalent licensing  
580 examination in another state for the profession which the  
581 applicant seeks licensure ~~a substantially equivalent licensing~~  
582 ~~examination in another state or has passed the licensure~~  
583 ~~examination in this state in the profession for which the~~  
584 ~~applicant seeks licensure.~~

585 4. Holds a license in good standing, is not under  
586 investigation for an act that would constitute a violation of  
587 this chapter, and has not been found to have committed any act  
588 that would constitute a violation of this chapter. ~~The fees paid~~



589 ~~by any applicant for certification as a master social worker~~  
590 ~~under this section are nonrefundable.~~

591 Section 7. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 491.007,  
592 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

593 491.007 Renewal of license, registration, or certificate.—

594 (2) Each applicant for renewal shall present satisfactory  
595 evidence that, in the period since the license or certificate  
596 was issued, the applicant has completed continuing education  
597 requirements set by rule of the board or department. The board  
598 may not require ~~Not~~ more than 25 classroom hours of continuing  
599 education per year ~~shall be required. A certified master social~~  
600 ~~worker is exempt from the continuing education requirements for~~  
601 ~~the first renewal of the certificate.~~

602 ~~(3) The board or department shall prescribe by rule a~~  
603 ~~method for the biennial renewal of an intern registration at a~~  
604 ~~fee set by rule, not to exceed \$100.~~

605 Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.