

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Marriage and Family Therapists

NAC 641A.243 Professional responsibility. ([NRS 641A.160](#)) A therapist or intern:

1. Shall not misrepresent, in advertising or otherwise, his education, training, type of license or certificate, qualifications, competence or service, or the results to be achieved if he provides service to a client.
2. Shall not engage in the practice of marriage and family therapy while he is impaired by:
 - (a) Alcohol, drugs or any other chemical; or
 - (b) A mental or physical condition that prevents him from safely engaging in the practice of marriage and family therapy.
3. Shall not use his relationship with a client to further his own personal, religious, political or business interests.
4. Shall set and maintain professional boundaries with clients, interns and persons with whom he works.
5. Shall not give or receive, directly or indirectly, a fee, commission, rebate or other compensation for professional services that he has not actually and personally provided.
6. Shall not knowingly offer service to a client who is receiving treatment from another therapist or intern, or a licensee or holder of a certificate issued by any other similar board, without prior consultation between the client and the other therapist, intern, licensee or holder of a certificate.
7. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 8, shall not disparage the qualifications of any colleague.
8. Shall report to the Board any unlicensed, unauthorized, unqualified or unethical practice of marriage and family therapy that is occurring.
9. Shall not attempt to diagnose, prescribe for, treat or provide advice for any problem which is outside of his field of competence, the scope of the practice of marriage and family therapy or the scope of his license or certificate.
10. Shall base his practice upon the recognized knowledge relevant to marriage and family therapy.
11. Shall critically examine and keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to the practice of marriage and family therapy.
12. Based upon recognized knowledge and standards for the practice of marriage and family therapy, shall prepare and maintain in a timely manner a record for each of his clients which:
 - (a) Sets forth his assessment of the problems of the client, plan of action for the client, course of treatment for the client and progress notes regarding the course of treatment of the client; and
 - (b) Includes copies of other relevant documentation, including, without limitation:
 - (1) All documents relating to the informed consent given by the client;
 - (2) All documents relating to the release of information regarding the client; and
 - (3) All other legal documents regarding the client.

↪ As used in this subsection, “assessment” means an evaluation of the patterns of interaction and impairment in the functioning of a client that is based upon comprehensive information about the client.

13. Shall complete and submit any reports required by this chapter and [chapter 641A](#) of NRS, or pursuant to any rule, order or instruction of a court of competent jurisdiction, in a timely manner.

14. Shall comply with the provisions of this chapter and [chapter 641A](#) of NRS and all other applicable federal laws and regulations.

15. Shall not authorize a person under the supervision of the therapist to perform services that are outside of the scope of the license, certificate of registration, training or experience of the person performing the services, or allow such a person to hold himself out as having expertise in a field or activity in which that person is not qualified.

16. Shall notify the Board in writing within 10 days after:

(a) An action is taken against any license, certification, registration or other credential held by the therapist or intern that was issued by another state or territory of the United States;

(b) A criminal charge is filed against the therapist or intern;

(c) The therapist or intern is convicted of a criminal offense, other than a traffic offense which is a misdemeanor that does not involve alcohol or controlled substances;

(d) A civil action, including, without limitation, an action for malpractice, is filed against the therapist or intern; or

(e) A settlement or judgment is made in any civil action, including, without limitation, an action for malpractice, in any case filed against the therapist or intern for any act relating to the practice of marriage and family therapy.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Exam'rs for Marriage & Fam. Therapists by R173-03, eff. 8-20-2004)

NAC 641A.247 Responsibilities to clients and others. ([NRS 641A.160](#))

1. A therapist or intern shall serve his clients with professional skill and competence.

2. If a therapist or intern must act on behalf of a client who has been declared to be incompetent or if a client is otherwise found by the Board to be incapable of acting in his own best interest, the therapist or intern shall safeguard the interests and rights of that client.

3. If another person has been legally authorized to act on behalf of an incompetent client, a therapist or intern shall deal with the legal representative of the client in accordance with the best interest of the client.

4. A therapist or intern shall not practice, condone, facilitate or collaborate with any form of discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, social, economic, health or marital status, political belief, diagnosis or physical disability, or on the basis of any preference or personal characteristic, condition or status of a person.

5. A therapist or intern shall not misrepresent to a client the efficacy of his service or the results to be achieved.

6. A therapist or intern shall apprise each of his clients of the risks, rights, opportunities and obligations, financial or otherwise, associated with the provision of marriage and family therapy to the client.

7. A therapist or intern shall seek the advice and counsel of his colleagues and supervisors when such a consultation is in the best interest of the client.

8. A therapist or intern shall terminate service to a client and a professional relationship with a client when the service and relationship are no longer required or no longer serve the needs of the client.

9. A therapist or intern shall not withdraw his counseling services precipitously, except under unusual circumstances and after giving careful consideration to all factors in the situation and taking care to minimize possible adverse effects to the client.

10. A therapist or intern who anticipates the termination or interruption of service to a client shall notify the client as promptly as possible and seek the transfer, referral or continuation of service in relation to the needs and preferences of the client.

11. A therapist or intern shall not influence or attempt to influence a client in any manner which could be reasonably anticipated in his deriving benefits of an unprofessional nature from the client during the time that the client is receiving marriage and family therapy from the therapist or intern and for 2 years after the termination of those services.

12. Throughout the period of treatment of a client and for the 2 years immediately following the termination of the professional relationship between the client and the therapist or intern treating the client, the therapist or intern shall not:

(a) Enter into a close personal relationship with the client, including, without limitation, sponsorship of the client in a group for self-help, or a romantic or sexual relationship;

(b) Enter into, or attempt to enter into, a financial relationship with the client that is unrelated to the practice of marriage and family therapy; or

(c) Enter into a romantic or sexual relationship with any person who was in a romantic or sexual relationship with the client during the time that the therapist or intern was providing marriage and family therapy to the client.

13. Within the 2 years immediately following the termination of a professional relationship with, internship for or supervision of a client, intern or other person, a therapist shall not solicit or enter into a dual relationship with the client, intern or other person if it is foreseeable that such a relationship would harm or exploit the client, intern or other person.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Exam'rs for Marriage & Fam. Therapists by R173-03, eff. 8-20-2004)

NAC 641A.252 Code of Ethics: Adoption by reference; effect of violation. ([NRS 641A.160](#))

1. The Board hereby adopts by reference the *Code of Ethics* of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy as it existed on July 1, 2003, as a standard for professional conduct in the State of Nevada excluding those provisions which apply exclusively to the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. A violation of the provisions of the Code constitutes cause for disciplinary action.

2. The *Code of Ethics* of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy is available from the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy by mail at 112 South Alfred Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3061, by telephone at (703) 838-9808 or on the internet at <<http://www.aamft.org/about/ethics.htm>>. The first copy is provided at no cost.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Exam'rs for Marriage & Fam. Therapists, eff. 1-12-96; A by R173-03, 8-20-2004)