

1 HB166
2 191825-4
3 By Representatives Davis, Sanderford, Faust, Jackson,
4 Nordgren, Shedd, Wilcox, Bracy, Buskey, Ingram, Polizos,
5 Greer, Drake and Collins
6 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions
7 First Read: 11-JAN-18

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2 ENROLLED, An Act,

3 Relating to the Board of Marriage and Family
4 Therapy; to amend Section 34-17A-3 of the Code of Alabama
5 1975, to further define the practice of marriage and family
6 therapy.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

8 Section 1. Section 34-17A-3 of the Code of Alabama
9 1975, is amended to read as follows:

10 "§34-17A-3.

11 "As used in this chapter, the following words have
12 the following meanings:

13 "(1) ADVERTISE. The issuing or causing to be
14 distributed any card, sign, or device to any person; or the
15 causing, permitting, or allowing any sign or marking on or in
16 any building, radio or television, transmission or broadcast,
17 or advertising by any media or other means designed to secure
18 public attention.

19 "(2) BOARD. The Alabama Board of Examiners in
20 Marriage and Family Therapy.

21 "(3) MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST. A person to whom
22 a valid, current license has been issued pursuant to this
23 chapter.

24 "(4) PERSON. Any individual, firm, corporation,
25 partnership, organization, political body, or other entity.

1 "(5) PRACTICE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY. The
2 process of providing professional marriage and family therapy
3 to individuals, couples, and families, either alone or in a
4 group ~~or in a school system~~. The practice of marriage and
5 family therapy utilizes established principles that recognize
6 the interrelated nature of the individual problems and
7 dysfunctions in family members in order to diagnose, assess,
8 ~~understand,~~ and treat ~~emotional and mental problems~~ mental and
9 emotional disorders within a marriage and family therapy
10 treatment context. Marriage and family therapy includes,
11 without being limited to, individual, group, couple, sexual,
12 family, ~~and~~ divorce therapy, and psychotherapy, whether the
13 services are offered directly to the general public or through
14 organizations, either public or private, for a fee or other
15 compensation. Marriage and family therapy is a specialized
16 mode of treatment for the purpose of resolving mental and
17 emotional ~~problems~~ disorders and modifying intrapersonal and
18 interpersonal dysfunctions. The terms "diagnose," "assess" and
19 "treat" as used in this subdivision, when considered in
20 isolation or in conjunction with the rules of the board, shall
21 not be construed to permit the performance of any act which
22 marriage and family therapists are not educated and trained to
23 perform, including, but not limited to, administering and
24 interpreting psychological tests, intellectual,
25 neuropsychological, personality, and projective instruments,

1 admitting persons to hospitals for treatment for the foregoing
2 conditions, treating persons in hospitals without medical
3 supervision, prescribing medicinal drugs, authorizing clinical
4 laboratory procedures or radiological procedures, or use of
5 electroconvulsive therapy. In addition, this definition shall
6 not be construed to permit any person licensed pursuant to
7 this chapter to describe or label any test, report, or
8 procedure as "psychological," or as a "psychological
9 evaluation." A licensed marriage and family therapist may
10 diagnose and develop treatment plans, but shall not attempt to
11 diagnose, treat, or advise a client with reference to problems
12 or complaints falling outside the boundaries of marriage and
13 family therapy services. Nothing in this chapter shall be
14 construed to authorize persons licensed under this chapter to
15 practice medicine.

16 "(6) QUALIFIED SUPERVISION. The supervision of
17 clinical services in accordance with standards established by
18 the board. The supervisor shall be recognized by the board as
19 an approved supervisor.

20 "(7) RECOGNIZED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION. Any
21 educational institution which grants a bachelor's, master's,
22 or doctoral degree and which is recognized by the board and by
23 a regional educational accrediting body or a postgraduate
24 training institute accredited by the Commission on
25 Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.

1 "(8) USE A TITLE OR DESCRIPTION. To hold oneself out
2 to the public as having a particular status by means of
3 stating on signs, mailboxes, address plates, stationery
4 announcements, calling cards, or other instruments of
5 professional identification."

6 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
7 first day of the third month following its passage and
8 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was passed by the House 06-FEB-18, as amended.

Jeff Woodard
Clerk

Senate	13-MAR-18	Amended and Passed
House	15-MAR-18	Concurred in Senate Amendment