



February 5, 2023

Representative Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Chair
Senator Saud Anwar, Chair
Representative Nicole Klarides-Ditria, Ranking Member
Senator Heather Somers, Ranking Member

Dear Representatives McCarthy Vahey and Klarides-Ditria and Senators Anwar and Somers:

CTAMFT is writing to respectfully request that you raise a Committee bill to:

1. remove the Associate License of Marriage and Family Therapy (LMFTA) renewal clause in state statute;
2. adjust licensure fees to create parity for MFTs with other mental health professions and
3. include language requiring DPH to process mental health professional license's within 3 months.

Barriers to Licensure:

- Current statute requires providers who currently have an associate license of Marriage and Family Therapy (ALMFT) to renew this associate license after 2 years, with a cap of only one renewal permitted while they accrue the necessary client contact hours for full licensure. After 2 years as an ALMFT, providers need be a fully licensed Marriage and Family Therapist or lose their ability to practice.
- MFTs are the only mental health professionals in Connecticut that has this cap on associate license renewals. There are multiple reasons why a provider may not achieve full licensing in the allotted 4 years.
- **Barriers to full licensure include, starting a family, taking on caregiver roles, sometimes unexpectedly, difficulties finding a LMFT supervisor, or being in a workplace setting with lower volume of client contact hours.**
- Marriage and Family Therapists are unlike other mental health professions in which we require 1,000 client contact hours that must be face to face (in person or virtually); administrative clinical tasks do not count towards hours as other professions do.
- **This unnecessary cap on associate license renewals has pushed clinically sound therapists out of the mental health workplace and left them with a master's degree in a field they cannot pursue.**
 - MFTs are the only associate license with a requirement for renewal to keep active.
 - MFT fees far exceed the initial application fee.
 - MFTs are faced with a significantly higher cost barrier to continue to sustain their license.

Create Parity in Licensing Fees:

- Specifically, we ask that they be adjusted in parity with these other mental health licenses as follows:
 - remove the renewal of the associate license;
 - raise the initial associate license fee to \$220 and
 - adjust MFT licensure fees to equal other mental health profession licensing fees.

Fee Category	Marriage and Family Therapist	Professional Counselor	Social Workers
Associate License- Initial	\$125	\$220	\$220
Difference in cost	MFT associate license initial application is 55% less expensive than other professions	55% more expensive than MFTs, same cost as Social Workers	55% more expensive than MFTs, same cost as professional Counselors
Associate License Renewal	\$220	-no renewal needed	- no renewal needed
Difference in costs	MFT associate license renewal is 100% more expensive than other professions since they are the only ones required to pay to renew		
Full Licensure-Initial	\$315	\$315	\$315
Difference in costs	No difference	No difference	No difference
Full Licensure-Renewal	\$320	\$195	\$195
Difference in costs	MFT's renewal cost is 49% more than other professions EACH renewal period (every yr)	49% less than MFTs, same as Social Workers	49% less than MFTs, same as Professional Counselors
Full Licensure-Reinstatement	\$315	\$315	\$315
Difference in costs	No difference	No difference	No difference

Delays in Processing Mental Health Professional Licenses:

- **MFTS face a significant delay in processing of the associate level license of Marriage and Family Therapists by DPH**, waiting in excess of 3-6 months to obtain their associate level license.
- The delays in processing has created gaps in which graduates are not legally allowed to work nor can they maintain internships with potential employers.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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