



In response to COVID-19 emergency, the Alaska Marital and Family Therapy Board have voted on several changes to support professionals licensed under this chapter who provide mental health services to Alaskans. These changes were done in accordance with Legislative Confirmation of Disaster SB 241 and the COVID-19 emergency:

Emergency Courtesy License: The Alaska Marital and Family Therapy Board have ordered an application process to allow for an courtesy license. This license will allow a marital and family therapist, or a marital and family therapy associate, who is licensed in good standing in another State to provide mental healthcare services in Alaska through confidential electronic communications. Applicants must receive notification from the Board that their license has been issued before beginning services. The courtesy license for the COVID-19 emergency will last until the emergency order has been lifted by the governor. Licensees that are eligible for this courtesy license should use clinical judgment on what clientele will be a good fit for their services, due to the finite duration of the license.

Continuing Education: The Alaska Marital and Family Therapy Board has ordered that for the licensing period starting January 1, 2019 and ending on December 31, 2020, continuing education requirements may be entirely obtained through distance means without need for formats that provide live or in-person training. The type and quantity of continuing education must continue to meet requirements for licensing renewal.

Position Statement on Teletherapy: The Alaska Marital and Family Therapy Board have not made any changes to our teletherapy regulations but some regulations are listed below as a resource to clinicians who are interested in providing teletherapy services. You may also review the Alaska Marital and Family Therapy Statutes and Regulations for additional information.

Teletherapy licensing requirements: In accordance with 12 AAC 19.405, licensees under this chapter, that are interested in providing Teletherapy services, must: "(1) be licensed in good standing under AS 08 63.100 as a marital and family therapist or AS 08.63.110 as a marital and family therapy associate. (2) complete initial training in the following topics regarding teletherapy, totaling a minimum of four hours: (A) appropriateness of teletherapy; (B) teletherapy theory and practice; (C) modes of teletherapy delivery; (D) legal and ethical issues; (E) handling online emergencies; (F) best practices and informed consent."

Telesupervision requirements: 12 AAC 19.210(e) reads: "A supervisor who participates in teletherapy must (1) have completed at least four hours of training required under 12 AAC 19.405(2) in the use of teletherapy technologies before engaging in teletherapy practice. (2) determine that telesupervision is appropriate for a supervisee considering the supervisee's professional, intellectual, emotional, and physical needs; (3) inform supervisees of the potential risks and benefits associated with telesupervision; (4) take reasonable steps to ensure the security of the supervisor's communication medium; (5) commence telesupervision only after gaining appropriate education, training, or supervised experience using the relevant technology; (6) be aware of the risks and responsibilities associated with telesupervision and advise supervisees in writing of these risks as well as the supervisor's and supervisees' responsibilities for minimizing these risks; (7) consider that communications may be synchronous or asynchronous and that technologies may augment traditional in-person supervision or be used as stand-alone supervision; and (8) be aware of the potential benefits."

Continuing education for Teletherapy: Each renewal an applicant must complete two hours of continuing education that relates to teletherapy practice and that includes teletherapy ethics . 12 AAC 19.300(c)