

The Mission of the Board: Protect and serve the public of Ohio by effectively and efficiently regulating the licensed practice of Counseling, Social Work and Marriage and Family Therapy in the State of Ohio through the licensing of qualified practitioners, the establishment of standards for **Counselors, Social Workers & Marriage and Family Therapists**, educational programs, and the enforcement of the laws and rules governing the practice.

The Function of Board: regulate and enforce the provision of Chapter 4757 of the Ohio Revised Code for the purpose of protecting the public by improving the quality of counseling, social work and marriage and family therapy services delivered to the public by counselors, social workers and marriage and family therapists. Counselors, Social Workers & Marriage and Family Therapists provide general or specialized services, as determined by their level of competency and scopes of practice. Over 30,000 active licenses to practice as Counselors, Social Workers & Marriage and Family Therapists have been issued.

Complaints may include but are not limited to:

1. Incompetent practice
2. Failure to inform client of extent and nature of services to be provided
3. Breaking confidentiality
4. Sexual harassment
5. Discrimination
6. Physical or verbal abuse
7. Conflict of interest

**Ohio Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board
2007 - 2008**



How do I find a social worker, professional counselor or marriage and family therapist?

Social Workers, Professional Counselors and/or Marriage and Family Therapists can be found through referral from your doctor, clergy or friends. You may also contact First Link of Ohio by dialing 211 in the State of Ohio. First Link has a large database of Social Workers, Counselors, and Marriage & Family Therapists and will refer you to someone in your area. You can call PIRT at 614-466-4357 for a list of licensees in Ohio.

From the CSWMFT Board's web site www.cswmft.ohio.gov you can verify a license or discipline actions taken by the Board. If you have a complaint, you can download a complaint form and or call 614-466-0912 to initiate an investigation by the board.

Do I need a Social Worker, Professional Counselor or Marriage and Family Therapist?



A Guide to Counselors, Social Workers & Marriage and Family Therapists in Ohio

Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board
50 West Broad Street, Suite 1075
Columbus, OH 43215-5919
614-466-0912
Fax 614-728-7790

www.cswmft.ohio.gov

Who are Social Workers, what do they do and how can they help?

In Ohio, most licensed Social Workers have a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree in social work; a few bachelor's level social workers have related degrees. Social work is a profession for those with a strong desire to help improve people's lives. Social workers help people function the best way they can in their environment, deal with their relationships, and solve personal and family problems. Social workers can help you face a life-threatening disease or a social problem, such as inadequate housing, unemployment, a serious illness, a disability, or substance abuse. Social workers also assist families that have serious domestic conflicts, sometimes involving child or spousal abuse.

Most social workers specialize. Although some conduct research or are involved in planning or policy development, most social workers prefer an area of practice in which they interact with people.

Child, family, and school social workers provide social services and assistance to improve the social and psychological functioning of:

- children and their families
- maximize the family well-being and
- academic functioning of children.

Medical and public health social workers provide persons, families, or vulnerable populations with the psychosocial support needed to cope with:

- chronic, acute, or terminal illnesses, such as Alzheimer's disease, cancer, or AIDS.

Mental health and substance abuse social workers diagnose and treat individuals with:

- mental illness
- substance abuse problems, including abuse of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs.

Other types of social workers include *social work planners and policymakers*, who develop programs to address such issues as child abuse, homelessness, substance abuse, poverty, and violence.

Who are Professional Counselors, what do they do and how can they help?

In Ohio, licensed professional counselors provide quality mental health care. Professional counselors (PC) have a master's or doctoral degree in counseling, and pass a state licensure examination. To practice independently as a licensed professional clinical counselor (PCC), counselors are required to complete a minimum of two years under the supervision of an experienced clinical counselor supervisor. All licensed professional counselors are required to follow Ohio laws, have a license from the state of Ohio, and have clearly written professional standards of practice that they are required to follow.

Professional counselors practice in a variety of settings, including independent practice, community agencies, residential treatment facilities, employee assistance programs, hospitals, schools and substance abuse treatment centers. Professional counselors are highly skilled mental health professionals who provide a full range of services including, but not limited to:

- anxiety, depression, and other mental and emotional problems and disorders;
- family and relationship issues;
- addictions, sexual abuse and domestic violence;
- eating disorders;
- career change and job stress;
- social and emotional difficulties related to disability and illness;
- adapting to life transitions; and
- death of a loved one.

Professional counselors can help you identify your problems, and assist you in finding the best ways to cope with difficult situations. While in counseling, you may work to change behaviors that contribute to the problem, or find constructive ways to deal with a situation that is beyond your personal control. You and your counselor work as a team to help resolve your issues.

Who are Marriage & Family Therapists, what do they do and how can they help?

In Ohio, Marriage & Family Therapists are mental health professionals trained in psychotherapy and family systems, and licensed to diagnose and treat mental and emotional disorders within the context of marriage, couples and family systems. MFTs have graduate training (a Masters or Doctoral degree) in marriage and family therapy and at least two years of clinical experience. Marriage and family therapists are recognized as a core mental health profession.

Marriage and Family Therapists broaden the traditional emphasis on the individual to attend to the nature and role of individuals in primary relationship networks such as marriage and the family. MFTs take a holistic perspective to health care; they are concerned with the overall, long-term well-being of individuals and their families.

A family's patterns of behavior influences the individual and therefore may need to be a part of the treatment plan. In marriage and family therapy, the unit of treatment isn't just the person - even if only a single person is interviewed - it is the set of relationships in which the person is imbedded.

Marriage and family therapy is:

- brief
- solution-focused
- specific, with attainable therapeutic goals
- designed with the "end in mind."

Marriage and family therapists treat a wide range of serious clinical problems including: depression, marital problems, anxiety, individual psychological problems, and child-parent problems.