



## *Ohio Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board*

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### Sexual Orientation Change Efforts and Gender Identity Guidance

The practice of Counseling, Social Work and Marriage and Family Therapy does not include sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE, also sometimes referred to as “conversion therapy”) or efforts to change gender identity. Attempts to “change” sexual orientation or gender identity can be harmful, particularly when the client is a minor. However, supporting clients in exploring their questions and concerns about their sexual orientation or gender identity is appropriate assistance for a Counselor, Social Worker, or Marriage and Family Therapist to provide to a client. The CSWMFT Board expects its licensees to practice their professions by relying upon the best evidence-based research available. Licensees should be aware that the Board can discipline licensees (up to and including license revocation) when they use a practice or intervention that results in harm to a client.

Licensees seeking additional information regarding the issues covered in this statement may wish to review the statements and guidance from the following behavioral and medical healthcare associations: American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Counseling Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the American Medical Association.