

645—31.10(147) License renewal for mental health counselors and marriage and family therapists.

31.10(1) The biennial license renewal period for a license to practice marital and family therapy or mental health counseling shall begin on October 1 of an even-numbered year and end on September 30 of the next even-numbered year. The licensee is responsible for renewing the license prior to its expiration. Failure of the licensee to receive notice from the board does not relieve the licensee of the responsibility for renewing the license.

31.10(2) A licensee seeking renewal shall:

a. Meet the continuing education requirements of rule 645—32.2(272C). A licensee whose license was reactivated during the current renewal compliance period may use continuing education credit earned during the compliance period for the first renewal following reactivation; and

b. Submit the completed renewal application and renewal fee before the license expiration date.

An individual who was issued a license within six months of the license renewal date will not be required to renew the license until the next renewal two years later.

31.10(3) Mandatory reporter training requirements.

a. A licensee who, in the scope of professional practice or in the licensee's employment responsibilities, examines, attends, counsels or treats children in Iowa shall indicate on the renewal application completion of two hours of training in child abuse identification and reporting as required by Iowa Code section 232.69(3) "b" in the previous three years or condition(s) for waiver of this requirement as identified in paragraph 31.10(3) "d."

b. A licensee who, in the course of employment, examines, attends, counsels or treats adults in Iowa shall indicate on the renewal application completion of two hours of training in dependent adult abuse identification and reporting as required by Iowa Code section 235B.16(5) "b" in the previous three years or condition(s) for waiver of this requirement as identified in paragraph 31.10(3) "d."

c. The licensee shall maintain written documentation for five years after mandatory training as identified in paragraphs 31.10(3) "a" and "b," including program date(s), content, duration, and proof of participation.

d. The requirement for mandatory training for identifying and reporting child and dependent adult abuse shall be suspended if the board determines that suspension is in the public interest or that a person at the time of license renewal:

(1) Is engaged in active duty in the military service of this state or the United States.

(2) Holds a current waiver by the board based on evidence of significant hardship in complying with training requirements, including an exemption of continuing education requirements or extension of time in which to fulfill requirements due to a physical or mental disability or illness as identified in 645—Chapter 4.

e. The board may select licensees for audit of compliance with the requirements in paragraphs 31.10(3) "a" to "d."

31.10(4) Upon receiving the information required by this rule and the required fee, board staff shall administratively issue a two-year license. In the event the board receives adverse information on the renewal application, the board shall issue the renewal license but may refer the adverse information for further consideration or disciplinary investigation.

31.10(5) A person licensed to practice as a marital and family therapist or mental health counselor shall keep the person's license certificate and wallet card displayed in a conspicuous public place at the primary site of practice.

31.10(6) Late renewal. The license shall become late when the license has not been renewed by the expiration date on the wallet card. The licensee shall be assessed a late fee as specified in 645—subrule 5.3(3). To renew a late license, the licensee shall complete the renewal requirements and submit the late fee within the grace period.

31.10(7) Inactive license. A licensee who fails to renew the license by the end of the grace period has an inactive license. A licensee whose license is inactive continues to hold the privilege of licensure in Iowa, but may not practice mental health counseling or marital and family therapy in Iowa until the license is reactivated. A licensee who practices mental health counseling or marital and family therapy in the state of Iowa with an inactive license may be subject to disciplinary action by the board, injunctive

action pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.83, criminal sanctions pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.86, and other available legal remedies.
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