

Tennessee Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Marital and Family Therapists and Licensed Pastoral Therapists



Newsletter



A Regulatory Agency of the State of Tennessee

2015

Fall

665 Mainstream Dr., Nashville, TN 37243 • <http://tn.gov/health> (615) 741-5735 or 1-800-778-4123
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time (except State and Federal holidays) Fax: (615) 532-5369

2016 Board Meeting Dates

March 4, 2016
9:00 a.m., Poplar Room

June 3, 2016
9:00 a.m., Poplar Room

September 2, 2016
9:00 a.m., Poplar Room

December 2, 2016
9:00 a.m., Iris Room



All board meetings will be held at 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville TN, unless otherwise noted.

Live Streaming Video

If you would like to see your board “in action” but can’t attend a meeting in person, you can now watch the board meeting on your computer through live streaming video. The link is: <https://web.nowuseeit.tn.gov/Mediasite/Catalog/Full/98fe21d561e9489487745f0c7da678b221>. After you access the page, go to the board meeting you wish to view and click on that particular link.

Legislative Updates

Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Marital and Family Therapists and Licensed Pastoral Therapists Legislative Update - 2015

Public Chapter 86

The Board for Professional Counselors, Marital and Family Therapists, and Clinical Pastoral Therapists has been extended through June 30, 2019 and the act clarifies that nominations from professional groups for appointment to the board are permissive.

Public Chapter 154

This act allows the Commissioner of Health or his designee to have electronic access to medical records in order to facilitate investigations when responding to an immediate threat to public health. Today the Commissioner of Health or his designee already has this authority but must go to the facility to review the medical records. This act took effect on April 16, 2015.

Public Chapter 94

This act defines “abuse” and “neglect” for purposes of placing a person on the registry of persons who have abused, neglected, or misappropriated the property of vulnerable individuals specifically within the statutes that govern the Dept. of Health. It does not impact the definitions within the statutes that govern the Dept. of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities nor the Dept. of Human Services. It also increases the time within which placement on the registry may be appealed from 30 to 60 days. For rulemaking purposes, this bill became effective on April 10, 2015. All other provisions become effective on July 1, 2015.

Public Chapter 502

This act allows the Joint Government Operations Committee (the legislative committee that reviews all rules) to stay a rule up to 75 days instead of 60 days. Present law authorizes the Joint Government Operations Committee to consider the following factors when reviewing rules: authority, clarity, consistency, justification, necessity and reference. This act adds arbitrariness and capriciousness as two new considerations.

Public Chapter 261

The act provides for the practice of telehealth. It outlines the following:

- Defines a healthcare provider
- Establishes a provider-patient relationship by mutual consent and mutual communication
- Specifies that telehealth does not create a new standard care
- Prohibits any board from creating a more restrictive standard of professional practice for telehealth service
- Allows a physician to prescribe by means of telemedicine and follow all prescribing applicable statutes such as checking the Controlled Substance Monitoring Database; however, pain management clinics are not permitted
- There is no separate telehealth license required by the Bd of Medical Examiners

Public Chapter 268

This act makes disclosures of protected healthcare information permissible in medical malpractice lawsuits and became effective on April 24, 2015.

Electronic Notification for Licensed Health Professionals

NOTICE TO ALL LICENSED HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS – ELECTRONIC NOTICE OPTION

On January 1, 2013, a new law became effective requiring all Tennessee health professional boards to provide electronic notices to healthcare professionals they license. The law gives healthcare professionals the option of being notified electronically of the following: (1) Renewals of license, certification or registration; (2) Any fee increases; (3) Any changes in state law that impact the license holder; and (4) Any board meeting where changes in rules or fees are on the agenda. If a healthcare professional “opts in”, the Department of Health will also be able to alert him or her of critical public health matters impacting Tennessee. Please visit apps.tn.gov/hlrs/begin.jsp and complete the registration process to opt in. Upon receipt of a current email address, those who opt in will begin to receive ALL notices

electronically rather than through the United States mail. Please note opting in means license renewal notification will be delivered electronically approximately 45 days in advance of the expiration date. The electronic notice will direct the licensee to the appropriate Web page to renew. For professions that do not permit licensees to renew their licenses online, a paper renewal will continue to be provided. For more information, contact the Health Professional Boards office at 615-741-5735 or toll-free at 1-800-778-4123.

Renew Your License Online



Practitioners may access the online service at <https://apps.tn.gov/hlrs/> to renew their licenses up to 70 days prior to the expiration date.

Click the “Licensing Renewal” link where you can renew your license and update your professional license information. *Licensees are responsible for renewing their licenses on time and keeping the Board apprised of current information. It is a violation of the law and of the Board’s rules to practice on an expired license.*

-Step 1: Login - Select our board and your profession and enter your license number.

-Step 2: Update your Information - Change your home and/or office address.

-Step 3: Enter your renewal information - Answer all necessary questions, as if you were completing your hard-copy form.

-Step 4: Payment - Enter your credit card information through the secure site and choose “submit”.

If you have met all of the criteria necessary, your renewal certificate will be mailed to you in approximately one week. Updated license information will be available on the department’s web site within two business days.

Practitioner Profile

When you notify the board of an address or name change, please remember to update your practitioner profile.

Retirement of License

If you are not practicing in Tennessee and do not wish to renew your license, it is suggested you retire your license rather than have it fall into failed to renew status. A retirement form may be obtained at our website at:

<http://tn.gov/health/article/pcmft-applications1>

If you do not have access to the internet, you may request a retirement form be mailed to you. (See Board address on page 4.)

Rule Amendments



There are Rule amendments being discussed by the Board at this time. Please make sure you visit the website for any upcoming rulemaking hearings regarding this change. All rulemaking hearings are open to the public and welcome comments and suggestions.

You may contact the board office at 615-741-5735 for a copy of the rules or download a copy at <http://share.tn.gov/sos/rules/0450/0450.htm> and follow the prompts. Please check the website often, as rules change frequently.

Office of Investigations



The Office of Investigations is responsible for receiving and processing all complaints for the licensure boards. To file a complaint, please contact the Office of Investigations at 1-800-852-2187 or visit our website where you may download and print out the complaint form.

Lapsed License

Statute prohibits an individual from working as an LPC, MFT or LCPT unless he/she has an active license.

1. Upon recognition that his/her license has expired, the individual must stop practicing immediately and contact the

Board's administrative office and request a reinstatement application.

2. The individual must complete the reinstatement in its entirety along with a detailed work history from the date the license expired. The application must be signed and notarized and returned to the Board's administrative office along with proof of documentation of continuing education requirements taken within the previous twelve (12) months, as well as all applicable fees.

3. Once the completed reinstatement application and all required documentation is received, the Board administrator may immediately reinstate the license **only** if the license has been in an expired status for a period of three (3) months or less.

4. If the reinstatement application received indicates in the work history that the individual has worked more than three (3) months on an expired license, the licensee will be assessed a penalty for each month worked in excess of three (3) months.

Discipline for lapsed licenses is reportable to the national databanks as well as the Department's Disciplinary Action report and will be noted on the practitioner's licensure profile.



Have you moved/changed your name?

Must be reported in writing or by e-mail to the board's office within 30 days! Please include the following:

- your name and license number;
- your profession;
- your old address and phone number;
- your new address and phone number, e-mail address, and/or your fax number;
- your signature!
- If your name has changed due to marriage or divorce, you must send a copy of the document that made the change in status.

Keeping the board's administrative staff up to date on your location facilitates the timely notification to you of important information such as your application for licensure renewal and important statutory and rule changes.

A form for the change of address/name can be found at:

<http://tn.gov/health/article/pcmft-applications1>

You may fax your change to the board's administrative office at (615) 532-5369 or by mail at: 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37243.

To Contact This Board Call:

**(615) 741-5735 local or (800) 778-4123
nationwide or write to:**

**Tennessee Board of Licensed Professional
Counselors, Licensed Marital and Family
Therapists and Licensed Pastoral Therapists
665 Mainstream Drive
Nashville, TN 37243**

BOARD MEMBERS

Susan Hammonds White, EdD, LPC
President

Kimberly D. Speakman, LPC

Bradley Bull, PhD, LMFT

Howard E. Nelson, CPT

Stephen Caldwell
Citizen Member

BOARD STAFF

James A. Hill
Board Administrator

Doris VanOvermeiren
Licensing Techs

Theodora (Teddy) Wilkins
Administrative Director