



**American Association for
Marriage and Family Therapy**

Advancing the Professional Interests
of Marriage and Family Therapists

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION OF MFTS

- **HRSA Recognizes MFTs as Core Mental Health Professionals**

The Public Health Service Act recognizes marriage and family therapists as a core mental health profession under the Health Professional Shortage Area and the National Health Service Corps programs administered by the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). The program identifies geographic areas that have a shortage of mental health professionals. Other core professionals are psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, and psychiatric nurse specialists. (42 CFR Part 5)

- **NHSC Recognizes MFTs as Behavioral and Mental Health Professionals**

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) defines marriage and family therapy as a “behavioral and mental health professional” for purposes of participating in the NHSC Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs. These programs are designed to provide health care services to underserved populations. (42 U.S.C. 254d)

- **DOD Recognizes MFTs as Health Care Providers**

The Department of Defense identifies marriage and family therapists as “health-care professionals” who are authorized to provide direct patient care and who may contract with the DoD for personal service contracts. (10 USCS § 1094 & 10 USCS § 1091)

- **DOE Recognizes MFTs for School Early Intervention Services**

The Department of Education, in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, designates marriage and family therapists as qualified providers of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with a disability. (20 U.S.C.A s 1432)

- **DOE Designates COAMFTE as Accrediting Body for MFT Programs**

The Department of Education recognizes the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) as the national accrediting agency for clinical training programs in marriage and family therapy.

- **CHAMPUS/TRICARE Reimburses MFTs**

CHAMPUS/TRICARE, the federal health care program for members of the uniformed services and their families, reimburses MFTs as independent extramedical individual providers who do counseling or nonmedical therapy. (32 CFR 199.6 / TRICARE Standard Provider Handbook)

- **Department of Defense Reimburses MFTs**

The Department of Defense identified MFTs as clinical practitioners eligible for credentialing and independent privileging in DON Family Service Centers and Family Advocacy Program Centers. (SECNAVINST 1754.7)

- **CSAT Approves Grants for MFT Programs**

The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) designated marriage and family therapy graduate programs as appropriate for receipt of grants to increase the number of mental health professionals providing treatment services. (42 U.S.C.A s 290bb-5)

- **Indian Health Service Recognizes MFTs**

The Indian Health Service authorizes licensed marriage and family therapists to provide mental health care services to Indians in a clinical setting, along with psychologists and social workers. (25 U.S.C.A. s 162h(l))