



Ohio Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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To: Out of State Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists

From: Brian Carnahan, Executive Director

RE: **Providing Services to Existing Clients Temporarily Located in Ohio**

Date: March 13, 2020

The Ohio CSWMFT Board is aware that many colleges and universities have asked students to return home temporarily as a response to COVID-19. Other persons may also be returning to Ohio, from an out of state work assignments, for example. In some cases, these persons are receiving services from Counselors, Social Workers, and MFTs in the states in which they were residing before returning to Ohio.

Under Ohio Administrative Code Rule [4757-1-09](#), with the permission of the CSWMFT Board, Counselors, Social Workers, and MFTs holding a license to practice in another state may provide teletherapy services to existing clients temporarily located in Ohio. Out of state licensee will be considered in compliance with Rule 4757-1-09 if they contact the Board via an email application.

The email application should: 1). Indicate their intention to provide services to a client (do not disclose the client name) temporarily located in Ohio in response to COVID-19; 2). Include the license type and license number of the out of state license; 3). Confirm the licensee has training and experience in providing teletherapy or will have access to appropriate supervision and peer consultation. Submit the e-mail application to Tiffany Coutts, Renewal Coordinator, at renewal@cswb.ohio.gov.

Upon receipt of the e-mail application, the Board will acknowledge receipt of the e-mail. The licensee may then begin providing teletherapy services. It is the Board's expectation that professionals approved to provide such services will do so exercising the utmost care in protecting client confidentiality. Licensees may wish to refer to Ohio Administrative Code Rule [4757-5-13](#) for information regarding the Board's expectations when using teletherapy.

If the out of state licensee does not have an existing therapeutic relationship with the client before the date of this memo, the licensee must apply to the Ohio CSWMFT Board for a license to practice Counseling, Social Work, or Marriage and Family Therapy. The intention of the temporary permission to practice rule is to facilitate continuity of care. It is not a general teletherapy rule.

Licensees approved under this memo will have temporary permission to practice in Ohio until **May 1, 2020** at which time the Board will assess the need to extended permission based on current circumstances.