

## **Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors & Therapists Authority over Counselors and Therapists**

The Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors & Therapists (OBLPCT) provides oversight for all licensed professional counselors, licensed marriage and family therapists, and interns registered with the Board.

The OBLPCT has authority, in part, to

- Set licensing standards,
- Grant licenses,
- Establish a code of ethics, and
- Impose discipline on licensed counselors and therapists, unlicensed counselors and therapists saying they are licensed when they are not, and those who qualify for licensure but are not licensed.

Definitions of “professional counseling” and “marriage and family therapy” are in state law (ORS 675.705).

The OBLPCT distinguishes between “licensed”, “unlicensed”, “exempt”, and “alternative” counselors and therapists. **The Board has authority over licensed and unlicensed counselors and therapists as defined below. The Board has no authority over exempt and alternative providers as defined below.**

### **Licensed**

Licensed professional counselors and licensed marriage and family therapists have met education and experience standards set by the board and have passed a national competency exam and an exam on Oregon’s laws and rules that govern counselors and therapists.

Licensed counselors and therapists must also:

- 1) Abide by a code of ethics established by the board,
- 2) Provide clients with professional disclosure statement, and
- 3) Continue their education to meet the needs of their clients.

### **Unlicensed**

Unlicensed professional counselors and unlicensed marriage and family therapists are those who qualify for licensure, practice professional counseling or marriage and family therapy, and have chosen not to become licensed.

### **Exempt**

Oregon law provides several exemptions from licensure, including:

- 1) Certified alcohol and drug counselors
- 2) Counselors and therapists working for government agencies that provide mental health services

- 3) Counselors and therapists working for community based organizations (CBO) that provide mental health services if the CBO is certified by a government agency
- 4) Members of the clergy when acting in a ministerial capacity.

**Alternative**

Those **who** may have counseling-related training and provide similar services as licensed counselors and therapists but do not meet the educational requirements to qualify for licensure as an LPC or LMFT. Alternative providers do not assess, diagnose, or treat mental disorders.

The OBLPCT has no plans to oversee alternative providers.