

## Getting Licensed in Florida

As LMHCs, we are regulated by Florida's Department of Health, specifically the Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling. The main webpage is below:

<http://floridasmentalhealthprofessions.gov/>

### Registered Internship

Once you graduate, you will have to register to become a registered mental health counseling intern (RMHI). Shortly after graduation, your school will provide you with (or you may have to request) a letter indicating you completed the program and your 1,000 hour practicum. You will have to complete the written application and you must also identify a qualified supervisor prior to applying, as it the application will ask for the supervisor's name. You cannot begin counting hours toward post-master's experience until you are a registered intern. You

The process for registering is below:

<http://floridasmentalhealthprofessions.gov/licensing/registered-mental-health-counselor-intern/>

### Qualified Supervisor

You can locate a qualified supervisor at [www.meetyoursupervisor.com](http://www.meetyoursupervisor.com) and verify that they are a qualified supervisor under the "Verify a License" tab at

<https://apps.mqa.doh.state.fl.us/IRM00PRAES/PRASLIST.ASP>. In looking for a supervisor, try to find someone who has experience or expertise in the field in which you will be working. I interview potential interns and ask them for a copy of their degree, liability insurance, resume, and criminal background check. If we "click", I ask the intern to sign a contract that details the terms of the supervision agreement and it indicates that either party can terminate the agreement with 30 days notice. You need to remain in supervision until you have your license (even if you complete the two years of post-master's experience).

### Licensing Exam

Once you are a registered intern, you can apply to take the licensing exam. You do not need to wait the two years.

### Liability Insurance

Liability Insurance- I recommend liability insurance to protect you against malpractice, etc. Some employers will provide it but I recommend you get your own. You can get liability insurance through the American Counseling Association (ACA) Health Providers Service Organization (HPSO), American Professional Agency, Inc., and CPH and Associates, among others.

### FAQs

The Florida Mental Health profession has an FAQ and help center located at:

<http://floridasmentalhealthprofessions.gov/help-center/>

The FAQ section for registered interns is at:

<http://floridasmentalhealthprofessions.gov/registered-intern-faqs/>