

Sarah Marcus, LICSW

VT license # 089.0136011

Vermont Board of Allied Mental Health Practitioners Disclosure

Vermont law requires persons licensed to practice psychotherapy to disclose to each client their professional qualifications and experience, those actions that constitute unprofessional conduct, and the method for filing a complaint or making a consumer inquiry. This must be done by the third appointment.

Rules require the following information to be provided:

Qualifications and Experience

(See attached page)

Scope of Practice Includes:

- Therapeutic orientation: psychodynamic, relational, anti-oppressive, person-centered, attachment-based
- Area of specialization: gender and sexuality, relationship challenges, anxiety, depression, grief and loss, emerging adults, experiences of trauma
- Treatment methods: Emotionally Focused Therapy, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR), group therapy, couples and relationship therapy

My practice is also governed by the Rules of the Board of Allied Mental Health

Practitioners. It is unprofessional conduct to violate those rules. A copy of those rules may be obtained from the Board or online at <https://sos.vermont.gov/opr/>

Client's Disclosure Confirmation

My signature acknowledges that I have been given the professional qualifications and experience of Sarah Marcus, a listing of actions that constitute unprofessional conduct according to Vermont statutes, and the method for making a consumer inquiry or filing a

complaint with the Office of Professional Regulation. This information was given to me no later than my third office visit.

Client Signature

Date

Practitioner's Signature

Date

Qualifications and Experience

Education:

- Master of Social Work, Clinical Concentration, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Awarded May 2020.
- Bachelor of Arts, Sociology and Anthropology, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont, Awarded May 2014

Applicable Trainings:

- “Pets are Wonderful Supports...Usually. Ethical, Legal and Practical Issues for Social Workers” through the Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research Center for Professional Development. March 2024. 2-hour training regarding ethical practice of animals in social work practice.
- “Language Around Suicide” through the Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research Center for Professional Development. November 2022. 3-hour training regarding best practices for exploring suicidal ideation with clients.
- Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy Training, through the Institute for Creative Mindfulness, and EMDRIA-approved EMDR Therapy Training, September 2020-October 2022. Completed 42 hours of training and 10 hours of consultation in the mechanisms and application of EMDR Therapy, neurobiology of trauma, and ethics of EMDR Therapy, with a particular focus on working with LGBTQIA+ clients.
- Restorative Justice Facilitator Training, through Ampersands Restorative Justice. September 2021-March 2022. Completed over 50 hours of facilitator training with an emphasis on cases of sexual harm.
- Clinical Updates Colloquium at Kutztown University Department of Social Work. January 2022. 3-hour suicide prevention training.

- Emotionally Focused Therapy Externship, through the Philadelphia Center for Emotionally Focused Therapy. November 2021. Completed 40 hours of training in EFT theory and practice, adult attachment theory, stages of EFT, and practical interventions.
- Emotionally Focused Couples Therapy: An Introduction, through the Philadelphia Center for Emotionally Focused Therapy. April 2021.
- “Addressing Race and White Fragility as a White Therapist” through the Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research Center for Professional Development. December 2020. 6-hour training exploring race and identity in therapeutic practice.
- Implementing Restorative Justice for Campus Sexual Harm, through the University of San Diego Center for Restorative Justice. June 2020-August 2020.

Experience in the practice of Psychotherapy:

- Middlebury College Center for Health and Wellness: Counselor. Provided individual and group therapy in office and community settings with weekly supervision based in Middlebury, VT. August 2024-present.
- Sarah Marcus Therapy: Owner, Psychotherapist. Provided individual and relationship therapy virtually and in office with bi-weekly consultation based in Philadelphia, PA and virtually from Vermont. September 2023-present.
- Growth Thru Change: Psychotherapist. Provided individual and relationship therapy in a group practice setting with weekly supervision based in Philadelphia, PA. April 2021-July 2024.
- Courdea Center: Staff Therapist. Provided individual and group therapy virtually for people who have harmed a partner based in Philadelphia, PA, with weekly supervision. March 2020- December 2023.
- Courdea Center: Master’s level Advanced Clinical Social Work Intern. Provided individual, group therapy, and case management services for in office settings for people who have harmed a partner based in Philadelphia, PA, with weekly supervision. August 2019-March 2020.
- The Kirkbride Center: Master’s level Clinical Social Work Intern. Provided individual and group therapy, psychoeducation groups, and case management support in a short-term substance use facility in Philadelphia, PA, with weekly supervision. August 2018-June 2019.

Office of Professional Regulation Notice

The Office of Professional Regulation provides Vermont licenses, certifications, and registrations for over 56,000 practitioners and businesses. Forty-six professions and occupations are supported and managed by this office. A list of professions regulated is found below.

Each profession or occupation is governed by laws defining professional conduct.

Consumers who have inquiries or wish to obtain a form to register a complaint may do so by calling (802) 828-1505, or by writing to the Director of the Office, Secretary of State's Office, 89 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Montpelier, VT 05620-3402.

Upon receipt of a complaint, an administrative review determines if the issues raised are covered by the applicable professional conduct statute. If so, a committee is assigned to investigate, collect information, and recommend action or closure to the appropriate governing body. All complaint investigations are confidential. Should the investigation conclude with a decision for disciplinary action against a professional's license and ability to practice, the name of the license holder will then be made public.

Complaint investigations focus on licensure and fitness of the licensee to practice.

Disciplinary action, when warranted, ranges from warning to revocation of license, based

on the circumstances. You should not expect a return of fees paid or additional unpaid services as part of the results of this process. If you seek restitution of this nature, consider consulting with the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General, retaining an attorney, or filing a case in Small Claims Court.

Accountancy

Acupuncture

Architects N

Athletic Trainers

Auctioneers

Audiologists

Barbers & Cosmetologists

Boxing Control

Chiropractic

Dental Examiners

Dietitians

Drug and Alcohol Counselor

Naturopaths

Nursing

Nursing Home Administrators

Occupational Therapists

Opticians

Optometry

Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons

Pharmacy

Physical Therapists

Private Investigative & Security Services

Property Inspectors

Psychoanalyst

Electrolysis

Engineering

Funeral Service

Hearing Aid Dispensers

Land Surveyors

Landscape Architects

Marriage & Family Therapists

Clinical Mental Health Counselors

Midwives, Licensed

Motor Vehicle Racing

Psychology Professional

Psychotherapist, Non-licensed

Radiologic Technology

Real Estate Appraisers

Real Estate

Respiratory Care

Social Workers, Clinical

Tattooists

Veterinary

The Vermont Statutes Online

Title 3: Executive

Chapter 5: SECRETARY OF STATE

Sub-Chapter 3: Professional Regulation

3 V.S.A. § 129a. Unprofessional conduct

(a) In addition to any other provision of law, the following conduct by a licensee constitutes unprofessional conduct. When that conduct is by an applicant or person who later becomes an applicant, it may constitute grounds for denial of a license or other disciplinary action. Any one of the following items, or any combination of items, whether or not the conduct at issue was committed within or outside the State, shall constitute unprofessional conduct:

- (1) Fraudulent or deceptive procurement or use of a license.
- (2) Advertising that is intended or has a tendency to deceive.
- (3) Failing to comply with provisions of federal or state statutes or rules governing the practice of the profession.
- (4) Failing to comply with an order of the board or violating any term or condition of a license restricted by the board.

- (5) Practicing the profession when medically or psychologically unfit to do so.
- (6) Delegating professional responsibilities to a person whom the licensed professional knows, or has reason to know, is not qualified by training, experience, education, or licensing credentials to perform them, or knowingly providing professional supervision or serving as a preceptor to a person who has not been licensed or registered as required by the laws of that person's profession.
- (7) Willfully making or filing false reports or records in the practice of the profession; willfully impeding or obstructing the proper making or filing of reports or records or willfully failing to file the proper reports or records.
- (8) Failing to make available promptly to a person using professional health care services, that person's representative, or succeeding health care professionals or institutions, upon written request and direction of the person using professional health care services, copies of that person's records in the possession or under the control of the licensed practitioner or failing to notify patients or clients how to obtain their records when a practice closes.
- (9) Failing to retain client records for a period of seven years, unless laws specific to the profession allow for a shorter retention period. When other laws or agency rules require retention for a longer period of time, the longer retention period shall apply.
- (10) Conviction of a crime related to the practice of the profession or conviction of a felony, whether or not related to the practice of the profession.
- (11) Failing to report to the office a conviction of any felony or any offense related to the practice of the profession in a Vermont District Court, a Vermont Superior Court, a federal court, or a court outside Vermont within 30 days.

(12) Exercising undue influence on or taking improper advantage of a person using professional services or promoting the sale of services or goods in a manner which exploits a person for the financial gain of the practitioner or a third party.

(13) Performing treatments or providing services which the licensee is not qualified to perform, or which are beyond the scope of the licensee's education, training, capabilities, experience, or scope of practice.

(14) Failing to report to the office within 30 days a change of name or address.

(15) Failing to exercise independent professional judgment in the performance of licensed activities when that judgment is necessary to avoid action repugnant to the obligations of the profession.

(b) Failure to practice competently by reason of any cause on a single occasion or on multiple occasions may constitute unprofessional conduct, whether actual injury to a client, patient, or customer has occurred. Failure to practice competently includes:

(1) performance of unsafe or unacceptable patient or client care; or

(2) failure to conform to the essential standards of acceptable and prevailing practice.

(c) The burden of proof in a disciplinary action shall be on the State to show by a preponderance of the evidence that the person has engaged in unprofessional conduct.

(d) After hearing, and upon a finding of unprofessional conduct, a board or an administrative law officer may take disciplinary action against a licensee or applicant, including imposing an administrative penalty not to exceed \$1,000.00 for each unprofessional conduct violation. Any money received under this subsection

shall be deposited in the Professional Regulatory Fee Fund established in section 124 of this title for the purpose of providing education and training for board members and advisor appointees. The Director shall detail in the annual report receipts and expenses from money received under this subsection.

(e) In the case where a standard of unprofessional conduct as set forth in this section conflicts with a standard set forth in a specific board's statute or rule, the standard that is most protective of the public shall govern. (Added 1997, No. 40, § 5; amended 2001, No. 151 (Adj. Sess.), § 2, eff. June 27, 2002; 2003, No. 60, § 2; 2005, No. 27, § 5; 2005, No. 148 (Adj. Sess.), § 4; 2009, No. 35, § 2; 2011, No. 66, § 3, eff. June 1, 2011; 2011, No. 116 (Adj. Sess.), §5.)

§ 4093. Unprofessional conduct

(a) Unprofessional conduct means the following conduct and conduct set forth in section 129a of Title 3:

- (1) Providing fraudulent or deceptive information in an application for entry on the roster.
- (2) Conviction of a crime that evinces an unfitness to practice psychotherapy.
- (3) Unauthorized use of a protected title in professional activity.
- (4) Conduct which evidences moral unfitness to practice psychotherapy.
- (5) Engaging in any sexual conduct with a client, or with the immediate family member of a client, with whom the psychotherapist has had a professional relationship within the previous two years.

(6) Harassing, intimidating or abusing a client.

(7) Entering into an additional relationship with a client, supervisee, research participant or student that might impair the psychotherapist's objectivity or otherwise interfere with his or her professional obligations.

(8) Practicing outside or beyond a psychotherapist's area of training, experience or competence without appropriate supervision.

(b) After hearing, and upon a finding of unprofessional conduct, the board may take disciplinary action against a rostered psychotherapist or an applicant. (Added 1993, No. 222 (Adj. Sess.), § 17; amended 1997, No. 40, § 71; 1997, No. 145 (Adj. Sess.), § 61; 1999, No. 52, § 37.)