

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS, MARITAL AND FAMILY  
THERAPISTS, AND CLINICAL PASTORAL THERAPISTS POLICY STATEMENT  
REGARDING UNLICENSED PRACTICE BY LIFE COACHES

The Board of Professional Counselors, Marital and Family Therapists, and Clinical Pastoral Therapists (“The Board”) is cognizant that individuals representing themselves as life coaches often deal with similar issues as licensed practitioners regulated by the Board. The Board further recognizes that life coaches are not regulated or licensed in the State of Tennessee. To carry out its mission to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Tennessee, the Board reminds life coaches that their profession shall not in anyway engage in the practice of Professional Counseling, Marital and Family Therapy, or Clinical Pastoral Therapy, as defined by those professions’ scopes of practice.

Upon the discovery that a life coach is practicing within the scope of practice of one of the above stated regulated professions, without a license, the individual may be subject to discipline by the Board and assessed a monetary penalty for each day he or she has been practicing without a license.

Furthermore, any licensed professional who also holds himself or herself out as a life coach, must at all times be in compliance with the relevant rules for the licensed profession. This includes, but is not limited to, the ethical obligations of the regulated profession.

This Policy Statement was adopted by the Board of Professional Counselors, Marital and Family Therapists, and Clinical Pastoral Therapists on the 15th of May 2009.