

August 20, 2014

Board of Directors  
California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT)  
7901 Raytheon Road  
San Diego, CA 93111-1606

Re: Proposed Chapter Agreements

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the CAMFT Board:

The Board of Directors of the Sacramento Valley Chapter, California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (hereinafter referred to as the "SVC Board") in response to CAMFT's distribution of a proposed Chapter Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement") and request for comment, delegated a special committee of the Board to review the Agreement and make recommendations to the CAMFT Board.

The committee carefully reviewed the Agreement, along with input from other CAMFT Chapters, and found some of the provisions to be ambiguous, overreaching, and would impose an undue burden upon the chapters. The Agreement encompasses the conflicting ideation of independent chapters while requiring cumbersome reporting regarding chapter operations that is characteristic of a "...partner, joint venturer, subsidiary...or agent." It is our opinion that the Agreement is not beneficial to the chapters as it is currently written. We do not support signing the Agreement without the revisions as outlined below.

**SVC-CAMFT Proposed Revisions to the "Chapter Charter and Agreement," Final Draft dated December 7, 2013**

**Section 1** - Inconsistency with definitions and of the use of terms "affiliated" and "charter."

**Section 2** - Definitions are not clear and "affiliated" in Section 1 is in conflict with the relationship definition in Section 2.

**Section 3** - Use of the term "acceptable" is vague and ambiguous, what is acceptable should be clearly defined. The approval of Chapter Bylaw amendments by CAMFT is too onerous and directly conflicts with the autonomy of the chapters. There is no procedure outlined to get the Chapter Bylaws approved by CAMFT.

**Section 6** - Chapters should be able to choose their board structure based on their unique chapter makeup without approval from CAMFT as long as it is not in direct conflict with CAMFT Bylaws.

**Section 7** - The annual reporting proposed is overly cumbersome and if the chapters and CAMFT are "separate legal entities" and not "partners, joint venturers, or subsidiaries," this should not be required. For SVC-CAMFT, this information is already available online.

**Section 10** - If our chapter were required to provide our membership list to CAMFT, we would like a provision added that our membership list cannot be resold to a third party without the express consent of each member.

**Section 12** – Since we do not agree to this version of the proposed agreement, we do not agree to being held liable for breaking this agreement.

**Section 13** - SVC-CAMFT would agree to adding CAMFT to our insurance policy if CAMFT would bear the additional cost. If insurance became mandatory, sliding scales or financial aid should be available for smaller chapters on an ongoing basis. Many smaller chapters do not have the financial means to procure insurance.

**Section 15** - We would agree with this section under the condition that CAMFT would verify CAMFT membership numbers to the chapters upon request within a set timeframe.

**Section 16** - If CAMFT disbands or suspends our chapter, we should have the legal right to affiliation with another organization or continue under another name without being required to disband. There should also be an appeals process with a panel consisting of a body of one voting board member from each chapter.

**Section 17** - We request that if CAMFT wishes to inspect our records, that the specific records be named along with the purpose for the request in writing. Again, if chapters are “separate legal entities” and not “partners, joint ventures, or subsidiaries,” we do not see the need for inspection of our records and believe that CAMFT should accept the results of an internal audit.

**Section 19** – Since CAMFT is at a considerable financial advantage over the chapters, jurisdiction and venue should be in the county of the chapter, not that of CAMFT.

Respectfully,

Jill Lawler, LMFT President  
Chad Thompson, LMFT, Past President  
Heather Blessing, MFT Intern, Newsletter Editor  
Sterling Evison, Trainee, Pre-License Chair  
Kari Dietrich, MFT Intern, Program Chair  
Carol Nelson, LMFT, Membership Chair  
on behalf of SVC-CAMFT Board of Directors