



Key Message

The state licensure process can be a barrier to providing timely mental health support to service members and families. States can provide a licensure waiver for military and family life counselors to allow for mental health care as needed.

Discussion Points

1. Licensed mental health care providers working as MFLCs or Military OneSource counselors within the DOD Family Readiness System under U.S. Code Title 10, Section 1781 may not provide non-medical counseling services in states where they are not licensed.
2. Provisions in U.S.C. Title 10, Section 1094, allow licensed professionals working in the DOD health care system – as members of the armed forces, civilian employees or under personal service contracts – to hold a license from any state, regardless of where they are providing services; however, non-medical counselors working as MFLCs or Military OneSource counselors are not covered.
3. MFLCs and Military OneSource counselors support active-duty, National Guard and reserve service members – regardless of activation status – as well as recent veterans and their family members, DOD expeditionary civilians and their family members, and survivors. MFLCs typically work within Military and Family Support Centers, Department of Defense Education Activity schools, local nonmilitary schools, DOD child development centers, and embedded within military units. They can also be deployed to meet on-demand needs, surge support and camp programs for military children and youth.
4. MFLC non-medical counseling is confidential; MFLCs do not take or keep case notes. They are required to report situations involving:
 - A service member who may be a danger to themselves or others
 - Domestic violence or violence against another person
 - Child abuse or neglect
 - Potential illegal activity



More than 2,500 MFLCs provide non-medical support to military members, families and survivors worldwide. In fiscal year 2021, the MFLC program conducted in excess of 1.6 million face-to-face counseling sessions, serving 3.6 million participants. MFLCs provided an additional 1.4 million outreach activities.