



Key Message

The state licensure process can be a barrier to providing timely mental health support to service members and families. States can expedite licensure, waive licensure or adopt occupational licensure compacts to reduce this barrier.

Discussion Points

1. MFLCs do not fall under U.S.C. Title 10, Section 1094 and are required to hold a license that is valid in the location they are providing non-medical counseling. These licenses include marriage and family therapists, professional counselors, social workers and psychologists.
2. 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.
3. Licensure barriers for military and family life counselors can be reduced by:
 - Adopting occupational licensure compacts that serve mental health professionals: PsyPACT, Counseling Compact and Social Work Compact
 - Expediting licensure for MFLCs, especially those who must come to the state quickly to support crises operations
 - Waiving licensure for MFLCs and allowing them to work on a valid license from another jurisdiction
4. MFLC non-medical counseling is confidential. 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.