



Featured Therapist

Elizabeth Thomas

Donec euismod vehicula lacus. Suspendisse vitae leo. Nunc at arcu quis felis faucibus pretium. Morbi vehicula lacus adipiscing tellus. Praesent et diam.

Sed sed orci a magna dapibus hendrerit. Class aptent taciti sociosqu ad litora torquent per conubia nostra, per inceptos hymenaeos.

Registry Founders

William J. Doherty, Ph.D., is one of the leading marriage therapists in the U.S. He is Professor of Family Social Science and Director of the Marriage and Family Therapy



William J. Doherty, Ph.D.

Program at the University of Minnesota. He is a licensed marriage and family therapist and licensed psychologist with 30 years of clinical experience. He has authored eight books, including *Soul Searching* and *Take Back Your Marriage*, and has over 150 academic and professional publications.



Kathleen S. Wenger, MA

Kathleen S. Wenger, MA is Manager of Clinical Training and Professional Development and on the Adjunct Faculty in the Psychology Program at Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Education and Psychology. Kathleen received her M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University in

1992 and is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

The National Registry of



An Advanced Practitioner Network

Dr. Elizabeth
123 Main Street
Chicago, IL 60643

The National Registry of



MARRIAGE FRIENDLY
THERAPISTS

An Advanced Practitioner Network

Make Marriage Therapy Referrals With Confidence



www.marriagefriendlytherapists.com

Dear Professional:

The National Registry of Marriage Friendly Therapists is a web based resource for people who want to locate therapists who specialize in marriage and couples therapy and have met the highest standards in the field. We invite you to find out about this resource, to refer couples to therapists on the Registry, and to encourage the best marriage therapists in your community to join the Registry.

Why a New Registry?

Clergy, physicians, and other professionals have told us that finding good marriage and couples therapists is a big challenge. We think we know why. Most therapists are trained only in individual therapy but treat couples anyway, not appreciating that marriage therapy is a specialized and difficult form of practice. Couples often don't get the help they need, and they think it's their own fault. The other problem is that many therapists with training in marriage therapy subscribe to the professional value of "neutrality" about whether couples stay together or break up. The result is that demoralized couples do not receive the support they need to work on their problems. Some therapists even undermine distressed marriages by recommending premature separation and divorce. We founded this Registry to help couples and referring professionals locate competent marriage therapists who will support couples on their sometimes difficult journey.



How to Make a Referral

There are two ways to link couples to one of our therapists:

- Send the couple directly to the website (www.marriagefriendlytherapists.com).
- Go to the website yourself and read the practice profiles of local registered therapists to find a good match for the couple. You may also request a list of registered therapists in your community for referrals without using the Internet.

Note: Because we are a new resource, there may not yet be registered therapists in your community. We are willing to recruit qualified therapists in your community if you contact us. If you refer a couple to a therapist on our Registry, we ask that you let the therapist and the couple know the source of the referral. Because the Registry is supported by therapist fees, it will only remain successful if therapists know that couples come their way through this source.

Which Therapists Qualify for the Registry?

Nearly all web registries require nothing more than a license and a statement that the therapist works with couples. We regard marriage and couples therapy as a specialized form of practice that requires specialized training and ongoing experience. Therefore, our qualifications are as follows:

- A mental health license for at least three years
- At least five years of experience working with couples
- Academic coursework in marriage and couples therapy
- Specific supervised training in marriage and couples therapy
- Endorsing a values statement about marriage therapy and marital commitment

Most of our therapists exceed these qualifications. Our typical therapist has over 20 years of clinical experience with couples and holds advanced credentials such as being a certified supervisor of other therapists.

Values Behind the Registry

Our therapists cover a wide spectrum of political and religious orientations; some see any committed couple and some work exclusively with married couples. But they all share the value of supporting marriage and a couple's original commitment to their marriage, unless there is a compelling reason not to. Because this is a complex issue, we do not have one catch phrase to describe the values orientation behind the Registry, but the term "a balanced pro-commitment stance" may come close. "Pro-commitment" suggests that the therapist views preserving the marriage as a desirable outcome to be pursued. This differs from the common approach of therapists who believe that they must be neutral about the survival of a marriage. "Balanced" suggests that marital commitment is not the only value at stake: client's autonomy must be respected, some marriages are harmful to personal well being, and some clients have already made an irrevocable decision to divorce. Please refer to the website for the full values statement and for the FAQ sections where we address how we approach some of today's controversial issues about marriage.



Visit us for more information:
www.marriagefriendlytherapists.com