

## Founders



William J.  
Doherty,  
Ph.D.

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 Program at the University of Minnesota. Bill is a licensed marriage and family therapist and licensed psychologist with 30 years of clinical experience. In

1992, he received the Significant Contribution to the Field of Marriage and Family Therapy Award from the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. He serves on the editorial boards of five major family therapy journals in the United States, and has authored eight books, including *Soul Searching* and *Take Back Your Marriage*, and over 140 academic and professional articles and chapters. Bill is Past-President of the National Council on Family Relations, the oldest interdisciplinary family studies organization in North America.

**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. She oversees over 400 future marriage and family therapists and aides them along with alumni, in their professional development. She also coordinates educational events for students and alumni. Kathleen received her M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University in 1992 and is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.



Kathleen S.  
Wenger,  
MA

## MARRIAGE FRIENDLY THERAPISTS

Postal mail:  
National Registry of Marriage Friendly Therapists  
1769 Lexington Avenue North #117  
St. Paul, MN 55113

Fax: (651) 636-4705  
E-mail: [contact@marriagefriendlytherapists.com](mailto:contact@marriagefriendlytherapists.com)

## The National Registry of



## MARRIAGE FRIENDLY THERAPISTS

An Advanced Practitioner Network



[www.marriagefriendlytherapists.com](http://www.marriagefriendlytherapists.com)

# The National Registry of Marriage Friendly Therapists

---

## Mission

To develop a network of advanced practitioners of marriage therapy as a trustworthy source of referrals for clergy, physicians and other professionals, and as a resource for couples looking for competent therapists who will support their marriage.

## Vision

Every couple who needs therapy seeing a skilled therapist who will support them on their journey.

## Need for this Registry

Couples seeking therapy have trouble finding a marriage therapist who is both skilled and supportive of their marriage. Professionals making referrals for couples therapy often do not know where to turn. Unfortunately, there are many untrained therapists who attempt to do marriage therapy. And many trained marriage therapists, because they believe they should be neutral about whether a marriage survives, fail to support marital commitment when couples are distressed and demoralized. Some therapists even undermine this commitment. The public health consequence is too many distressed marriages and too many divorces that could have been avoided.



## Who Will Benefit

### Couples

Couples can access registered therapists listed through the website. This will be a free service for couples. Our public launch will occur in July 2005.

### Referring Professionals:

They will have a free, trustworthy source of referrals.

### Professionals

Therapists will support the Registry with a fee of \$200 per year to be listed in the Registry, plus a one time \$25 application fee. They can expect the following benefits:

- Access to clients who seek out the web site.
- Access to clients referred by professionals who trust the Registry as a reliable source of marriage therapists.
- Recognition from being listed on a visible registry with the highest standards in the field of marriage therapy.
- Opportunities for connecting with a network of advanced marriage therapists.
- Opportunity to contribute to, and learn from, a set of best practices that cut across different models of marriage and couples therapy.
- Eventually, special workshops geared to advanced marriage therapists to learn and contribute to the development of the field.



## Eligibility Requirements:

### Clinical Expectations

The following requirements are designed to create a Registry with therapists who are trained and experienced in marriage and couples therapy, and who specialize in this form of therapy. The requirements will be applied flexibly to individual circumstances; for example, some senior therapists did not have access to courses in marriage therapy during their graduate training.

- State licensed or credentialed as a mental health professional for 5 years
- Academic coursework in marriage and couples therapy
- Clinical training in marriage and couples therapy
- Recent training workshops on marriage and couples therapy
- At least five years of clinical experience in marriage and couples therapy
- Current specialization in the practice of marriage and couples therapy.

### Values Expectations

The Registry seeks therapists who see themselves as supporting couples' 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 this values stance, but the term "a balanced pro-commitment stance" may come close. "Pro-commitment" suggests that the therapist is not neutral about the outcome of marriage therapy; rather the therapist views preserving the marriage as a desirable outcome to be pursued. "Balanced" suggests that marital commitment is not the only value at stake; some marriages are dangerous to personal well being, and sometimes clients have already made an irrevocable decision to divorce.