

## Infant Mental Health Specialist (III)

### Infant Mental Health Specialist Requirements

#### Education

Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MS), Master of Education (MEd), Doctorate in Education (EdD), Master of Social Work (MSW), Master of Nursing (MSN), Doctor of Psychology (PsyD), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Medical Doctor (MD), Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) or other degree specific to one's professional focus in infant mental health; university certificate program, and/or course work in areas such as infant/very young child development, family-centered practice, cultural sensitivity, family relationships and dynamics, assessment, and intervention, in accordance with MI-AIMH Training Guidelines and Endorsement® Competencies. Official transcript(s) required.

#### Training

Minimum 30 clock hours of relationship-based education and training pertaining to the promotion of social-emotional development and/or the practice of infant mental health. Applicants will include as many hours as necessary to document that competencies (as specified in Competency Guidelines®) have been met.

#### Specialized Work Experience

Two years, postgraduate, supervised work experiences providing culturally sensitive, relationship-focused, infant mental health services. This specialized work experience must be with both the infant/very young child and his/her biological, foster, or adoptive parent on behalf of the parent-infant relationship. Infant mental health services will include concrete assistance, advocacy, emotional support, developmental guidance, early relationship assessment, and parent-infant/very young child relationship-based therapies and practices. These therapies and practices may include but are not limited to parent-infant psychotherapy, interaction guidance, and child-parent psychotherapy and are intended to explore issues related to attachment,

separation, trauma, and unresolved losses as they affect the development, behavior, and care of the infant/very young child. Those who meet this criteria are working with the relationship between the infant/toddler and his/her primary caregiver to explicitly address any unresolved separations, traumas, grief, and/or losses that may be affecting the emerging attachment relationship between a caregiver(s) and the infant/toddler. The unresolved losses, or “ghosts” might be from the caregivers’ own early childhood or may be more recent such as a difficult labor & delivery or a diagnosis of a chronic illness, delay, or disability for this infant/toddler.

**Reflective Supervision/Consultation**

Relationship-focused, reflective supervision/consultation, individually or in a group, post-Masters, while providing services to infants, very young children, and families. Provider of reflective supervision/consultation must have earned Endorsement® at III or IV-Clinical. Minimum: 50 clock hours within a one- to two-year timeframe.

**Professional Reference Ratings**  
**Please note: At least one rating must come from someone Endorsed at II, III, or IV.**

Total of three ratings:

1. One from current program supervisor
2. One from person providing reflective supervision/consultation
3. One from another supervisor, teacher, trainer, or consultant; colleague; or supervisee (if applicant is a supervisor).

**Code of Ethics Statement & Endorsement® Agreement**

Signed.

**Documentation of Competencies**

1. Application will document that competencies have been adequately met through course work, in-service training, and reflective supervision/consultation experiences.
2. Successful completion of the MAIECMH written examination.

**Professional Membership**

Membership in MAIECMH

## Annual Endorsement® Renewal Requirements (IMH Specialist)

### Education and Training

Minimum of 15 clock hours per year of relationship-based education and training, pertaining to the promotion of social-emotional development and/or the practice of infant mental health (e.g. regional training, related course work at colleges or universities, infant mental health conference attendance, participation in IMH association-sponsored activities such as book club, mentorship group). For those who earn Endorsement® at III and provide reflective supervision or consultation to others, at least three of the hours of specialized training must be about reflective supervision or consultation.

### Professional Membership

Annual renewal of membership in MAIECMH or another infant mental health association.

### Reflective Supervision/Consultation

MAIECMH requires that all professionals Endorsed at III receive a minimum of 12 hours of reflective supervision or consultation annually.