

135-5-.04 Clinical Social Workers. Amended.

(1) Practice of Clinical Social Work.

(a) **The Practice of Clinical Social Work.** A Licensed Clinical Social Worker may practice all authorized services of licensed master's social workers and may provide: supervision; direction; psychosocial evaluation through data collection and analyses to determine the nature of an individual's mental, cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and interpersonal problems or conditions; counseling, and psychotherapy to individuals, marriages, couples, families and groups; interpretation of the psychosocial dynamics of a situation and recommend and implement a course of action to individuals, marriages, couples, families, or groups. This practice may occur in such settings as private practice, family service and counseling agencies, health care facilities and schools and may provide direct evaluation, casework, social work advocacy, education, training, prevention and intervention services in situations threatened or affected by social, intrapersonal stress, interpersonal stress or health impairment.

(2) Licensure Process (Please refer to the section entitled "Definitions" for clarification of terms).

(a) **Education.** The applicant must have earned a master's degree in Social Work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education in which candidacy, conditional or accreditation status was in effect when the degree was awarded.

(b) **Experience.** The applicant with a master's degree must have completed three years' full-time supervised experience in the practice of social work following granting of the master's degree. Of the three years of supervised experience, only the first two must be under direction.

1. For experience obtained between July 1, 1987 and July 1, 1996 the applicant shall present evidence:

that at least 800 hours of the supervised experience occurred within the two years immediately preceding application for licensure; or of having met the continuing education requirement established by the Board during the year immediately preceding application, i.e. at least 2½ hours of ethics, 10 hours of core and 5 hours of related hours.

2. If the experience was obtained prior to July 1, 1996, the applicant must present evidence of having practiced clinical social work for a minimum of 2400 hours of supervised Post Master's Degree Social Work experience acquired over a period of no less than 36 months and no more than 108 months, the first 1600 hours of which must have been under supervision and direction in the practice of clinical social work.

Applicant must also acquire 96 hours of supervision during this time, 64 hours of which may be group supervision and at least 64 hours must be provided by a licensed clinical social worker.

3. If the experience is obtained after July 1, 1996, the applicant shall present evidence: that at least 1000 hours of the supervised experience occurred within the two years immediately preceding application for licensure; or of having met the continuing education requirement established by the Board during the year immediately preceding application, i.e. at least 2½ hours of ethics, 10 hours of core and 5 hours of related hours.

4. If the experience was obtained after July 1, 1996, the applicant must present evidence of having practiced clinical social work for a minimum of 3000 hours post social work master's degree supervised experience acquired over a period of no less than 36 months

or more than 108 months, the first 2000 hours of experience must be under supervision and direction in the practice of clinical social work. Applicant must submit documentation of having acquired 120 hours of supervision during this time, no more than 50% of which may be group supervision and at least 50% must be provided by a licensed clinical social worker who meets requirements to be a duly qualified supervisor. The Board, in its sole discretion, may extend the period of time in which the applicant must have acquired supervision and/or experience with adequate showing of hardship or good cause.

5. Both supervisors and supervisees are required to maintain a contemporaneous record of the date, duration, type (individual, paired, or group), and a brief summary of the pertinent activity for each supervision session to be submitted to the Board upon request. If there are any discrepancies in hours, contemporaneous documentation of supervision will be requested.

(3) An applicant who holds a master's degree in social work and holds a doctoral degree in Professional Counseling; Social Work; Marriage and Family Therapy; Medicine; Psychiatric Nursing; Applied Psychology; Pastoral Counseling; or Applied Child and Family Development and whose degree program included a supervised clinical internship may substitute this for one year of experience.

(a) An individual who submits an application with experience obtained prior to July 1, 1996 and who holds a master's degree in Social Work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and holds a doctoral degree in Professional Counseling; Social Work; Marriage and Family Therapy; Medicine, Psychiatric Nursing; Applied Psychology; Pastoral Counseling; or Applied Child and Family Development must present evidence of 2 years (1600 hours) postmaster's supervised experience under direction in the practice of Clinical Social Work, obtained in no less than 24 months nor more than 72 months. Such applicant must also submit documentation of 64 hours of supervision (in addition to the clinical internship), 50% of which must be supervised by a Social Worker, a maximum of 50% may be group supervision.

(b) An individual who submits experience obtained after July 1, 1996 and holds a master's degree in Social Work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and holds a doctoral degree in Professional Counseling; Social Work; Marriage and Family Therapy; Medicine, Psychiatric Nursing; Applied Psychology; Pastoral Counseling; or Applied Child and Family Development must also present evidence of two years full time supervised post master's degree experience (defined as 2000 hours) under direction in the practice of Clinical Social Work obtained in no less than 24 months or no more than 72 months. Such applicant must also submit evidence of 80 hours of supervision provided by a duly qualified supervisor, 50% of which may be group supervision. Fifty percent of the supervision must be provided by a licensed Clinical Social Worker.

(4) The Board, in its sole discretion, may extend the period of time in which the applicant must have acquired supervision and/or experience with adequate showing of hardship or good cause.

(a) **Examination.** After having completed the above experience requirements the applicant must submit an application to the board for licensure and upon approval the applicant must take the first scheduled examination for which he/she qualifies, unless good cause is shown for postponement, in which case the applicant shall take the next

scheduled examination. [Upon receipt of notification that the applicant has passed the Clinical Social Work licensing examination, the Board will issue a Clinical Social Work license.] If the applicant fails the examination, the Board shall require that the applicant's work remain supervised until the applicant has taken and passed the examination. The exam must be taken at the next scheduled exam date unless good cause is shown for postponement. The exam may be taken a total of three times. An applicant who fails the examination three times, applicant shall not engage in the private practice of counseling or psychotherapy in the State of Georgia until such time as he/she has taken and passed the examination, absent a statutory exemption.

(5) Definitions.

(a) **Direction** means the ongoing administrative oversight by an employer or superior of a Social Worker. The person providing direction shall be responsible for assuring the quality of the services rendered by the practitioner and shall ensure that qualified supervision or intervention occurs in situations which require expertise beyond that of the practitioner.

(b) **Director** means the person who provides direction and who is either the employer of the person who receives direction or is the superior in the employment chain of command to the person who receives direction.

(c) **Directed Experience** in the practice of Clinical Social Work means time spent under direction engaging in the activities defined as Clinical Social Work in Rule 135-5-.04(1)(a).

(d) **Supervision** means the direct clinical review, for the purpose of training or teaching, by a supervisor of a Social Worker's interaction with clients. The purpose of supervision shall be to promote the development of the practitioner's clinical skills. Supervision may include without being limited to, the review of case presentations, audiotapes, videotapes and direct observation.

(e) **Individual Supervision** means one supervisor meeting with a maximum of two supervisees.

(f) **Group Supervision** means one supervisor meeting with a maximum of six supervisees.

1. In order to provide supervision in the practice of Clinical Social Work a supervisor shall have first met the following criteria:

For supervision provided prior to July 1, 1987, the supervisor shall: be licensed as a Psychologist or Psychiatrist; or have earned a master's degree in Social Work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

(g) **For supervision provided between July 1, 1987 and July 1, 1996**, supervisor means a person who is licensed as a Clinical Social Worker, Professional Counselor, Marriage and Family Therapist, Psychologist, Psychiatrist, or is a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers.

(h) **For Supervision provided after July 1, 1996**, supervisor means a person who is licensed as a Clinical Social Worker, Professional Counselor, Marriage and Family Therapist, Psychologist, or Psychiatrist and must have practiced in their specialty for at least 2000 clock hours over a minimum of 2 years following licensure.

(i) **For experience acquired prior to July 1, 1996**, one year of full-time experience in the practice of Clinical Social Work means:

a minimum of 800 hours under direction in the practice of Clinical Social Work acquired in a period of not less than 12 months and not more than 36 months.

(j) **Experience acquired after July 1, 1996**, one year of full time experience means: a minimum of 1000 hours under direction in the practice of Clinical Social Work acquired in a period not less than 12 months and not more than 36 months.

(k) **For supervision acquired prior to July 1, 1996**, one year of supervision means 32 hours of clinical supervision acquired in no less than 12 months or more than 36 months.

(1) **For supervision acquired on or after July 1, 1996**, one year of supervision means 40 hours of clinical supervision acquired in no less than 12 months or more than 36 months.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-25, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-12. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Clinical Social Workers" was filed on May 23, 1986; effective June 12, 1986. **Amended:** Filed November 7, 1986; effective November 27, 1986. **Amended:** Filed January 20, 1988; effective February 9, 1988. **Repealed:** New Rule, same title, adopted. F. Feb. 4, 1992; eff. Feb. 24, 1992. **Amended:** F. May 29, 1992; eff. Jun. 18, 1992. **Amended:** F. Jun. 27, 1995; eff. Jul. 17, 1995. **Amended:** F. Jan. 30, 1996; eff. Feb. 19, 1996. **Amended:** F. Oct. 8, 1996; eff. Oct. 28, 1996. **Amended:** F. Mar. 16, 2007; eff. Apr. 5, 2007.