SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE 2015

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Contributions from
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Licensure

“…use of the State’s power to protect the health, safety and welfare of its citizens by requiring a minimum competency, raising the standard of practice, ensuring quality of service and establishing accepted codes of ethical behavior.”  ASWB, 2002
Purpose

* To ensure that the public will have access to competent, safe, and ethical practitioners in the profession
* Allows master-level professionals to become legally recognized as responsible professionals, capable of practicing within professional standards that carry the force of the law
What does Licensure do for Me?

* You have been legally recognized as a responsible professional, capable of practicing within professional standards that carry the force of the law
* May open career options
* Access third party payment options
* Legal guarantee that services will be competent, ethical and responsible
Established under Indiana Code 25-23.6
Mission – to ensure that the public will have access to competent, safe, and ethical practitioners in the profession
Appointed by the Governor and serve at his pleasure
Regulatory Board
Avoid actual or perceived conflicts of interest
Licensure requires:

- Use appropriate letters in all professional correspondence
- Prohibits diagnosing as defined in IC25-22.5-1-1cc (the Indiana Medical Code)
- Prohibits expert testimony – but not factual testimony
- Provides for privileged communication except in homicides, the commission of a crime causing serious harm and with unemancipated/incapacitated adult
- Failure to renew will result in a fine, loss of license and a requirement to retake an exam
Board Representation

* Clinical Social Worker (2)
* Marriage and Family Therapist (2)
* Mental Health Counselor (2)
* Clinical Addictions Counselor (2)
* Psychiatrist (1)
* Consumer Member (2)
Board Members

* Andrew Harner, LCSW
* Kimble Richardson, LMHC, LCSW, LMFT, LCAC
* George Brenner, LCSW, LMFT, LCAC
* Carla Gaff-Clark, EdD, LMHC, CADAC-IV, LCAC
* Dr. Rex Stockton, EdD, LMHC, LCSW, LMFT, Psychologist
* Dr. Donald Osborn, LCSW, LMHC, CADAC-IV, LCAC
* Maria Poor MD – Psychiatrist
* Vacant, Social Work Board Member
* Vacant, LMFT Member
* Vacant – 2 consumer members
Types of Social Work Licenses in Indiana

- Licensed Social Worker (LSW)
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Associate (LMFTA)
- Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC)
- Licensed Mental Health Counselor Associate (LMHCA)
- Licensed Addiction Counselor (LAC)
- Licensed Clinical Addiction Counselor (LCAC)
Active Licenses

2012
* LSW – 2268
* LCSW – 4239
* LMFT – 958
* LMFTA – 76
* LMHC – 1717
* LAC – 291
* LCAA - 1379
Licensed Social Worker (LSW) Requirements

- Application
- Affidavit
- Application Fee ($50.00)
- Criminal Background Check
- Photograph
- Education
LSW Education Requirement

- MSW from a CSWE program
- Applicants must possess at least a Baccalaureate degree in Social Work (BSW) from an institution of higher education that has been accredited or approved for candidacy by the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE)
LSW Experience Requirement

* **BSW Applicant**
  * Two years of experience in the practice of Social Work (3000 hrs.)
  * Post-Baccalaureate
  * Paid
  * Full-time and Part-time hours accepted at the discretion of the Board

* **MSW Applicant**
  * Exempt from experience requirement
Licensed Clinical Social Worker Requirements

- Application
- LSW
- Affidavit
- Application Fees ($50.00)
- Photographs
- Education
- Experience
- Criminal Background Check
- Supervision (2 years post MSW)
- Examination /Endorsement (ASWB Clinical Exam - $260)
Applicants must possess at least a Master’s degree in Social Work (MSW) from any institution of higher education accredited or approved for candidacy by the Council on Social Work Education.
LCSW Experience Requirement

* Two (2) years of experience in the practice of Clinical Social Work
* Full-time Paid (Board may consider part-time experience) – 3,000 hours in 24 months
* Must hold a LSW prior to obtaining social work experience
* Supervision must be “qualified” – term not defined past LCSW at this time
* Course in Psychopathology
At least 4 hours of total face-to-face hours, total of at least 96 hours – no skyping

- Can be group

- Supervision by LCSW
Temporary Permits

- Complete application for licensure as a Social Worker or Clinical Social Worker including all supporting documentation
- Pay additional application fee of $25
- Valid for 180 days
- Permit expires:
  - Date license is issued
  - Board disapproves application (failure of exam)
Download the application and instructions from the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency website at http://www.in.gov/pla/social.htm

Thoroughly read and follow directions for filling out the forms.

Board will review application and approve to take the ASWB Intermediate Exam ($230)

Pass the exam

License Issued
Continuing Education

- Education provided by board-approved providers which is obtained by a licensee in order to maintain, improve or expand the licensee’s skills and knowledge.
- 1 hour of ethics training, per year, per 2 year cycle
- Twenty (20) CEUs per calendar year (40 per renewal cycle)
  - Minimum of 10 from Category I per year
  - Minimum of 10 from Category II per year
Continuing Education

**Category I**
- Formally organized courses
- Workshops
- Seminars, Symposia or Institutes
- Home study programs
- Faculty teaching a Course for the First time
- College or graduate courses

**Category II**
- Journal clubs
- Case conferences for training or teaching
- Services as a instructor, presenter or supervisor
- Research or publication
- Peer review
- Services on boards, commission, professional organizations.
Continuing Education

- Reporting CEUs is on the “honor system”
- Signing the Affidavit
- Indiana Professional Licensing Agency conducts random audits of 1% to 10% to ensure compliance
- Failure to comply with an audit, or not completing CEUs can result in action being taken against your license: audit letter, non-compliance, fines, suspension, reported to National Data Bank
Continuing Education Fines

* 1 – 2 hours $100
* 3 – 5 hours $200
* 6 – 10 hours $350
* 11 – 15 hours $500
* 16 – 20 hours $750
* 21 – 40 hours $1000
License Renewal

* All licenses expire on April 1, 2016
* Practicing on an expired license is the same as practicing without a license (Class B Misdemeanor)
* Responsibility for renewal is the licensees
  * Address changes and failure to receive renewal forms are not exceptions
  * On-line renewal - My License
* Testing is monitored by Association of Social Work Boards (aswb.org)
* Testing sites are through PearsonVue (www.pearsonvue.com)
* Cost for test is currently $230 for intermediate (LSW)/$260 for clinical (LCSW)
* 2013 national pass rate for intermediate/clinical exam was 70.6/66.5 The IN pass rate was 84.6/69.4
* DSM -5 content in exam after July 2015
PREPARING FOR TEST

* NASW Indiana Chapter
* Examination services vary
  * www.swes.net
  * www.socialworkguide.com
  * www.aatbs.com
  * www.academicreview.com
What happens when you become a licensed professional?

- Practicing with your scope of expertise
- Continuing Education
- Renewal
- Discipline
- Remain Professional at all times
Potential Violations

* Sex with clients
* Loaning money to clients
* Borrowing money from clients
* Poor record keeping
* Addictions
* Criminal Activity
* Practicing with an expired license
* Practicing outside of your scope of practice
* Many more....
Discipline Process

* File a complaint with consumer complain division of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) at www.indianaconsumer.com
* OAG investigates complaints and contacts a board designee to review information
* Official Complaint is filed with the Board
* Hearing before the Board is scheduled
* Board deliberates and dismissed action or issues a discipline
Sanctions

* Upon finding a licensure violation, the Board may imposed a sanction
* Revocation of license – can apply after 7 years
* Suspension of license
* Probation upon the license
* Reprimand
* Censure
* Once discipline is issued in a final order, the National Practitioners Databank is notified. Status is also changed to reflect the Board decision.
All aspects of your personal life can effect your professional life

i.e. actions as a private citizen can lead to discipline

- Drinking and Driving
- Domestic Violence
- Unprofessional treatment of patients (clients)
- Any and all addictions
Cindy Vaught, Board Director
Heather Hollcraft, Assistant Director
Indiana Professional Licensing Agency
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