

STATE OF WISCONSIN
EXAMINING BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKERS, MARRIAGE
AND FAMILY THERAPISTS AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

IN THE MATTER OF RULE-MAKING : ORDER OF THE
PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE : EXAMINING BOARD OF SOCIAL
EXAMINING BOARD OF SOCIAL : WORKERS,
MARRIAGE AND
WORKERS, MARRIAGE AND : FAMILY THERAPISTS AND
FAMILY THERAPISTS AND : PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS : ADOPTING RULES
: (CLEARINGHOUSE RULE 01-020)

ORDER

An order of the Examining Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors to amend SFC 4.01 (1) (b) 1. and 2., relating to supervision of pre-certification supervised practice of social work.

Analysis prepared by the Department of Regulation and Licensing

ANALYSIS

Statutes authorizing promulgation: ss. 15.08 (5) (b) and 227.11 (2), Stats.

Statutes interpreted: s. 457.08 (3) (c) and (4) (c), Stats.

Currently, supervision may be exercised by “a social worker certified at least at the level of the social worker being supervised, if the supervising social worker is qualified to practice without supervision.” This does not adequately protect the public since certain grandfathered social workers without adequate training knowledge and skill satisfy that definition. This rule-making will require that social workers who supervise a period of pre-certification practice of social work have a master’s or a doctoral degree in social work.

Currently, there is no requirement for advance approval of supervisors. This rule-making permits supervision by a psychologist or a psychiatrist “if the social worker section determines that supervision by a certified social worker is unobtainable or unreasonably restrictive of the delivery of social work services to a particular population.” Different interpretations of that language have led to misunderstandings. To avoid such situations, advance approval of supervisors other than independent clinical social workers will be required. This rule-making requires a person contemplating supervision by a person other than an independent clinical social worker to obtain approval by the social worker section in advance of the supervision period.

TEXT OF RULE

SECTION 1. SFC 4.01 (1) (b) 1. and 2. are amended to read:

SFC 4.01 (1) (b) 1. A social worker certified at least at the level of the social worker being supervised, if the supervising social worker has a master's or doctoral degree in social work and is qualified to practice without supervision, or

2. A psychologist licensed under ch. 455, Stats., or a psychiatrist licensed under ch. 448, Stats., approved by the social worker section in advance of the supervision of the practice of social work if the social worker section determines that supervision by a certified social worker is unobtainable or unreasonably restrictive of the delivery of social work services to a particular population, or unduly interferes with training social workers in providing services to a particular population.

SECTION 2. A Note following SFC 4.01 (4) is created to read:

Note: Independent social workers are qualified to practice social work, but not psychotherapy, without supervision. Independent clinical social workers are qualified to practice social work, including psychotherapy, without supervision. Thus, under s. SFC 4.01 (1) (b) 1., a person credentialed as an advanced practice social worker or an independent social worker must receive supervision from an independent clinical social worker in order to accumulate supervised experience prior to applying for certification as an independent clinical social worker, and a person credentialed as an advanced practice social worker must receive supervision from an independent social worker or an independent clinical social worker in order to accumulate supervised experience prior to applying for certification as an independent social worker.

(END OF TEXT OF RULE)

The rules adopted in this order shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin administrative register, pursuant to s. 227.22 (2) (intro.), Stats.

Dated _____

Agency _____

Chairperson
Examining Board of Social Workers,
Marriage and Family Therapists
and Professional Counselors