

Clinical Supervision Rules Amended/Strengthened by Board of Social Work Examiners

You NASW Montana office has received a considerable number of calls about the “New” Administrative Rules regarding “Supervision.” The following sections from the amended rules cite the amended sections for supervision, which were made in the rule’s **Definitions, Applications Procedures, and Licensure Requirements**. It is important to note that whereas the applicant for a social work license submits their own application to the Board, their **supervisor must attest to the “dates,” “content summary,” “recommendation to approve for licensure or not,” and “the number of hours of supervision satisfactorily completed.”** References to the word *Supervisor and Supervision are highlighted*.

24.219.301 DEFINITIONS

(8) ***“Supervisor,”*** when used to refer to a person who supervises the work of an applicant for licensure, means a licensed clinical social worker, a licensed clinical professional counselor, a licensed psychologist, or a licensed and board-certified psychiatrist.

24.219.501 APPLICATION PROCEDURES (1) Any person seeking licensure must apply on the board's official forms which may be obtained through the department. All requirements with documentation must be met at the time of application. Incomplete applications will not be considered by the board.

(2) Completed applications must be accompanied by:

(a) application fee;

(b) verification of the applicant's doctorate or masters degree in social work provided directly from the school to the board office; and

(c) three reference letters as required by 37-22-301(2), MCA, including one from the applicant's ***supervisor***, which shall include:

(i) inclusive dates and total hours of supervision in increments no less than 15 minutes;

(ii) names of applicant, ***supervisor*** (include type of license and number) and signature of both;

(iii) content summary (excluding confidential information);

(iv) ***recommendation to approve for licensure or not;***

(v) ***number of supervised hours satisfactorily completed;*** and

(vi) ***supervisor must attest to the above under penalty of law. Falsification or misrepresentation of any of the above may be considered misrepresentations and a violation of professional ethics which may result in discipline of the supervisor's license.***

24.219.504 LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

(b) ***supervision***, on a form approved by the board, which shall include at least 100 documented hours of individual or group ***supervision by a qualified supervisor. At least***

50 percent of the 100 hours shall be individual and face-to-face by a licensed social worker, and at least ten hours of which includes direct observation of the service delivery. Each supervisory session shall be documented with a record of supervision. The applicant must maintain the record of supervision, which may be requested by the board and must include:

(i) **date and length of supervision** in increments not less than 15 minutes;
(ii) names of applicant, **supervisor** (including type of license and number) **and signatures of both;**

(iii) content summary (excluding confidential information);

(iv) **evidence of the applicant's minimal competencies in the areas of an identified theory base, application of a differential diagnosis, establishing and monitoring a treatment plan, development and appropriate use of the professional relationship, assessing the client for risk of imminent danger, and implementing a professional and ethical relationship with clients and colleagues;**

(v) **content demonstrating the applicant's developing competence in the areas identified in (1)(b)(iv); and**

(vi) **attestation of the record of supervision by the supervisor.** Falsification or misrepresentation of the record of supervision shall be considered unprofessional conduct and may result in discipline of the supervisor's license.

(c) **supervision** which has been conducted on a regular basis. **No more than 160 hours of social work experience shall transpire without providing at least two hours of supervision. Less frequent supervision may take place under unusual circumstances only with prior approval by the board.**

(d) **supervisor's experience and expertise with the applicant's client population (i.e. child, adolescent, adult, chemically dependent) and methods of practice (i.e. individual, group, family, crisis or brief interventions).**

(e) **supervisor's relationship with the applicant which shall not constitute a conflict of interest, such as (but not limited to) being in a cohabitation or financially dependent relationship with the applicant, or being the applicant's parent, child, spouse or sibling.**

(f) **a supervision agreement in writing and in a format approved by the board. The agreement shall include, but not be limited to:**

(i) **the applicant's and supervisor's names, signature and dates;**

(ii) **terms of the agreement including financial compensation, frequency and method of supervision, duration and termination provision; and**

(iii) **a statement of confidentiality and the supervisor's qualifications.**

(2) The 3000 hours shall have been completed in their entirety at the time of submission of the application.