

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE DIVISION[645]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 154C.4, the Board of Social Work hereby amends Chapter 280, "Licensure of Social Workers," and Chapter 281, "Continuing Education for Social Workers," Iowa Administrative Code.

The amendments in Items 1 and 2 clarify acceptable supervision by electronic means. The amendments allow for the use of videoconferencing technology when master level licensees are receiving supervision towards an independent level license.

The amendments in Items 3 to 7 update the requirements for a licensee's supervised professional practice. The amendments are required to ensure that licensees are properly prepared for independent practice. Before an independent level licensee provides supervision to a master level licensee who is working towards completing a supervised professional practice, the supervisor will be required to have been licensed at the independent level, and to have practiced at the independent level for at least 4,000 hours, over a period of three years. Rules currently require 2,000 hours over a period of two years. Supervisors are also required to have continuing education or coursework in the area of supervision. The continuing education hours earned in the area of supervision can be used as part of the 27 hours required of all licensees for renewal, so no additional financial burden would be placed on the licensee. The amendments also clarify what is required for a supervision plan. The plan would be reviewed by the Board of Social Work prior to the start of supervision instead of at the end of the supervised professional practice. This change will assure licensees that their supervision plan meets the expectations of the Board. These requirements will not go into effect for new supervised professional practices until July 1, 2013.

The amendment in Item 8 clarifies the examination requirements for licensure by endorsement. This change will reduce the need for the Board to consider petitions for waiver.

The amendments in Item 9 clarify the requirements for reactivation of a license that has been inactive for more than five years. This change will reduce the need for the Board to consider petitions for waiver.

The amendments in Items 10 to 12 require independent level licensees who are providing supervision for a supervised professional practice to earn three hours of continuing education in supervision. The continuing education hours earned in the area of supervision can be used as part of the 27 hours required of all licensees for renewal, so no additional financial burden would be placed on the licensee. The requirement will not go into effect until July 1, 2013.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin as **ARC 9946B** on December 28, 2011. A public hearing was held on January 17, 2012. Public comment was received. The Board met on March 22, 2012, at which time additional public comment was received. Comments focused on Item 3, Item 5, and subparagraph 280.14(3)"b"(3) in Item 9.

In regard to Item 3, the public comment questioned whether the requirement for 4,000 hours of practice earned over a period of three years could be changed to a requirement for 4,000 hours or three years. The Board has determined that the amendment requiring 4,000 hours of practice over a period of three years is necessary to ensure that supervisors have enough experience to provide quality supervision. After discussion, no changes were made to Item 3.

Comments for Item 5 stressed the value of having training prior to becoming a supervisor and contended that having 10 or more hours of training in supervision would especially help first-time supervisors. After discussion, the Board determined that requiring more than the proposed 6 hours of training could become overly burdensome and negatively impact the number of licensed independent level social workers willing to provide supervision. No changes were made to Item 5.

In regard to subparagraph 280.14(3)"b"(3) in Item 9, comment was received requesting alternative options to the requirement for passing the appropriate ASWB examination. Two alternatives were presented. After discussion, the Board added new subparagraph 280.14(3)"b"(4) providing for one of the alternatives: verification of active licensure in another state.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no adverse impact on jobs exists. This rule making seeks to clarify existing regulations rather than add additional regulations for social workers.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 147.10, 147.11, 147.34, 147.36, 154C.4, and 272C.2.

These amendments will become effective May 23, 2012.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Renumber subparagraph **280.6(1)“d”(2)** as **280.6(1)“d”(3)**.

ITEM 2. Adopt the following **new** subparagraph **280.6(1)“d”(2)**:

(2) Supervision by electronic means is acceptable if:

1. The system utilized is an interactive, real-time system that provides for visual and audio interaction between the licensee and the supervisor; and
2. The first two meetings are face to face and in person.

ITEM 3. Amend paragraph **280.6(3)“b”** as follows:

b. Have a minimum of ~~2,000~~ 4,000 hours of practice earned over a period of ~~two~~ three years of practice beyond receipt of a license to practice independent social work in Iowa or the equivalent license from another state. This requirement shall apply to all supervised professional practices that commence on or after July 1, 2013.

ITEM 4. Reletter paragraphs **280.6(3)“c”** to **“g”** as **280.6(3)“d”** to **“h.”**

ITEM 5. Adopt the following **new** paragraph **280.6(3)“c”**:

c. Complete at least 6 hours of training in social work practice supervision or one social work master level course in supervision. This requirement shall apply to all supervised professional practices that commence on or after July 1, 2013.

ITEM 6. Amend relettered paragraph **280.6(3)“d”** as follows:

d. Establish and maintain a plan throughout the supervisory period.

(1) Such a plan must be kept by the supervisor for a period of two years and must be submitted to the board upon its request for audit within 30 days from receipt of the request. The plan for supervision shall include:

~~(1)~~ 1. The name, license number, date of licensure, address, ~~and~~ telephone number, ~~and~~ e-mail address (when available) of supervisor;

~~(2)~~ 2. The name, license number, address, ~~and~~ telephone number, ~~and~~ e-mail address (when available) of supervisee;

3. The agency, institution, or organization providing the experience;

4. The nature, duration, and frequency of supervision, including:

- The number of hours of supervision per week;
- The supervisor/supervisee’s face-to-face meetings schedule;
- The methodology for transmission of case information;
- For group supervision, a duration not to exceed 60 hours;

~~(3)~~ 5. The beginning date of ~~clinical work experience under supervision~~ supervised professional practice and estimated date of completion;

~~(4)~~ A plan for direct supervision hours, including frequency of supervisor/supervisee’s face-to-face meetings;

~~(5)~~ A plan for any group supervision;

~~(6)~~ 6. The goals and objectives for the ~~clinical work experience~~ supervised professional practice; and

~~(7)~~ 7. The signatures of the supervisor and supervisee, and the dates of signatures.

(2) A plan for supervision must be filed with the board prior to the start of the supervised professional practice. The board shall complete review of the plan and provide a decision on the plan no later than 45 days after receipt of the plan, unless additional information is requested. This requirement shall apply to all supervised professional practices that commence on or after July 1, 2013.

ITEM 7. Adopt the following **new** paragraph **280.6(3)“i”**:

i. A supervisee shall submit in writing any change in supervisors within 10 days of the occurrence. The new supervisor shall submit, within 30 days of the change, a revised supervision plan for board approval.

ITEM 8. Amend rule **645—280.7(154C)**, numbered paragraph **“5,”** as follows:

5. Provides official copies of the appropriate or higher level examination score sent directly from the ASWB; and

ITEM 9. Amend paragraph **280.14(3)“b”** as follows:

b. If the license has been on inactive status for more than five years, an applicant must provide the ~~following~~ verifications in both subparagraphs (1) and (2) below plus the verification in either (3) or (4) below.

(1) Verification of the license(s) from every jurisdiction in which the applicant is or has been licensed and is or has been practicing during the time period the Iowa license was inactive, sent directly from the jurisdiction(s) to the board office. Web-based verification may be substituted for verification from a jurisdiction’s board office if the verification includes:

1. Licensee’s name;
2. Date of initial licensure;
3. Current licensure status; and
4. Any disciplinary action taken against the license; and

(2) Verification of completion of 27 hours of continuing education within two years of application for reactivation; and

(3) Verification of ~~taking and~~ passing the ASWB examination within the last five years at the appropriate or higher level as follows:

1. Bachelor level social worker – the bachelor’s level examination; or
2. Master level social worker – the master’s level examination; or
3. Independent level social worker – the clinical level examination; or

(4) Verification of continued social work practice at the appropriate or higher level in another state for a minimum of two years immediately preceding the application for reactivation.

ITEM 10. Renumber subrules **281.2(3)** to **281.2(6)** as **281.2(4)** to **281.2(7)**.

ITEM 11. Adopt the following **new** subrule 281.2(3):

281.2(3) Requirement of supervisors. For licensure at the independent level, persons serving in a supervisory role must complete 3 hours of continuing education in supervision.

ITEM 12. Adopt the following **new** subrule 281.2(8):

281.2(8) The requirement of 3 hours of continuing education in supervision in subrule 281.2(3) shall apply to all licensees providing supervision on or after July 1, 2013.

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