

**PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE DIVISION[645]**

**Notice of Intended Action**

**Proposing rule making related to continuing education and mandatory reporting requirements and providing an opportunity for public comment**

The Board of Social Work hereby proposes to amend Chapter 280, “Licensure of Social Workers,” and Chapter 281, “Continuing Education for Social Workers,” Iowa Administrative Code.

*Legal Authority for Rule Making*

This rule making is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 154C.4.

*State or Federal Law Implemented*

This rule making implements, in whole or in part, 2019 Iowa Acts, House File 606, and 2019 Iowa Acts, House File 731.

*Purpose and Summary*

This proposed rule making seeks to implement 2019 Iowa Acts, House File 606, which requires the Board to not limit the number of hours of continuing education licensees can earn online, and 2019 Iowa Acts, House File 731, which changes Iowa’s mandatory reporting requirements. The proposed amendments to Chapter 281 remove the Board’s requirement that no more than 12 hours of continuing education can be completed via independent study. The proposed amendment to Chapter 280 changes the mandatory reporting rule to coincide with changes passed in House File 731.

*Fiscal Impact*

This rule making has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

*Jobs Impact*

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

*Waivers*

A waiver provision is not included in this rule making because all administrative rules of the professional licensure boards in the Professional Licensure Division are subject to the waiver provisions accorded under 645—Chapter 18.

*Public Comment*

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this proposed rule making. Written or oral comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Board no later than 4:30 p.m. on November 12, 2019. Comments should be directed to:

Tony Alden  
Professional Licensure Division  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
Lucas State Office Building  
321 East 12th Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
Phone: 515.281.4401  
Fax: 515.281.3121  
Email: [tony.alden@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:tony.alden@idph.iowa.gov)

## Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

November 12, 2019  
8 to 8:30 a.m.

Fifth Floor Conference Room 526  
Lucas State Office Building  
Des Moines, Iowa

Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend the public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Board and advise of specific needs.

### *Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee*

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rule making by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rule making at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rule-making actions are proposed:

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 280.9(3) as follows:

**280.9(3)** Mandatory reporting of child abuse and dependent adult abuse.

~~a. A licensee who regularly examines, attends, counsels or treats children in Iowa shall indicate on the renewal application completion of two hours of training in child abuse identification and reporting in the previous five years or condition(s) for waiver of this requirement as identified in paragraph "f."~~ Effective July 1, 2019, a licensee who regularly examines, attends, counsels or treats children in Iowa shall complete an initial two-hour child abuse mandatory reporter training course offered by the department of human services within six months of employment, or prior to the expiration of a current certificate. Thereafter, all mandatory reporters shall take a one-hour recertification training every three years, prior to the expiration of a current certificate.

~~b. A licensee who regularly examines, attends, counsels or treats dependent adults in Iowa shall indicate on the renewal application completion of two hours of training in dependent adult abuse identification and reporting in the previous five years or condition(s) for waiver of this requirement as identified in paragraph "f."~~ Effective July 1, 2019, a licensee who regularly examines, attends, counsels or treats adults in Iowa shall complete an initial two-hour dependent adult abuse mandatory reporter training course offered by the department of human services within six months of employment, or prior to the expiration of a current certificate. Thereafter, all mandatory reporters shall take a one-hour recertification training every three years, prior to the expiration of a current certificate.

~~c. A licensee who regularly examines, attends, counsels or treats both dependent adults and children in Iowa shall indicate on the renewal application completion of training in abuse identification and reporting in dependent adults and children or condition(s) for waiver of this requirement as identified in paragraph "f."~~

~~d. Training may be completed through separate courses as identified in paragraphs "a" and "b" or in one combined two-hour course that includes curricula for identifying and reporting child abuse and dependent adult abuse.~~

~~e. The licensee shall maintain written documentation for five years after mandatory training as identified in paragraphs "a" to "c," including program date(s), content, duration, and proof of participation.~~

~~f. c.~~ The requirement for mandatory training for identifying and reporting child and dependent adult abuse shall be suspended if the board determines that suspension is in the public interest or that a person at the time of license renewal:

- (1) Is engaged in active duty in the military service of this state or the United States.
- (2) Holds a current waiver by the board based on evidence of significant hardship in complying with training requirements, including waiver of continuing education requirements or extension of time in which to fulfill requirements due to a physical or mental disability or illness as identified in 645—Chapter 281.

~~g. d.~~ The board may select licensees for audit of compliance with the requirements in paragraphs “a” to “e.” and “b.”

ITEM 2. Rescind the definition of “Independent study” in rule 645—281.1(154C).

ITEM 3. Rescind paragraph 281.3(2)“b.”

ITEM 4. Reletter paragraphs 281.3(2)“c” to “k” as 281.3(2)“b” to “j.”