

75.5-02-01-03. Definitions. As used in this title, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

1. "Clinical social work practice" means the professional application of social work theory and methods to the treatment and prevention of psychosocial dysfunction, disability, or impairment, including emotional and mental disorders. It is based on knowledge of one or more theories of human development. Clinical social work consists of assessment; diagnosis; treatment, including individual, couple, family, and group psychotherapy or counseling; client-centered advocacy; consultation; evaluation; and clinical supervision. The process of clinical social work is undertaken within the objectives of social work and the principles and values contained in the social work code of ethics as adopted by the board of social work examiners and set forth in the North Dakota Administrative Code, knowledge, methods, ethics and the professional use of self to restore or enhance social, psychosocial, or biopsychosocial functioning of individuals, couples, families and groups. The practice of clinical social work requires specialized clinical knowledge and advanced clinical skills in the area of assessment, diagnosis and treatment of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorder, conditions and addictions. Treatment methods include the provision of individual, marital, couple, family and group psychotherapy.
2. "Face-to-face supervision" means a direct, interactive, live exchange, either in person, by telephone, or by audio or audiovisual electronic device in either individual or group supervision.
3. "Group supervision" means one supervisor and more than one supervisee, including health professionals in related professions. Group supervision is facilitated by the supervisor and involves an exchange among all group members. The size of the group shall be limited to seven, including the supervisor.
4. "Individual supervision" means one supervisor and one supervisee.

History: Effective February 1, 2004.

General Authority: NDCC 43-41-09

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-41-04

75.5-02-03-04.1. Supervision of applicants for licensure as a licensed independent clinical social worker.

1. The applicant for licensure as a licensed independent clinical social worker must submit a plan for supervision to the board's office prior to beginning the process of working toward licensed independent clinical social work status, to include the name of the proposed supervisor and a copy of the supervisor's license. Should the supervisor change, a new plan must be submitted to the board's office by the applicant.
2. The applicants must participate in a minimum of one hundred fifty hours of face-to-face clinical supervision with a supervisor approved by the board. Not more than fifty hours of supervision may be group supervision.
3. The applicant must maintain a record of supervision, including dates, time, and content of supervisory sessions, should the board request same for verification purposes.
4. The applicant must complete and document a minimum of three thousand hours of supervised clinical social work experience during the four-year post-master's degree period.
 - a. ~~Initial intakes, individual, couple, family, and group therapy as well as crisis intervention with assessment and stabilization are considered clinical experience.~~
 - b. ~~Related tasks included in clinical experience would encompass the provision and receipt of clinical supervision and case staffing, consultation related to therapy cases, and case management and paperwork for therapy cases.~~
 - c. ~~Case management activities and brief assessments completed as part of other job responsibilities, not clients in therapy, will not be considered clinical experience.~~
5. The clinical supervisor must:
 - a. Evaluate the supervisee's knowledge and document 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.

- b. Provide individual or group, or individual and group, face-to-face supervision.
- c. Maintain documentation of supervision, including date, time, and content of supervisory sessions.

History: Effective February 1, 2004.

General Authority: NDCC 43-41-09

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-41-09

75.5-02-03-07. Continuing education requirements.

1. A social work practitioner licensed in North Dakota must complete thirty approved continuing education contact hours for the two-year licensing period to maintain licensure in North Dakota. No more than 10 hours may be completed by self-study or distance learning methods. At least two hours must concern social work ethics.
 - a. Fifteen approved continuing education hours are required if a social worker is initially licensed between January first and June thirtieth of the odd-numbered year.
 - b. No continuing education hours are required if a social worker is initially licensed on or after July first of an odd-numbered year.
 - c. Continuing education hours cannot be earned until after the license effective date and only within the current licensing period.
 - d. Continuing education hours may only be applied to one licensing period.
2. Board-approved continuing education course content must enhance the social worker's professional competence and relate to:
 - a. Theories and concepts of human behavior and the social environment;
 - b. Social work knowledge and skills;
 - c. Social work research or practice evaluation;
 - d. Social work ethics; or
 - e. Cross-disciplinary courses directly relevant to social work practice or specialty.
3. Approved continuing education may include:
 - a. Workshops, professional conferences, seminars, and educational programs or courses presented by providers approved by the board. The continuing education presented by approved providers must comply with subsection 2.
 - b. Formal academic coursework. One semester credit hour class is equal to fifteen contact hours.

- c. Program presentation by licensee for which the licensee may receive hour-per-hour contact hours but only for one presentation of the same program.

History: Effective April 1, 1998; amended effective February 1, 2004.

General Authority: NDCC 43-41-09

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-41-09, 43-41-12