

## **REGULATIONS/RULES UPDATE**

January 31, 2017

Seven (7) Rules affecting social work certification and licensure were adopted or amended and go into effect February 1, 2017. A summary of each Rule affected is provided below; however, social workers are encouraged to read the Rule in its entirety to insure compliance. Please be reminded that the changes are effective the date the Rule becomes effective and are not retroactive.

### **New Rules Adopted under 21 NCAC 63**

21 NCAC 63 .0214 CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL AND MILITARY SPOUSES: This rule was adopted in accordance with the Occupational Licensing Board Statute [NC Gen. Stat. 93B-15.1] to provide for expediting licensure for military and military spouse applicants.

21 NCAC 63 .0610 CONTINUANCES: This rule was adopted to provide information to social workers involved in a contested case matter and wish to request a continuance when additional time is needed to prepare for an administrative hearing.

### **Rules that were Amended under 21 NCAC 63:**

21 NCAC 63 .0102 DEFINITIONS: This rule was amended to alphabetize the listing, to clarify the definition of “Probation” and to define two additional terms, “Client” and “Client System” as they relate to social work practice in North Carolina.

21 NCAC 63 .0204 REFERENCES: The Rule is amended to provide clarification that applicants for the associate license must provide at least one reference from someone who is or has supervised the applicant in a social work setting. Applicants for LCSW license by comity will no longer require a reference from a supervisor, but must provide at least one reference from a registered, certified, or licensed social worker who is currently practicing in a social work setting.

21 NCAC 63 .0211 WORK EXPERIENCE: Several amendments were made to this Rule.

- Some technical changes to format were made,
- The rule was amended to provide clarification that the six years allowed for obtaining the experience required for associate licensees and those working toward the CSWM credential was intended to mean six “consecutive” years.
- The rule also now incorporates the requirements for accepting MOS clinical experience documented and submitted by military applicants as defined in N.C. General Statute § 93B-15.1(a).
- Appropriate supervision for clinical and administrative experience is further clarified to define what is meant by “on a regular basis,” meaning no less than once every two weeks; and for clinical supervision, requires review of documentation.
- A significant change now allows for up to 20 hours of supervision through the use of technology for those working toward the LCSW and the CSWM credentials.

21 NCAC 63 .0401 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: Several significant changes were incorporated to amend this rule in response to feedback received from practitioners.

- Some changes were technical to adjust the format for easier reading.
- The website addresses for accessing approved distance education courses is now included in the rule for convenience.

- The rule now provides clarification that live synchronous audio-video broadcasts that allow for real time interaction between the instructor and the participants through electronic means is considered an “attended” training and not distance education training.
- What was previously referred to as a “study group” is now clarified to insure the focus is on social work practice.
- The Board will accept up to 6 contact hours of continuing education during a single renewal period focused on practitioner self-care and well-being. This must be an organized continuing education activity.
- The Board will accept up to 5 contact hours of credit during a single renewal period for social work presentation under the prescribed circumstances outlined in the Rule.
- Clarification is provided for what constitutes “job orientation” which is not an acceptable continuing education activity.

21 NCAC 63 .0505 RELATIONSHIPS WITH COLLEAGUES: This Rule was also amended in several ways:

- Clear expectations are outlined related to expressing judgment on the views and qualification of other professionals.
- Clarification is provided regarding to whom social workers may refer clients to reflect the original intent of the Rule, which is to refer to professionals who have the knowledge and expertise to carry out the services required.
- Guidelines are provided for practitioners when their services are sought by individuals who are already receiving similar services from another professional.
- Language is incorporated to provide clear guidelines about appropriate relationship with colleagues over whom social workers exercise professional authority.
- Clear expectation provided to practitioners regarding their responsibility to report incompetent and unethical behavior to the appropriate licensing authority.

Each of these Rules goes into effect February 1, 2017. The final language will be incorporated into the N.C. Administrative Code available through a link on the OAH website under [Administrative Code Online](#). The Board’s website is also being updated for easy access.

***\*\*Please take time to participate in the brief survey accessible from the Quick Links section at the bottom of our home page to let us know how we are doing.***