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Board of Registration of Social Workers

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Who is the Board??

- Consumer Protection agent of the Commonwealth.
- Volunteer members appointed by the Governor {some public (3), some professional (6)} hold monthly meetings.
- Protect consumers by establishing and enforcing Regulations (i.e. licensure requirements, standards of practice, etc).
- Enforce via the complaint and discipline process.

Who am I?? DPL Relationship to the Board

Board staff

- Executive Director and Program Coordinator
- Board Counsel
- Board Investigator
- Prosecutor

- All staff work is shared with other Boards at the DPL
- Staff work in an advisory role, as well as to execute all decisions made by the Board
- All day-to-day business done by the Staff

FOR Which license
am I applying?

LCSW = Licensed Certified
Social Worker (not Clinical)

How do I get a license?

- **Education**
- **Supervision**
- **Moral Character**
- **Examination**

What Education is needed?

DEGREE
MUST
BE
EARNED

MSW from a CSWE accredited school is required for both the LCSW and LICSW

What Supervision is needed to become licensed?

- LCSW = Field Placement Supervision
- LICSW = 2 years post-LCSW by a LICSW!

What's "Moral Character"?

- Perception of others (References)
- Professional History (Other licenses)
- Personal Criminal History (CORI)



What Exam is needed?

- LCSW = ASWB Masters
- LICSW = ASWB Clinical



The Exam

- Computer based exam taken at a specified testing site
 - 170 multiple choice questions
 - 4 hour testing window
 - Broken down into 10 content areas
- Scaled score of 75 is MA's passing score (don't worry about the number score, if you pass, you PASS!)
 - Special accommodations available for candidates with disabilities and ESL candidates

Studying??

- ASWB's \$15 (e-guide) or \$20 (print edition) Study Guide or \$85 on-line practice exam (ASWB 1-800-225-6880, or Online at www.aswb.org)
- NASW live test prep course (members \$150, non-members \$200 www.naswma.org)

No endorsement intended

Check with your school regarding other resources that they may have!

Will I **pass** the test?

YOU WILL PASS

**Most Pass the First Time
Quality School = Quality Students**

89.5% pass rate in 2016 for MA candidates!

YES!

YES!

BUT.....????

- Re-takes available in 90 days
- \$ for Exam only
- Exam Approval is good for 1 year

What is the process?

1. Call ASWB {(866) 527-2384} or download application or apply online (www.aswb.org). **If you apply online, you will be able to track the status of your application.**
2. Apply
3. Receive approval to test (within approx. 2 weeks)
4. Register for the exam, via ASWB (must wait 1 wk to schedule test date).
5. PASS!!!!
6. Pay for license ****YOU ARE NOT LICENSED UNTIL YOU ACTUALLY PAY FOR YOUR LICENSE****
7. Receive license

What's the application require?



- Notarized application
- Fee
- Official sealed transcript
- 3 references*

{1 supervisory, 2 professional}

Supervisory reference should be whomever was your placement supervisor.

Professional references can be anyone who can attest to your social work abilities and good moral character.

***At least 1
reference
must hold
LCSW or
LICSW**

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

- \$173 Application fee
- \$230 for Examination (\$260 for LICSW exam)
- \$68 for initial license fee

GOOD NEWS=

- \$68 (LCSW) or \$82 (LICSW) ONLY every 2 years afterwards.

Still one of the lowest in the country!

Seeking Licensure in Another State?

- Requirements are state specific
- Most states will recognize exam scores if taken in MA
- Not all states license at same levels
- Beware of different acronyms
(LCSW=LMSW=LGSW=LSW)
- Ok to live out of state and maintain MA license

For more info about specific state requirements, visit www.aswb.org and check out the Laws and Regulations section.

Now that you are licensed, some Important Issues ...

MAILING ADDRESS

- It is PUBLIC RECORD!!!!
- Any USPS acceptable address where you can receive mail is ok
- Keep it Current
 - Online change is the easiest
www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/sw
 - By mail



Other Important Issues...

THE RULES

- First set of regulations is free and provided automatically when you request application from ASWB
- Regulations are also on our website www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/sw

KNOW THE RULES!!

Remember, this is what the Board enforces via the complaint process!

Other Important Issues...

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

- LCSWs may not provide PRIVATE/ INDEPENDENT clinical services; may provide such services ONLY as an employee.

AND

- LCSWs may provide clinical social work services ONLY under LICSW supervision.

This is enforced via the complaint process too!

Other Important Issues...

SUPERVISION: **FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE**

1 hour per week (or pro-rated), individual,
face-to-face, by **LICSW**.

Supervision is required to **MAINTAIN** your LCSW,
it is not just for moving up to the LICSW.

SUPERVISION:
FOR NON-CLINICAL PRACTICE

LCSWs *may*:

Provide non-clinical social work services, as defined in 258 CMR 8.05, including case management services of a non-clinical nature, autonomously in any practice setting;

No supervision required to **maintain** the license.

What is *Clinical Social Work*?

- Use of your social work knowledge & training to assess, diagnose, prevent or treat disorders, conditions, or addictions.
- Doing so through the provision of therapy to improve, restore or enhance...
- Includes: Individual, Family, Group, (etc.) counseling and performance of related collateral contacts and record keeping.

What is Non-Clinical Social Work?

- Use of your social work knowledge & training to improve, restore or enhance through the provision of services **other than** Counseling.
- Includes: Case management, community organization, program planning & dev., assessment of needs for non-clinical services...

Other Important Issues...

CONTINUING ED

- (a) **LICSWs** – thirty (30) continuing education hours
- (b) **LCSWs** – twenty (20) continuing education hours

Other Important Issues...

CONTINUING ED

Criteria for Approved Continuing Education:

**Must be approved by a recognized entity
(NASW, ASWB, another state's SW Board,
CSWE SW School)**

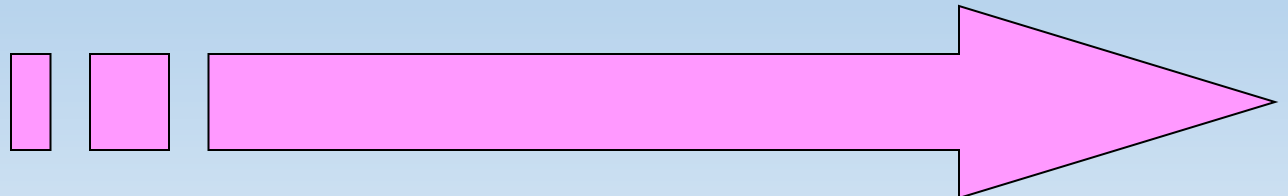
**Board Policy allows 25% to come from select few
other professions (Psychology, Mental Health,
Nursing, etc). Check the Policy 1st!**

Other Important Issues...

RENEWALS

- All Social Work licenses expire two years from your next birthday.
- Approved C.E. is required per renewal cycle (be sure to review the Regs for any changes!)
- Renewals require certification
- Random audits are performed after renewal

Failed auditees are sanctioned by the Board!



Top Five Ways to Avoid Problems if Audited

1. Count CEUs BEFORE submitting renewal.
2. Ensure CEUs are approved by a recognized entity/ meet the Regulatory requirements.
3. Maintain CE documentation for at least 2 licensure cycles.
4. If extenuating circumstances exist that warrant extension to complete CE and/or waiver, request it! Must be requested BEFORE renewing.
5. Keep up to date on any new policies regarding CE requirements.

RENEWAL TIMETABLE

{- 90 days} Renewal Sent

Should be locating all CEU documents now

{late +2 days} **\$57** late fee

{late +One year} **PAIN, CEUs!**

{late +Two years} **TORTURE, RE-TEST!**

You are almost there!!! Good luck!
Thanks for listening...



Remember that our
website has a wealth
of information!

www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/sw