CHAPTER 70 SOCIAL WORK

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7000 GENERAL PROVISIONS

7000.1 This chapter shall apply to applicants for and holders of a license to practice social work.

7000.2 Chapters 40 (Health Occupations: General Rules) and 41 (Health Occupations: Administrative Procedures) of this title shall supplement this chapter.

7000.3 In addition to fulfilling other requirements of this chapter, an applicant shall submit to the Board two (2) professional references and one (1) personal reference.

AUTHORITY: Unless otherwise noted, the authority for this chapter is §302(14) of the District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, D.C. Law 6-99, D.C. Code §2-3303.2(14) (1988 Repl. Vol.), 33 DCR 729, 732 (February 7, 1986), and Mayor's Order 86-110, 33 DCR 5220 (August 22, 1986).

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 1052 (February 19, 1988).

7001 TERM OF LICENSE

7001.1 Except as provided in §7001.2, a license issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire on July 31 of each odd-numbered year.

7001.2 A license issued on or before July 31, 1989, shall expire on July 31, 1991.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 1059 (February 19, 1988), as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 36 DCR 8281 (December 8, 1989).

7002 EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

7002.1 Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, an applicant shall meet the educational and training requirements for the level of licensure sought in accordance with §§801 to 804 of the of the Act, D.C. Code §§2-3308.1 to 2-3308.4 (1987 Supp.).

7002.2 An applicant shall submit a certified transcript of the applicant's educational record(s) from the educational institution to the Board with the completed application.

7002.3 An applicant for a license as an independent social or independent clinical social worker shall submit with the application the following:

(a) Proof satisfactory to the Board that:

(1) The applicant has completed the applicable supervised practice requirements of the Act under general supervision of a qualified supervisor; and

(2) At least one hundred (100) hours of the applicant's three thousand (3,000) hours of supervised practice was under the immediate supervision of a qualified supervisor;

(b) The names of the applicant's supervisors;

(c) A statement detailing the nature and locations of the applicant's experience; and

(d) A signed statement from each supervisor during the required period of supervised practice on a form approved by the Board, which sets forth the following:

(1) The location at which and period of time during which the supervised practice took place;

(2) The hours of general supervision of the applicant;

(3) The hours of immediate supervision of the applicant;

(4) The specific nature of and responsibilities included in the applicant's practice;

(5) A rating of the applicant's performance; and

(6) The qualifications of the supervisor to act as such pursuant to the Act and this chapter.

7002.4 The performance of an applicant subject to §7002.3 during the required period of supervised practice shall at all times have been rated as satisfactory or better.

7002.5 The degree program upon which an applicant relies shall appear in the edition of the "List of Colleges and Universities with Accredited Social Work Degree Programs" published by the Council on Social Work Education applicable to the year in which the degree was conferred.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 1059, 1060 (February 19, 1988); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 37 DCR 2747, 2754 (May 4, 1990).

7003 APPLICANTS EDUCATED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

7003.1 The Board may grant a license to practice social work to an applicant who has completed an educational program in a foreign country, which program is not recognized by the Council of Social Work Education, if the applicant meets the following requirements:

(a) Meets all requirements of the Act and this chapter, except for the requirements of §§801 to 804 of the Act, D.C. Code §§2-3308.1 to 2-3308.4 (1987 Supp.), that the required degree be from a social work program accredited by the Council of Social Work Education; and

(b) Demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board that the applicant's education and training are substantially equivalent to the requirements of this subtitle and the Act by submitting the documentation required by §7003.2.

7003.2 An applicant under this section shall submit with the application a certification from the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on Social Work Education that the applicant's foreign education is equivalent to the applicable requirements of the Act and this chapter.

7003.3 If a document required by this chapter is in a language other than English, an applicant shall arrange for its translation into English by a translation service acceptable to the Board and shall submit a translation signed by the translator attesting to its accuracy.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 1059, 1061 (February 19, 1988).

7004 NATIONAL EXAMINATION

7004.1 Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, an applicant shall receive a passing score on the required level of the examination sponsored by the American Association of State Social Work Boards (the national examination) or on another examination determined by the Board to be equivalent.

7004.2 An applicant who has passed an examination specified in §7004.1 more than five (5) years prior to the application date, but who does not qualify for a license by reciprocity, shall not be required to retake the examination if the applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board that the applicant has been continuously licensed and practicing as a social worker in the United States since the date the applicant passed the examination.

7004.3 The passing score on the Associate (social work associate) level of the national examination shall be seventy-five (75).

7004.4 The passing score on the Basic (graduate social worker) level of the national examination shall be seventy-five (75).

7004.5 The passing score on the Intermediate (Independent social worker) level of the national examination shall be seventy-five (75).

7004.6 The passing score on the Advanced (Independent clinical social worker) level of the national examination shall be seventy-five (75).

7004.7 An applicant shall submit the applicant's examination results, which have been certified or validated by the American Association of State Social Work Boards, to the Board with the completed application.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 1059, 1062 (February 19, 1988); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 37 DCR 2747, 2754 (May 4, 1990).

7005 [RESERVED]

7006 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

7006.1 Except as provided in §7006.2, this section shall apply to applicants for the renewal, reactivation, or reinstatement of a license for a term expiring July 31, 1993, and subsequent terms.

7006.2 This section shall not apply to applicants for an initial license by examination, reciprocity, or endorsement, nor to applicants for the first renewal of a license granted by examination.

7006.3 Continuing education credit may be granted only for programs or activities approved by the Board.

7006.4 An applicant for renewal of a license shall submit proof of having completed twenty-four (24) hours of approved continuing education credit during the two-year period preceding the date the license expires.

7006.5 To qualify for a license, an applicant in inactive status within the meaning of §511 of the Act, D.C. Code §2-3305.11 (1988) who submits an application to reactivate a license shall submit proof of having completed twelve (12) hours of approved continuing education credit for each year after July 31, 1993, that the applicant was in inactive status.

7006.6 To qualify for a license, an applicant for reinstatement of a license shall submit proof of having completed twelve (12) hours of approved continuing education credit for each year after July 31, 1993, that the applicant was in inactive status.

7006.7 An applicant under this section shall submit with the application a completed form approved by the Board for each program for which continuing education credit is

claimed, and shall maintain for a period of at least five (5) years the following information with respect to each program:

(a) The name and address of the sponsor of the program;

(b) The name of the program, its location, a description of the subject matter covered, and the names of the instructors;

(c) The dates on which the applicant attended the program;

(d) The hours of credit claimed; and

(e) Verification by the sponsor of completion, by signature or stamp.

7006.8 An applicant for renewal of a license who fails to submit proof of having completed continuing education requirements by the date the license expires may renew the license up to sixty (60) days after the expiration by submitting this proof and by paying the required additional late fee.

7006.9 Upon submission of proof and payment, the applicant shall be deemed to have possessed a valid license during the period between the expiration of the license and the submission of the proof and payment.

7006.10 If an applicant for renewal of a license fails to submit proof of completion of continuing education requirements or pay the late fee within sixty (60) days after the expiration of the applicant's license, the license shall be considered to have lapsed on the date of expiration.

7006.11 The Board may, in its discretion, grant an extension of the sixty (60) day period to renew after expiration if the applicant's failure to submit proof of completion was for good cause.

7006.12 An applicant under this section shall prove completion of continuing education course work which was audited under §7008.3 by submitting with the application a verification of registration from the office of the registrar of the institution at which the course was audited.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 1059, 1062 (February 19, 1988), as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 36 DCR 8281 (December 8, 1989).

7007 APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

7007.1 The Board shall approve only continuing education programs and activities that contribute to the growth of an applicant in professional competence in the practice of social work and which meet the other requirements of this section.

7007.2 The Board may approve the following types of continuing education programs, if the programs meet the requirements of §7007.3:

(a) An undergraduate or graduate course given at an accredited college or university;

(b) A seminar or workshop; and

(c) An educational program given at a conference.

7007.3 To qualify for approval by the Board, a continuing education program shall meet the following requirements:

(a) Be current in its subject matter;

(b) Be developed and taught by qualified individuals; and

(c) Meet one of the following requirements:

(1) Be administered or approved by:

(A) A recognized social work, mental health, or human services organization that is approved by the Board; or

(B) A college or university that is accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department of Education or the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation; or

(2) Be submitted by the program sponsors to the Board for review no less than three (3) months prior to the date of the presentation and be approved by the Board.

7007.4 The Board may issue and update a list of approved continuing education organizations and programs.

7007.5 The Board may approve the following continuing education activities:

(a) Serving as an instructor or speaker at a conference, seminar, or workshop; and

(b) Publication of an article in a professional journal or publication of a book or a chapter in a book, or publication of a book review in a professional journal or bulletin.

7007.6 An applicant shall have the burden of verifying whether a program or activity is approved by the Board pursuant to this section prior to attending the program or engaging in the activity.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 36 DCR 8281, 8283 (December 8, 1989).

7008 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

7008.1 The Board may grant continuing education credit in whole hours only, with a minimum of fifty (50) minutes constituting one (1) credit hour.

7008.2 For approved undergraduate or graduate courses that are taken for educational credit, each semester hour of credit constitutes twenty (20) hours of continuing

education credit, and each quarter hour of credit constitutes fourteen (14) hours of continuing education credit.

7008.3 For approved undergraduate or graduate courses that are audited, each semester hour shall constitute fifteen (15) hours of continuing education credit, and each quarter hour shall constitute ten (10) hours of continuing education credit.

7008.4 The Board may grant a maximum of six (6) continuing education credits per year for completing continuing education activities under §7007.5.

7008.5 The Board may grant credit for preparation and presentation time to an applicant who serves as an instructor or speaker at an approved program under §7007.5(a) subject to the following restrictions:

(a) The maximum amount of credit that may be granted for preparation time shall be twice the amount of the associated presentation time;

(b) If an applicant has previously receive a credit in connection with a particular presentation, the Board shall not grant credit for a subsequent presentation unless it involves either a different subject or substantial additional research concerning the same subject; and

(c) The presentation shall have been completed during the period for which credit is claimed.

7008.6 The Board may grant continuing education credit under §7007.5(b) only if the applicant proves to the satisfaction of the Board that the work has been published or accepted for publication during the period for which credit is claimed.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 36 DCR 8281, 8284 (December 8, 1989).

7009 - 7010 [RESERVED]

7011 SUPERVISION OF PRACTICE BY STUDENTS, APPLICANTS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS

7011.1 Only the following persons shall practice under supervision:

(a) Students fulfulling educational requirements in a program which meets the requirements of §103(c) of the Act, D.C. Code §2-3301.3 (1987 Supp.) and §7002.5;

(b) An applicant for a license who is unlicensed in the District and whose first application for a license in the District is pending; and

(c) Social workers.

7011.2 A person who has been denied a license or disciplined, or who is the subject of a pending denial or disciplinary action, in the District or other jurisdiction shall not practice pursuant to this section unless authorized by the Board in writing to do so.

7011.3 Only a supervisor, as defined in §7099.1, shall supervise the practice of social work.

7011.4 A student, applicant, or social worker shall practice social work under supervision only in accordance with the Act and this chapter.

7011.5 All supervised practice shall take place under general or immediate supervision.

7011.6 At least one (1) hour of every thirty-two (32) hours of supervised practice shall be under immediate supervision.

7011.7 A supervisor shall be fully responsible for supervised practice by a student, applicant, social work associate, or graduate social worker during the period of supervision, and is subject to disciplinary action for any violation of the Act or this subtitle by the person supervised.

7011.8 A student or applicant shall identify himself or herself as such before practicing as a social worker.

7011.9 A student or applicant shall not receive compensation of any nature, directly or indirectly, from a patient, except for a salary based on hours worked under supervison.

7011.10 A student or applicant shall be subject to all of the applicable provisions of the Act and this subtitle. The Board may deny an application for a license by, or take other disciplinary action against, a student or applicant who is found to have violated the Act or this subtitle, in accordance with chapter 41 of this subtitle.

7011.11 If the Board finds that a student or applicant has violated the Act or this subtitle, the Board may, in addition to any other disciplinary actions permitted by the Act, revoke, suspend, or restrict the privilege of the student or applicant to practice.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 1059, 1064 (February 19, 1988).

7012 WAIVER OF EXAMINATION OR EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

7012.1 An applicant who requests that the Board waive examination or educational requirements under §806 of the Act, D.C. Code §2-3308.6 (1987 Supp.), shall do the following:

(a) Submit with the application the following:

(1) A statement by the applicant detailing the nature, length, and locations of the applicant's practice;

(2) The names of the applicant's supervisors during the required period of supervised practice; and

(3) A statement from each supervisor of the type required by §7002.3(d);

(b) Demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that the applicant has completed the applicable educational requirements of the Act and this section, by submitting a copy of the applicant's high school diploma or postsecondary transcript; and

(c) Arrange to have an evaluation of the applicant's qualifications for waiver by the American Association of State Social Work Boards (AASSWB) sent directly from the AASSWB to the Board.

7012.2 The performance of an applicant under this section during the required period of supervised practice shall at all times have been rated as satisfactory or better.

7012.3 The Board shall waive the examination requirement for a license as a social work associate set forth in the Act and §7002 for an applicant who submits with the application proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has met the following requirements:

(a) Has met the educational requirements of the Act and §7002; and

(b) Has completed practice as a social worker which meets the following requirements:

(1) The practice was completed after the applicant's receipt of a baccalaureate degree in social work and within the three (3) year period immediately preceding March 25, 1986;

(2) The practice consisted a minimum of ten (10) hours per week for at least forty-four (44) weeks; and

(3) The practice was under the general supervision of a qualified supervisor.

7012.4 The Board shall waive the educational and examination requirements for a license as a social work associate set forth in the Act and §7002 for an applicant who submits with the application proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has met the following requirements:

(a) Is a high school graduate; and

(b) Has completed practice as a social worker which meets the following requirements:

(1) The practice was completed after the applicant's receipt of a high school diploma and within the one (1) year period immediately preceding March 25, 1986;

(2) The practice consisted of a minimum of thirty-two (32) hours per week for at least forty-four (44) weeks; and

(3) The practice was under the general supervision of a qualified supervisor.

7012.5 The Board shall waive the examination requirement for a license as a graduate social worker set forth in the Act and §7002 for an applicant who submits with the application proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has met the following requirements:

(a) Has met the educational requirements of the Act and §7002; and

(b) Has completed practice has a social worker which meets the following requirements:

(1) The practice was completed after the applicant's receipt of a master's or doctoral degree in social work and within the three (3) year period immediately preceding March 25, 1986;

(2) The practice consisted of a minimum of ten (10) hours per week for at least forty-four (44) weeks;

(3) The practice was under the general supervision of a qualified supervisor; and

(4) If the applicant has practiced psychotherapy, at least twenty (20) hours of the psychotherapy practice was under the immediate supervision of a qualified supervisor.

7012.6 The Board shall waive the educational and examination requirements for a license as a graduate social worker set forth in the Act and §7002 for an applicant who submits with the application proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has met the following requirements:

(a) Has a master's or doctoral degree in social work (based upon completion of a program which does not meet the accreditation requirements of §7002.5), counseling, psychology, mental health, anthropology, or sociology from an accredited institution; and

(b) Has completed practice as a social worker which meets the following requirements:

(1) The practice was completed after the applicant's receipt of a master's or doctoral degree and within one (1) year period immediately preceding March 25, 1986;

(2) The practice consisted of a minimum of thirty-two (32) hours per week for at least forty-four (44) weeks;

(3) The practice was under the general supervision of a qualified supervisor; and

(4) If the applicant has practiced psychotherapy, at least forty (40) hours of the psychotherapy practice was under the immediate supervision of a qualified supervisor.

7012.7 The Board shall waive the examination requirement for a license as an independent social workers set forth in the Act and §7002 for an applicant who submits with the

application proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has met the following requirements:

(a) Has met the educational requirements of the Act and §7002;

(b) Has, prior to gaining the experience required by paragraph (c) of this subsection, completed at least three thousand (3,000) hours of postmaster's or postdoctoral practice as a social worker under the general supervision of a qualified supervisor over a period of not less than two (2) or more than four (4) years; and

(c) Has, within the three-year (3) period immediately preceding March 25, 1986, completed a minimum of ten (10) hours per week for at least forty-four (44) weeks of practice as a social worker in an autonomous, self-regulated fashion, in an agency setting or independently, which practice may have included the direction of other persons in the practice of social work.

7012.8 The Board shall waive the educational and examination requirements for a license as an independent social worker set forth in the Act and §7002 for an applicant who submits with the application proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has met the following requirements:

(a) Has a master's or doctoral degree in social work (based upon completion of a program which does not meet the accreditation requirements of §7002.5), counseling, psychology, mental health, anthropology, or sociology from an accredited institution;

(b) Has, prior to gaining the experience required by paragraph (c) of this subsection, completed at least three thousand (3,000) hours of postmaster's or postdoctoral practice as a social worker under the general supervision of a qualified supervisor over a period of not less than two (2) or more than four (4) years; and

(c) Has, within the one-year period immediately preceding March 25, 1986, completed a minimum of thirty-two (32) hours per week for at least forty-four (44) weeks of practice as a social worker in an autonomous, self-regulated fashion, in an agency setting or independently, which practice may have included the direction of other persons in the practice of social work.

7012.9 The Board shall waive the examination requirements for a license as an independent clinical social worker set forth in the Act and §7002 for an applicant who demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board that the applicant has met the following requirements:

(a) Has met the education requirements of the Act and §7002;

(b) Has, prior to gaining the experience required by paragraph (c) of this subsection, completed at least three thousand (3,000) hours of postmaster's or postdoctoral practice as a social worker consisting of participation in the diagnosis and treatment of individuals, families and groups with psycho-social problems over a period of not less than two (2) or more than four (4) years, all of which was under the general supervision and twenty (20 hours of which was under the immediate supervision of a qualified supervisor; and

(c) Has, within the three-year (3) period immediately preceding March 25, 1986, completed a minimum of ten (10) hours per week for at least forty-four (44) weeks of practice as a social worker in an autonomous, self-regulated fashion, in an agency setting or independently, which practice may have included the direction of other persons in the practice of social work.

7012.10 The Board shall waive the educational and examination requirements for a license as an independent clinical social worker set forth in the Act and §7002 for an applicant who demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board that the applicant has met the following requirements:

(a) Has a master's or doctoral degree in social work (based upon completion of a program which does meet the accreditation requirements of §7002.5), counseling, psychology, mental health, anthropology, or sociology from an accredited institution;

(b) Has, prior to gaining the experience required by paragraph (c) of this subsection, completed at least three thousand (3,000) hours of postmaster's or postdoctoral practice as a social worker consisting of participation in the diagnosis and treatment of individuals, families and groups with psycho-social problems over a period of not less than two (2) or more than four (4) years, all of which was under the general supervision and forty (40) hours of which was under the immediate supervision of a qualified supervisor; and

(c) Has, within the one-year period immediately preceding March 25, 1986, completed a minimum of thirty-two (32) hours per week for at least forty-four (44) weeks of practice as a social worker in an autonomous, self-regulated fashion, in an agency setting or independently, which practice may have included the direction of other persons in the practice of social work.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 1059, 1065 (February 19, 1988); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 6242 (August 12, 1988).

7013 SUPERVISOR QUALIFICATIONS

7013.1 With respect to an application by waiver under §7012 for a license as a social work associate or graduate social worker submitted on or before March 25, 1988, each supervisor, during the entire period of supervision, shall have met one of the following requirements:

(a) The supervisor shall have been licensed in the District as an independent social worker or independent clinical social worker;

(b) The supervisor shall have been licensed in the United States at a level equivalent to that of an independent social worker or independent clinical social worker in the District; or

(c) The supervisor shall have been qualified for a license as an independent social worker or independent clinical social worker in the District, regardless of whether or where the supervisor was licensed.

7013.2 With respect to an application for a license as an independent social worker submitted on or before March 25, 1988, each supervisor, during the entire period of supervision, shall have met one of the following requirements:

(a) The supervisor shall have been licensed in the District as an independent social worker;

(b) The supervisor shall have been licensed in the United States at a level equivalent to that of an independent social worker in the District; or

(c) The supervisor shall have been qualified for a license as an independent social worker in the District, regardless of whether or where the supervisor was licensed.

7013.3 With respect to an application for a license as an independent social worker submitted after March 25, 1988, each supervisor, during the entire period of supervision, shall have met the requirements of §7013.2(a) or §7013.2(b).

7013.4 With respect to an application for a license as an independent clinical social worker submitted on or before March 25, 1988, each supervisor, during the entire period of supervision, shall have met one of the following requirements:

(a) The supervisor shall have been licensed in the District as an independent clinical social worker;

(b) The supervisor shall have been licensed in the United States at a level equivalent to that of a licensed independent clinical social worker in the District;

(c) Subject to the limitation in §7013.6, the supervisor shall have been licensed in the United States as a psychiatrist or psychologist; or

(d) The supervisor shall have been qualified for a license as an independent clinical social worker in the District, regardless of whether or where the supervisor was licensed.

7013.5 With respect to an application for licensure as an independent clinical social worker submitted after March 25, 1988, each supervisor, during the entire period of supervision, shall have met the requirements of §7013.4(a), (b), or (c).

7013.6 Upon approval by the Board, a maximum of one thousand five hundred (1,500) hours of supervision by a qualified supervisor under §7013.4(c) may be relied upon to satisfy the supervised practice requirement for a license as an independent clinical social worker under §804 of the Act, D.C. Code §2-3308.4 (1987 Supp.).

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 1059, 10701 (February 19, 1988).

7099 DEFINITIONS

7099.1 As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings ascribed:

Applicant - a person applying under this chapter for a license as a social work associate, graduate social worker, independent social worker, or independent clinical social worker, as the context requires.

Board - the Board of Social Work, established by §212 of the Act, D.C. Code §2-3302.12 (1987 Supp.).

General supervision - a supervision in which the supervisor is available on the premises or by communications device at the time the supervisee is practicing.

Good cause - serious illness of the applicant; the death or serious illness of a member of the applicant's immediate family; or other cause sufficient to the Board.

Immediate supervision - one-to-one supervision in which the supervisor is with the supervisee and either discussing or observing the supervisee's practice.

Social Worker - a person licensed under the Act to practice social work.

Supervisee - a student, applicant, or social worker authorized to engage in supervised practice under §7011.

Supervisor - a social worker, psychologist, or psychiatrist licensed under the Act, or a qualified supervisor under §7012, as the context requires, who is responsible for the supervision of a supervisee.

7099.2 The definitions in §4099 of chapter 40 of this title are incorporated by reference into and apply to this chapter.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 1059, 1072 (February 19, 1988).