

**HEALTH REGULATION AND LICENSING ADMINISTRATION
&
HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARDS**

BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
AUTHORITY FOR GUIDANCE

JANUARY 2014
DATE OF POLICY

13-001
POLICY NO.

POLICY STATEMENT

**GUIDANCE DOCUMENT ON WHICH SOCIAL WORK FUNCTIONS QUALIFY TOWARD
LICENSED INDEPENDENT CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE
IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

This policy statement is being issued by the District of Columbia Board of Social Work to clarify how the Board determines whether an applicant has completed the required three thousand (3,000) hours of post-master's or postdoctoral experience required for licensure at the Licensed Independent Clinical Social Work (LICSW) level.

Pursuant to District of Columbia Official Code § 3-1208.04 (2009): An applicant for LICSW licensure shall have completed at least 3,000 hours of post-master's or postdoctoral experience *participating in the diagnosis and treatment of individuals, families, and groups with psychosocial problems*, under the supervision of a licensed independent **clinical** social worker (LICSW). No other level of licensure will qualify.

Only an individual holding a D.C. Licensed Graduate Social Work license (LGSW) may begin to accrue hours toward LICSW licensure for “clinical practice” performed while working in the District.

While most “case management” activities will not count toward LICSW licensure, *clinical case management* may be considered by the Board if the applicant can demonstrate how his/her 3,000 hours of clinical practice experience included and focused on following:

- Diagnostic assessment experience giving the applicant a working knowledge of the DSM;
- Bio-psychosocial assessment experience giving the applicant the ability to create a theory-based social work assessment of the client system;
- Goal-oriented, psychotherapeutic treatment with a clear theory base and specific treatment goals;
- Receipt of theory-based clinical supervision focused on diagnostic assessment, specific treatment goals, and ethical practice standards.

The documentation of clinical practice must be completed by the applicant and verified by the LICSW supervisor. Both the applicant and the supervisor will be required to attest to the nature of the clinical practice and to produce supporting documentation if requested by the Board. The Board is currently working to create a form for the documentation of clinical practice experience.

Please contact Ms. Mavis Azariah, Health Licensing Specialist for the Board, at (202) 442-4782 with any questions.