

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HEALTH REGULATION AND LICENSING ADMINISTRATION**

BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
AUTHORITY FOR GUIDANCE

July 24, 2023
DATE OF POLICY

23-002
POLICY NO.

POLICY STATEMENT

**UPDATED REQUIREMENT FOR LIVE, CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES (CEs)
POST, COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

MODIFICATION

In light of the previous, Public Emergency related to the former, COVID-19 Pandemic, the Board of Social Work (Board) had adopted a previous, policy and offered previous, guidance related to the continuing education (CE) required to maintain a social work license in the District. (See Policy No. 21-002, dated, September 27, 2021.)

Section 7008.4 of Title 17 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR) requires that, to qualify for the licensure renewal, District-licensed social workers must complete forty (40) hours of CE related to social work practice during the two (2) years of the licensure term. Additionally, no more than twelve (12) hours of the required CE may be obtained through home studies, distance learning, or internet courses. 17 DCMR § 7008.4(a). Further, six (6) of the required forty (40) CE hours must be in ethics, professional conduct, or boundary issues and obtained in a live, in-person, face-to-face setting. 17 DCMR § 7008.4(c).

Previously, on March 11, 2020, the Mayor declared a state of public health emergency in the District due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor's Order 2020-045. Following this declaration, Mayor Muriel Bowser issued an order prohibiting mass gatherings of fifty (50) or more persons on March 16, 2020. Mayor's Order 2020-048. On March 24, 2020, non-essential businesses were ordered closed. Mayor's Order 2020-053. A stay-at-home order was issued on March 30, 2020, prohibiting District residents from leaving their home except for specified essential businesses. Mayor's Order 2020-054. Similar measures were also adopted in all U.S. states and territories.

As a result of those, *prior emergency restrictions*, it became clear that licensees would face great difficulty in obtaining live, in-person CE. Hence, the Board had voted previously to extend the suspension of the live, in-person, face-to-face requirements of subsections (a) and (c) of 17 DCMR §7008.4, during the previous licensure term from August 1, 2021 to July 31, 2023. (Policy Statement No. 21-002.)

Board of Social Work

Policy Statement 23-002: Updated Requirement for Live, Continuing Education Courses (CEs) Post, COVID-19 Pandemic.

***However, the Board has now issued a MODIFICATION.** The Board has voted and determined that going forward - **during the current licensure term from August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2025** - the CE requirement will return to the original requirement, in effect prior to the pandemic, *with the following modification*: “Live-interactive, webinars” will be accepted and will count as “In-person” CEs. Note that pre-recorded, online presentations will *not* count as In-person CEs. Only “LIVE-INTERACTIVE, WEBINARS” in real-time WILL BE CONSIDERED as “IN-PERSON, CEs. Thus, *no more than twelve (12) hours of the required CE may be obtained through pre-recorded*, remote methods - be they pre-recorded on-demand internet course; pre-recorded home studies; or pre-recorded distance learning. The remainder of the required, forty (40) hours of CEs (*28 remaining hours*) must be live, in-person, CEs, to include “Live-interactive webinars”.

Further, licensees are advised that all other CE requirements continue to be effective, such as the required six (6) hours of ethics, two (2) hours of LGBTQ, and ten (10) percent of public health priority subjects.

All inquiries pertaining to the practice of social work, including the continuing education requirements, may be directed to the Board’s Health Licensing Specialist, Ms. Mavis Azariah Armattoo, at (202) 442-4782 or mavis.azariah@dc.gov