Clinical Supervision for Social Workers in New Jersey

All LSWs providing clinical social work must be supervised by an LCSW who has met the criteria for a clinical supervisor as outlined in the NJ Social Work Regulations (SW Regs). These SW Regs are written by the Board of Social Work Examiners (BSWE/Licensing Board) which is responsible for granting social work licenses in NJ and oversees all aspect of social work in this state.

The criteria for Clinical Supervisors supervising clinical social work provided in NJ are listed below*:

- A clinical supervisor must be a NJ Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) who has been practicing for at least 3 years as an LCSW.

- A clinical supervisor must have completed and be able to document at least 20 continuing education credits (20 hours) of post-graduate course-work related to clinical supervision approved by the Board as outlined in the SW Regs. A Seminar in Field Instruction (SIFI) course shall not satisfy this requirement either in whole or in part.

- In addition, the BSWE and NASW-NJ encourage LSWs to ask for documentation of LCSW licensure and coursework from their supervisors at the beginning of the supervision process, even if they are being supervised by someone in an agency.
  - LSWs will need a copy of the supervisor’s SW license and a copy of certificates/letters confirming s/he has taken course(s) that would fulfill the 20-hour CE requirement. If there is more than one supervisor while the LSW completes their 3000 hours**, the LSW needs to get this documentation from each supervisor.
    - Note: **The 3000 hours must include at least 1920 clinical hours of which 50% (960 hours) must be providing psychotherapy.
    - For more information about these requirements, go to www.naswnj.org to see the NASW-NJ Tip Sheet.
  - It may be awkward for an LSW to make this request. However, it is better for them to secure the documents at the beginning of the supervision process than to spend months or years in supervision and learn at the end that these hours will not count because the supervisor did not have the required credentials. And yes, this has happened!
  - If you are an LSW, you can say that the Board of Social Work Examiners and NASW-NJ are recommending that you get this information for your files.
  - If you are an LCSW supervisor, please help your supervisees to secure the information they need for their files.

- * Clinical Supervision for clinical social work in another state has slightly different rules. For more information, go to www.tinyurl.com/Licensing-FAQs (Social Workers from Another State) or request a Licensing Consult at www.tinyurl.com/Licensing-Consultation.

- For more information, review the actual SW Regs for details. Click on http://tinyurl.com/NJSWRegs13-44G. Ignore the “Please Read” and LexisNexis section. Scroll to “Subchapter 8 – Clinical Supervision” for details about this issue.

- Additional information about Clinical Supervision and Licensing in general is also available on our website, www.naswnj.org, under Professional Development.

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