

TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

Control No. 850 Department : Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners

Rule No. 850-X-2-.02 Classification of Social Workers
 New X Amend Repeal Adopt by Reference

Would the absence of the proposed rule significantly harm or endanger the public health, welfare, or safety? No

Is there a reasonable relationship between the state's police power and the protection of the public health, safety, or welfare? No

Is there another, less restrictive method of regulation available that could adequately protect the public? No

Does the proposed rule have the effect of directly Or indirectly increasing the cost of any goods or Services involved and, if so, to what degree? No

Is the increase in cost, if any, more harmful to the public than the harm that might result from the absence of the proposed rule? NA

Are the facets of the rulemaking process designed solely for the purpose of, and so they have, as their primary effect, the protection of the public? Yes

.....
Does the proposed rule have an economic impact? NO

If the proposed rule has an economic impact, the proposed rule is required to be accompanied by a fiscal note prepared in accordance with the subsection (f) of Section 41-22-23, Code of Alabama 1975.

.....

Certification of Authorized Official

I certify that the attached proposed rule has been proposed in full compliance with the requirements of Chapter 22, Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975, and that it conforms to all applicable filing requirements of the Administrative Procedure Division of the Legislative Reference Service.

Signature of certifying officer Brenda Golden

Date 7-12-16

(DATE FILED)
(STAMP)

APA-2
07/04

Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

AGENCY NAME:

Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners

RULE NO. & TITLE:

850-X-2-.02 Classification of Social Workers

INTENDED ACTION:

Inserting new titles as changed in the law and removing unnecessary wording

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Deleting outdated information and inserting titles changes and additional information and removing reference to 850-X-1-.19

TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS:

A Public Hearing will be held September 8, 2016, 9:30AM, 100 North Union Street, Suite 300, Montgomery AL 36104

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE:

Written comments may be sent to Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners at: 100 North Union Street, Suite 736, Montgomery AL 36130-1620. All written comments must be received by 4:30PM September 7, 2016.

CONTRACT PERSON AT AGENCY:

Brenda W. Holden, 334/242-5860



Signature of Officer

850-X-2-.02 Classification of Social Workers. The Board is required by statute to promulgate rules and regulations which set forth professional standards for the four classes of social worker. Alabama law recognizes four classes of Social Workers: Licensed Bachelor Social Worker; Licensed Graduate Master Social Worker; Licensed Certified Independent Clinical Social Worker; Private Independent Practice. ~~Consistent therewith, and pursuant to the authority granted the Board by Alabama legislature, the classes of licensed and certified social workers are as follows:~~

(1) **Licensed Bachelor Social Worker (LBSW)** is the basic licensing level. The LBSW must have a baccalaureate degree in social work from an accredited college or university whose social work program is approved or accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The candidate for the LBSW licensure must pass an exam as prescribed by the Board, then the LBSW is prepared to assume the beginning level professional role in public and private social service agencies. The Board requires that the LBSW work under the continuing supervision of a licensed master social worker or a licensed clinical independent social worker for two (2) years or more, without further supervision as long as the LBSW remains in the same field of social work practice, job responsibilities are similar, and holds a current license. Licensed Bachelor Social Workers are prepared through beginning professional knowledge in human behavior in the social environment, generalist social work practice, knowledge of the history of social policy, knowledge of how to utilize social research finding in their practice and having had supervised field practicum experience. The LBSW provides generalist services in the role of social broker, enabler, counselor, case manager, educator, client advocate and mediator. Licensed Bachelor Social Workers may work with individuals, families, communities, groups and organizations. Licensed Bachelor Social Workers may conduct psychosocial assessments and may take social histories and/or conduct home studies. The LBSW utilizes the basic problem-solving process of gathering information, assessing that information at a beginning professional level, developing a plan of care, then assuming the roles enumerated above, implements the plan and conducts follow-up. An LBSW may not prescribe medication, ~~nor make diagnoses, or interpret psychological test.~~ An LBSW may take verbal orders from physicians only pertaining to social work practice.

(2) **Licensed Graduate Master Social Worker (LGMSW)** - The LGMSW must have a master of social work or a doctor of social work degree from a college or university approved or accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The candidate for licensure at the LGMSW level must pass an exam as prescribed by the Board. An LGMSW must keep a current license. An LGMSW provides a wide range of services. The LGMSW has preparation as a generalist social worker, knowledge of the history of social policy, knowledge of how to utilize social research finding in their practice and having had supervised field practicum experience with additional specialization in either direct or indirect services such as work in a field of practice or with a specific population. The LGMSW may evaluate and assess difficulties in psychosocial functioning, develop a plan to alleviate those difficulties and either carry out the plan or refer clients to other qualified resources for assistance. An LGMSW may provide preventive and treatment services pertaining to individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations. The LGMSW should be able to engage the client system, develop a relationship and employ a series of interventions that modify or eliminate targeted behaviors and can promote positive growth and

development. The LGMSW can explain and interpret the results of social evaluations in the problem-solving process. The LGMSW is able to supervise Licensed Bachelor Social Workers and practice in social casework, clinical social work, community organization, social work research, and social work administration. An LGMSW may not prescribe medication ~~nor make diagnoses, or interpret psychological test~~. An LGMSW may take verbal orders from physicians only pertaining to social work practice.

(3) **Licensed Certified Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW)** - The LICSW must have a master of social work or a doctor of social work degree from a college or university approved or accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and hold a current LGMSW license. The LICSW must have received two (2) years or more of postgraduate continuing supervision provided by an LICSW prior to application for the LICSW exam. The LICSW candidate must pass an exam as prescribed by the Board. The LICSW should be able to exercise independent judgment. The LICSW should be able to demonstrate skill and interventions directly related to individuals, families, groups, communities, or organizations. In at least one of these client groups, the LICSW shall demonstrate in-depth knowledge and skills. The LICSW should be able to employ practice theory and research findings in all aspects of their practice. The LICSW may supervise Licensed Bachelor Social Workers and Licensed Master Social Workers. ~~Methods of social work practice recognized by the Board for the LCSW include: social casework, clinical social work, community organization, social work research, and social work administration.~~ An LICSW may not prescribe medication ~~nor make diagnoses, or interpret psychological test~~. An LICSW may take verbal orders from physicians only pertaining to social work practice.

(4) **Private Independent Practice (PIP)** - An LICSW may apply to the Board to engage in ~~Pprivate Independent Ppractice~~ of social work. Private ~~independent~~ practice of social work means that portion of social work practice in which a Licensed ~~Certified Independent Clinical~~ Social Worker is engaged in the private practice of social work services which includes practicing as an independent contractor in one (1) or more areas of practice methods: social casework, clinical social work, and community organization, ~~social work research, and social work administration~~. The LICSW with a PIP certification must maintain a current LICSW license. For purposes of this section, the term "postgraduate" refers to that portion of experience acquired after having received one's master or doctoral degree in social work. The applicant for certification for private independent practice must present verifiable information regarding the appropriate degree, experience as defined in this section and appropriate supervision. The LICSW applying for PIP certification must have;

(a) three (3) years full-time or five (5) years part-time experience after receiving the MSW and legally practicing in the specified social work method, or

(b) one (1) year full-time or two (2) years part-time postgraduate experience in the specified social work method after receiving the LICSW.

Furthermore, the applicant must define the practice method for which application is being made and present all information in relation to that defined practice method. An applicant may submit information relating to more than one (1) practice method and may be certified, at

the outset, in more than one (1) practice method. The examination for private independent practice is the same as that for the LICSW license.

Author: Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-30-3 (1991); 34-30-23 (1991); 34-30-57(6) (1991).

History: Repealed and Replaced: Filed October 31, 1997; Operative December 5, 1997; effective January 1, 1998; Filed July 19, 2007; effective December 12, 2007 (~~See Rule 850-X-1.19~~).