

TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR
NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

Control Department or Agency: Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners
Rule No. 850-X-2-.02
Rule Title: 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? Yes

Is there a reasonable relationship between the state's police power and the protection of the public health, safety, or welfare? Yes

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 costs 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? NO

Are all 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 action relate to or affect in any manner any litigation which the agency is a party to concerning the subject matter of the proposed rule? No

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 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 Services Agency.

Signature of certifying officer 

Date 7/20/20

(DATE FILED)
(STAMP)

REC'D & FILED

JUL 20 2020

APA-2

(Agency Name)
(Agency Division, if
applicable) 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: Amend

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION: The Board proposes broader definitions of classifications that must be followed by social workers.

TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS: Written comments will be accepted by the Board until 4:30pm on Friday, September 4, 2020. Comments should be directed to Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director at 100 North Union Street, Suite 736, Montgomery, AL 36104 or via electronic mail at Rachel.dickinson@swb.alabama.gov

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE: Friday, September 4, 2020.

CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY: Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director, 100 North Union Street, Suite 736, Montgomery, AL 36104



(Signature of officer authorized
to promulgate and adopt
rules or his or her
deputy)

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 Master Social Worker; Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker; Private Independent Practice.

(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 Board approved supervisor to include: licensed bachelor social work, licensed master social worker or a licensed clinical independent social worker for two (2) years obtaining a minimum 96 hours of supervision according to section 850-X-03-.04. ~~or more, without~~ Further supervision is not required 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. A LBSW with three years post licensure experience who is a board approved supervisor may supervise a LBSW toward their independent licensure status. An LBSW may not prescribe medication. An LBSW may take verbal orders from physicians only pertaining to social work practice.

(2) **Licensed Master Social Worker Non-Clinical and Clinical (LMSW)** - The LMSW 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 LMSW level must pass an exam as prescribed by the Board. An LMSW must keep a current license. The LMSW must make a designation of non-clinical or clinical upon receiving their license. The Board requires that the LMSW Non-Clinical work under the continuing supervision of a Board approved supervisor to include: licensed master social worker or a licensed independent clinical social worker for two (2) years obtaining a minimum 96 hours of supervision. The Board requires that the LMSW Clinical work under the continuing supervision of a Board approved supervisor to include: licensed independent clinical social worker for two (2) years obtaining a minimum 96 hours of supervision. An LMSW provides a wide range of services. The LMSW 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 LMSW 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 LMSW may provide preventive and treatment services pertaining to individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations. The LMSW 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 LMSW can explain and interpret the results of social evaluations in the problem-solving process. A LMSW Non-Clinical with three years post licensure experience who is a board approved supervisor may supervise a LBSW and a LMSW Non-Clinical toward their independent licensure status. A LMSW Clinical with three years post licensure experience who is a board approved supervisor may supervise a LBSW toward their independent licensure status. The LMSW Non-Clinical is able to practice in social casework, community organization, social work research, and social work administration. The LMSW Clinical may practice in all the aforementioned areas to include clinical. An LMSW may not prescribe medication. An LMSW may take verbal orders from physicians only pertaining to social work practice.

(3) **Licensed 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 LMSW license. The LICSW must have received a minimum of 96 hours or more of postgraduate continuing clinical supervision provided by a board approved supervisors LICSW and not less than 3,000 work hours prior to application for the LICSW exam. This may be pursued concurrently. 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 toward their independent licensure status. An LICSW may not prescribe medication. An LICSW may take verbal orders from physicians only pertaining to social work practice. An LICSW may engage in the private practice of social work in all areas except for social case work.

(4) **Private Independent Practice (PIP)** - ~~An LICSW may apply to the Board to engage in private practice of social work. Private practice of social work means that portion of social work practice in which a Licensed 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, social work administration, social work research and community organization. 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 the more than one (1) practice method and may be certified, at the outset, in that more than one (1) practice method. The examination for private independent practice is the same as that for the LICSW license.~~

(a) The applicant for certification for private independent practice in the area of social casework must present verifiable information regarding the appropriate degree, experience as defined in this section and appropriate supervision. The LICSW applying for PIP certification in the area of social casework only must have:

- (1) a current LICSW license;
- (2) three (3) years full-time or five (5) years part-time postgraduate experience and legally practicing in the specified social work method of social casework. 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; or
- (3) one (1) year full-time or two (2) years part-time postgraduate experience in the specified social work method of social casework after receiving the LICSW.

(b) The applicant must present all information in relation to that defined practice method. An applicant may submit information relating to the practice method and may be certified, at the outset, in that practice method.

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; September 15, 2016; effective October 21, 2016; Filed July 31, 2020; effective