Rule: 781.406. Independent Practice Recognition.

Action: Proposed New Rule

Comment: The proposed new rule consolidates existing rule language related to the independent practice recognition (IPR) specialty, including requirements to qualify for the specialty designation and qualification to supervise the experience required to earn the specialty. The new language clarifies that an LBSW or LMSW under supervision toward the IPR designation may own and operate a non-clinical practice under that supervision. The new language also makes non-substantive edits to use more plain, direct language.

§781.406. Independent Practice Recognition.

(a) A person must meet the following education and experience requirements for Independent Non-clinical Practice specialty recognition.

(1) Is currently licensed in the State of Texas as a Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker (LBSW) or Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW).

(2) While licensed as a social worker has had 3000 hours of supervised social work experience over a minimum two-year period, or its equivalent if the experience was completed in another state.

(3) Has had a minimum of 100 hours of supervision, over the course of the 3000 hours of experience, with an appropriate supervisor. If supervision was completed in another jurisdiction, the social worker shall have the supervision verified by the regulatory authority in the other jurisdiction. If such verification is impossible, the social worker may request that the Council accept alternate verification.

(b) The following are qualified supervisors for accruing supervised experience toward Independent Practice Recognition.

(1) An individual supervising an LBSW for independent non-clinical practice recognition shall hold supervisor status and be an LBSW recognized for independent non-clinical practice, an LMSW recognized for independent non-clinical practice, a Licensed Master Social Worker-Advanced Practitioner (LMSW-AP), or a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).

(2) An individual supervising an LMSW for the independent non-clinical practice recognition shall hold supervisor status and be an LMSW recognized for independent non-clinical practice, an LMSW-AP, or an LCSW.

(c) To accrue supervised experience required for an LBSW or an LMSW to apply for Independent Practice Recognition, the LBSW or LMSW shall complete a supervision plan, on a form prescribed by the Council or a form with substantially equivalent information, signed by both the LBSW or LMSW and the supervisor.

(d) An LBSW or LMSW shall submit an application for Independent Practice Recognition upon fulfillment of the supervision requirements.

(1) The applicant must provide the appropriate supervision plans and verification forms. The documentation must include the names and contact information of all supervisors; beginning and ending dates of supervision; job description; and average number of hours of social work activity per week.

(2) The applicant's experience must have been in a position providing social work services, under the supervision of a qualified supervisor, with written evaluations to demonstrate satisfactory performance.

(3) The applicant must maintain and, upon request, provide to the Council documentation of employment status, pay vouchers, or supervisory evaluations.

(4) Applicants must complete the Council's social work jurisprudence examination and submit proof of completion at the time of application.

(e) The supervisor shall complete and sign a supervision verification form prescribed by the Council when the LBSW or LMSW submits an application for Independent Practice Recognition.

(f) An LBSW or LMSW may own and operate their own non-clinical practice when under a supervision plan for independent practice. The LBSW’s or LMSW’s supervisor is responsible for the acts or omissions of the supervisee while providing services under the supervision plan.

(g) A person who has obtained a temporary license may not begin the supervision process toward independent practice recognition until the regular license is issued.

(h) An LBSW-IPR who applies to reclassify LBSW to LMSW is no longer recognized for non-clinical independent practice. To regain the non-clinical independent practice recognition, the LMSW must satisfy the requirements for IPR. Supervised experience hours accrued before the issuance of an LMSW license cannot be considered for LMSW-IPR.