

## Board of Social Work

### Supervised Experience for Clinical Social Work Licensure

In November 2008, the Virginia Board of Social Work revised the *Regulations Governing the Practice of Social Work* to include a requirement that an individual who proposes to obtain supervised experience in Virginia, in any setting, shall submit a supervisory contract stating the proposed plans for the supervisee to provide **clinical social work services** while under the supervision of a qualified Licensed Clinical Social Worker. The supervisory contract, on a board approved form, completed by the supervisor and the supervisee, must receive board approval prior to the beginning of the supervised experience.

If the Board's designated credentials reviewers are unable to determine, based on the registered supervision contract submitted, that the supervisee will be providing **clinical social work services** while under supervision, the supervisee and supervisor shall, upon request by the Board, submit additional information to document that the proposed supervised experience meets the requirements of the *Regulations Governing the Practice of Social Work 18VAC140-20-50*.

The supervising LCSW shall assume responsibility for the social work activities of the supervisee and must document the supervisee's experience in the delivery of **clinical social work services** as required in the *Regulations Governing the Practice of Social Work 18VAC140-20-50*).

**Clinical social work services** as defined in *18VAC140-20-10* includes:

- Performing assessments,
- Diagnosing (based on a recognized manual of mental and emotional disorders or recognized system of problem definition), and
- Providing psychotherapy and counseling (for mental disorders, substance abuse, marriage and family dysfunction, and problems caused by social and psychological stress or health impairment.)

Until the supervisee receives Board approval for the supervision contract, no supervised experience will be permitted to count towards licensure.

Regulation 18VAC140-20-50(A)(3) states that:

*“3. An individual who does not complete the supervision requirement after four consecutive years of supervised experience may request an extension of up to 12 months. The request for an extension shall include evidence that demonstrates extenuating circumstances that prevented completion of the supervised experience within four consecutive years.”*

The Board interprets this provision to mean that the four consecutive years of supervised experience begins from the date of initial board approval for the supervision contract.