
HOUSE BILL 2474

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Cody, Wood, Morrell, Barlow, and Green

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1 AN ACT Relating to supervised experience requirements for social
2 worker licenses; and amending RCW 18.225.090.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.225.090 and 2006 c 69 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The secretary shall issue a license to any applicant who
7 demonstrates to the satisfaction of the secretary that the applicant
8 meets the following education and experience requirements for the
9 applicant's practice area.

10 (a) Licensed social work classifications:

11 (i) Licensed advanced social worker:

12 (A) Graduation from a master's or doctorate social work educational
13 program accredited by the council on social work education and approved
14 by the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards;

15 (B) Successful completion of an approved examination;

16 (C) Successful completion of a supervised experience requirement.

17 The experience requirement consists of a minimum of three thousand two
18 hundred hours with ninety hours of supervision by a licensed
19 independent clinical social worker (~~(or)~~) who is an approved

1 supervisor, a licensed advanced social worker ((who has)) who is an
2 approved supervisor, or an equally qualified licensed mental health
3 practitioner who is an approved supervisor. The approved supervisor
4 must have been licensed ((or certified)) for at least two years. Of
5 ((these)) the required ninety hours of supervision by an approved
6 supervisor, fifty hours must include direct supervision by a licensed
7 advanced social worker who is an approved supervisor or licensed
8 independent clinical social worker who is an approved supervisor; the
9 other forty hours may be with an equally qualified licensed mental
10 health practitioner who is an approved supervisor. Forty hours must be
11 in one-to-one supervision and fifty hours may be in one-to-one
12 supervision or group supervision. Distance supervision is limited to
13 forty supervision hours. Eight hundred hours must be in direct client
14 contact; and

15 (D) Successful completion of continuing education requirements of
16 thirty-six hours, with six in professional ethics.

17 (ii) Licensed independent clinical social worker:

18 (A) Graduation from a master's or doctorate level social work
19 educational program accredited by the council on social work education
20 and approved by the secretary based upon nationally recognized
21 standards;

22 (B) Successful completion of an approved examination;

23 (C) Successful completion of a supervised experience requirement.
24 The experience requirement consists of a minimum of four thousand hours
25 of experience, of which one thousand hours must be direct client
26 contact, over a three-year period ((supervised)). The supervision
27 requirement includes at least one hundred thirty hours of supervision
28 by a licensed independent clinical social worker who ((has)) is an
29 approved supervisor or an equally qualified licensed mental health
30 practitioner who is an approved supervisor. The approved supervisor
31 must have been licensed ((or certified)) for at least ((five)) two
32 years and ((who has)) had at least one year of experience in
33 supervising the clinical social work practice of others((, with
34 supervision of at least one hundred thirty hours by a licensed mental
35 health practitioner)). Of the ((total supervision,)) required one
36 hundred thirty hours of supervision by an approved supervisor, at least
37 seventy hours must be with an independent clinical social worker who is
38 an approved supervisor meeting the qualifications under this subsection

1 (1)(a)(ii)(C); the other sixty hours may be with an equally qualified
2 licensed mental health practitioner who is an approved supervisor. Of
3 the required one hundred thirty hours of supervision by an approved
4 supervisor, at least sixty hours must be in one-to-one supervision and
5 seventy hours may be in one-to-one supervision or group supervision.
6 Distance supervision is limited to sixty supervision hours; and

7 (D) Successful completion of continuing education requirements of
8 thirty-six hours, with six in professional ethics.

9 (b) Licensed mental health counselor:

10 (i) Graduation from a master's or doctoral level educational
11 program in mental health counseling or a related discipline from a
12 college or university approved by the secretary based upon nationally
13 recognized standards;

14 (ii) Successful completion of an approved examination;

15 (iii) Successful completion of a supervised experience requirement.
16 The experience requirement consists of a minimum of thirty-six months
17 full-time counseling or three thousand hours of postgraduate mental
18 health counseling under the supervision of a qualified licensed mental
19 health counselor or equally qualified licensed mental health
20 practitioner, in an approved setting. The three thousand hours of
21 required experience includes a minimum of one hundred hours spent in
22 immediate supervision with the qualified licensed mental health
23 counselor, and includes a minimum of one thousand two hundred hours of
24 direct counseling with individuals, couples, families, or groups; and

25 (iv) Successful completion of continuing education requirements of
26 thirty-six hours, with six in professional ethics.

27 (c) Licensed marriage and family therapist:

28 (i) Graduation from a master's degree or doctoral degree
29 educational program in marriage and family therapy or graduation from
30 an educational program in an allied field equivalent to a master's
31 degree or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy approved by
32 the secretary based upon nationally recognized standards;

33 (ii) Successful passage of an approved examination;

34 (iii) Successful completion of a supervised experience requirement.
35 The experience requirement consists of a minimum of two calendar years
36 of full-time marriage and family therapy. Of the total supervision,
37 one hundred hours must be with a licensed marriage and family therapist

1 with at least five years' clinical experience; the other one hundred
2 hours may be with an equally qualified licensed mental health
3 practitioner. Total experience requirements include:

4 (A) A minimum of three thousand hours of experience, one thousand
5 hours of which must be direct client contact; at least five hundred
6 hours must be gained in diagnosing and treating couples and families;
7 plus

8 (B) At least two hundred hours of qualified supervision with a
9 supervisor. At least one hundred of the two hundred hours must be one-
10 on-one supervision, and the remaining hours may be in one-on-one or
11 group supervision.

12 Applicants who have completed a master's program accredited by the
13 commission on accreditation for marriage and family therapy education
14 of the American association for marriage and family therapy may be
15 credited with five hundred hours of direct client contact and one
16 hundred hours of formal meetings with an approved supervisor; and

17 (iv) Successful completion of continuing education requirements of
18 thirty-six hours, with six in professional ethics.

19 (2) The department shall establish by rule what constitutes
20 adequate proof of meeting the criteria.

21 (3) In addition, applicants shall be subject to the grounds for
22 denial of a license or issuance of a conditional license under chapter
23 18.130 RCW.

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