

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE  
GEORGIA COMPOSITE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS,  
SOCIAL WORKERS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS  
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 135, RULE 5-.04 CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS  
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

RULE 135-5-.04 Clinical Social Workers

**TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists (hereinafter “Board”) proposes an amendment to Rule 135-5-.04 Clinical Social Workers (herein after “proposed rule”).

This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule, and a synopsis of the proposed rule are being sent to all persons who have requested, in writing, to be included on a notification list. This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule, and a synopsis of the proposed rule may also be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. The documents will also be available for review on the Board’s website at <https://sos.ga.gov/board-professional-counselors-social-workers-and-marriage-family-therapists>. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Board office at (404) 424-9966.

The public will have an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendment at a public hearing to be held at **10:15 a.m., Friday, August 11, 2023** in the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. If the Board office remains closed due to the public health emergency (COVID-19), the hearing will be held via teleconference. Please see the Board’s website for information on how to join the meeting via teleconference.

Interested parties affected by the rule may submit written comments to the Board no later than the close of business on **Friday, August 4, 2023**. Written comments must be legible, signed, contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number, email address), and addressed to Gabriel Sterling, Interim Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

During the public hearing, anyone may present data, make a statement, comment, or offer a viewpoint or argument, whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements will be limited to five (5) minutes per person.

The Board voted to post this Notice of Intent at its meeting on **June 9, 2023**. The Board also voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule amendment does not impose an excessive regulatory cost on any licensee, and any cost to comply with the proposed rule amendment cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-10A-3, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-6, 43-10A-8, and 43-10A-12. Additionally, the Board voted that it was neither legal nor feasible in meeting the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-10A-3, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-6, 43-10A-8, and 43-10A-12 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of Social Work.

According to the Department of Law of the State of Georgia, the Georgia Composite Board Of Professional Counselors, Social Workers And Marriage And Family Therapists has the authority to adopt proposed Rule 135-5-.04 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-10A-3, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-6, 43-10A-8, and 43-10A-12.

For further information, contact the Board office at (404) 424-9966.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gabriel Sterling  
Interim Division Director  
Professional Licensing Boards Division

Posted: \_\_\_\_\_

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE  
GEORGIA COMPOSITE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS, SOCIAL  
WORKERS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS  
CHAPTER 135, RULE 5-.04 CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the proposed adoption is to amend the rule to read more fluently, re-define supervisor credentials, allow continuing education hours to count for one year work experience and provide for additional training hours before taking the exam a fourth or more times.

**Rule 135-5-.04. Clinical Social Workers**

(1) **The Practice of Clinical Social Work.** A Licensed Clinical Social Worker may practice all authorized services of licensed master's social workers and may provide: supervision; direction; psychosocial evaluation through data collection and analyses to determine the nature of an individual's mental, cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and interpersonal problems or conditions; counseling, and psychotherapy to individuals, marriages, couples, families and groups; interpretation of the psychosocial dynamics of a situation and recommend and implement a course of action to individuals, marriages, couples, families, or groups. This practice may occur in such settings as private practice, family service and counseling agencies, health care facilities and schools and practitioners may provide direct evaluation, casework, social work advocacy, education, training, prevention and intervention services in situations threatened or affected by social, intrapersonal stress, interpersonal stress or health impairment.

(2) ~~Licensure Process (Please refer to the section entitled "Definitions" for clarification of terms).~~

**Requirements for Licensure as a Clinical Social Worker**

(a) **Education** The applicant must have earned a master's degree in Social Work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education in which candidacy, conditional or accreditation status was in effect when the degree was awarded.

(b) **Experience – Master's Degree in Social Work.** The applicant with a master's degree must have completed three (3) years' full-time directed work experience concurrent with supervision, as defined below, in the practice of social work following granting of the master's degree. If not employed full-time (40 hours per week), no less than 20 hours per week will be accepted by the Board. Of the three years of directed experience, only the first two (2) years must be under clinical supervision.

~~1. The applicant must present evidence of having practiced clinical social work for a minimum of 3000 hours post social work master's degree supervised experience acquired over a period of no less than 36 months or more than 108 months, the first 2000 hours of experience must be under supervision and direction in the practice of clinical social work. Applicant must submit documentation of having acquired 120 hours of supervision during this time, no more than 50% of which may be group supervision and at least 50% must~~

~~be provided by a licensed clinical social worker who meets requirements to be a duly qualified supervisor.~~

1. The applicant must present evidence of a minimum of 3000 hours of directed experience in the practice of clinical social work acquired over a period of **no less than 36 months and no more than 60 months.** **Effective October 1, 2024,** the applicant must present evidence of a minimum of 3000 hours of directed experience in the practice of clinical social work acquired over a period of no less than 36 months and no more than 60 months.

(i) The first 2000 hours/24 months of directed experience must be under concurrent supervision and direction in the practice of clinical social work.

(ii) The final 1000 hours/12 months of experience shall have occurred within two years immediately preceding application for licensure as a clinical social worker, **or,**

(iii) Applicants not meeting (ii) above, specifically, the requirement that the final year of experience occur within the two (2) years preceding the application for licensure, shall have met the following continuing education requirement established by the board for clinical social work during the year immediately preceding application:

(I) The applicant shall submit documentation of 17 ½ clock hours of continuing education as follows: 2.5 hours in ethics, 10 core hours and 5 related hours pursuant to rule 135-9-.01.

(II) These continuing education hours may be used for the first renewal of the issued license pursuant to rule 135-9-.01.

2. Applicant must also submit documentation of having acquired 100 hours of concurrent supervision during this time, no more than 50% of which may be group supervision and at least 50% must be provided by a licensed clinical social worker who meets requirements to be a supervisor as defined below.

(i) The acquired 100 hours of supervision shall be concurrent with the directed work experience, and

(ii) Shall have been obtained in no less than twenty-four (24) months.

~~2.~~ 3. Both supervisors and supervisees are each required to maintain a contemporaneous record of the date, duration, type (individual, ~~paired~~ or group), and a brief summary of the pertinent activity for each supervision session to be submitted to the Board upon request. If there are any discrepancies in hours, contemporaneous documentation of supervision will be requested. Contemporaneous logs must be signed, with the signature notarized, and dated by the supervisor.

4. Each calendar day/month shall be counted only one time.

(c) **Experience – Master’s Degree in Social Work and a Doctoral Degree.** An applicant who holds a master's degree in social work and holds a doctoral degree in Professional Counseling; Social Work; Marriage and Family Therapy; Medicine; Psychiatric Nursing; Applied Psychology; Pastoral Counseling; or Applied Child and Family Development ~~and whose degree program included a supervised clinical internship~~ may substitute this for one year of directed experience, and must also present evidence of:

~~1. An individual who holds a master's degree in Social Work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and holds a doctoral degree in Professional Counseling; Social Work; Marriage and Family Therapy; Medicine, Psychiatric Nursing; Applied Psychology; Pastoral Counseling; or Applied Child and Family Development must also present evidence of two years full time supervised post master's degree experience (defined as 2000 hours) under direction in the practice of Clinical Social Work obtained in no less than 24 months or no more than 72 months. Such applicant must also submit evidence of 80 hours of supervision provided by a duly qualified supervisor, 50% of which may be group supervision. Fifty percent of the supervision must be provided by a licensed Clinical Social Worker.~~

1. A minimum of 2000 hours of directed experience in the practice of clinical social work acquired over a period of **no less than 24 months and no more than 72 months.** If not employed full-time (40 hours per week), no less than 20 hours per week will be accepted by the Board. **Effective October 1, 2024,** the applicant must present evidence of a minimum of 2000 hours of directed experience in the practice of clinical social work acquired over a period of no less than 24 months and no more than 60 months.

(i) The first 1000 hours/12 months of directed experience must be under concurrent supervision and direction in the practice of social work.

(ii) The final 1000 hours/12 months of directed experience shall have occurred within two years immediately preceding the application for licensure as a clinical social worker, or

(iii) Applicants not meeting the requirements in (ii) above, shall have met the following continuing education requirement established by the board for clinical social work during the year immediately preceding application:

(I) The applicant shall submit documentation of 17 ½ clock hours of continuing education: 2.5 hours in ethics, 10 core hours and 5 related hours pursuant to Rule 135-9-.01.

(II) These continuing education hours may be used for the first renewal of the issued license pursuant to Rule 135-9-.01.

2. Applicants must also submit documentation of having acquired 60 hours of supervision provided by a supervisor as defined below, 50% of which may be group supervision and at least 50% of the supervision must be provided by a licensed clinical social worker.

(i) The acquired 60 hours of supervision shall have been obtained in no less than twenty-four (24) months.

~~2. 3.~~ Both supervisors and supervisees are each required to maintain a contemporaneous record of the date, duration, type (individual, ~~paired~~, or group), and a brief summary of the pertinent activity for each supervision session to be submitted to the Board upon request. If there are any discrepancies in hours, contemporaneous documentation of supervision will be requested.

Contemporaneous logs must be signed, with the signature notarized, and dated by the supervisor.

3. Each calendar day/month shall be counted only one time.

~~(3) **Extension.** The Board, in its sole discretion, may extend the period of time in which the applicant must have acquired supervision and/or experience with adequate showing of hardship or good cause.~~

~~(4) **Examination.** After having completed the above experience requirements the applicant must submit an application to the board for licensure and upon approval the applicant must take the first scheduled examination for which he/she qualifies, unless good cause is shown for postponement, in which case the applicant shall take the next scheduled examination. [Upon receipt of notification that the applicant has passed the Clinical Social Work licensing examination, the Board will issue a Clinical Social Work license.] If the applicant fails the examination, the Board shall require that the applicant's work remain supervised until the applicant has taken and passed the examination. The exam must be taken at the next scheduled exam date unless good cause is shown for postponement. The exam may be taken a total of three times. An applicant who fails the examination three times, applicant shall not engage in the private practice of counseling or psychotherapy in the State of Georgia until such time as he/she has taken and passed the examination, absent a statutory exemption.~~

(3) **Examination.**

(a) Upon approval by the Board of an application for a clinical social worker's license, the licensee must then take the required examination. Upon receipt of notification that the licensee has passed the Clinical Social Work licensing examination, and after meeting all requirements as prescribed in O.C.G.A. 43-10A-8 and 43-10A-12, the Board may issue a Clinical Social Work license.

(b) If the licensee fails the examination, the Board shall require the applicant to remain under direction and supervision until the applicant has taken and passed the examination.

1. The exam must be passed within the one-year approval period by the Board. If the examination has not been passed within the one-year period, to obtain approval to test again, a new application, fee and all supporting documents including the documentation of current, ongoing supervision and direction must be submitted.

2. If the applicant fails the examination three or more times, the applicant shall not engage in independent or private practice of counseling or psychotherapeutic techniques in the State of Georgia until such time as the applicant has taken and passed the clinical social work examination.

3. To take the clinical social work exam a fourth or more time, an ASWB approved licensure examination preparation course, or other license preparation course approved by the Board, is required for each subsequent exam. Verification of completion of course must be submitted, along with the new application as defined above in #1, to the Board for approval prior to registering for a subsequent exam.

**(§ 4) Definitions.**

(a) **Social work** means that specialty which helps individuals, marriages, families, couples, groups, or communities to enhance or restore their capacity for functioning: by assisting in the obtaining or improving of tangible social and health services; by providing psychosocial evaluations, in-depth analyses and diagnoses of the nature and status of emotional, cognitive, mental, behavioral, and interpersonal problems or conditions; and by counseling and psychotherapeutic techniques, casework, social work advocacy, psychotherapy, and treatment in a variety of settings which include but are not limited to mental and physical health facilities, child and family service agencies, or private practice.

(b) A **licensed clinical social** worker may practice all authorized services of licensed master's social workers, and in addition, may provide:

1. Clinical supervision as an approved supervisor if meeting the requirements in 135-5-.04(4)(f)(g) below.

2. Direction as an approved director if meeting the requirements in 135-5-.04(4) (c)(d)(e) below.

3. Psychosocial evaluation through data collection and analyses to diagnose the nature of an individual's mental, cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and interpersonal problems or conditions.

4. Counseling, and psychotherapeutic techniques to individuals, marriages, couples, families, and groups.

5. Interpretation of the psychosocial dynamics of a situation and recommend and implement a course of action to individuals, marriages, couples, families, or groups.

6. This practice may occur in such settings as private practice, family service and counseling agencies, health care facilities and schools and may provide direct evaluation, casework, social work advocacy, education, training, prevention and intervention services in situations threatened or affected by social, intrapersonal stress, interpersonal stress or health impairment.

(a c) **Direction** means the ongoing administrative oversight by an employer or superior of a Social Worker. The person providing direction shall be responsible for assuring the quality of the services rendered by the practitioner and shall ensure that qualified supervision or intervention occurs in situations which require expertise beyond that of the practitioner.

(b d) **Director** means the person who provides direction and who is either the employer of the person who receives direction or is the superior in the employment chain of command to the person who receives direction.

1. Directors shall not provide direction to family members. In addition, directors shall not provide direction for any practitioner when that practitioner or any of that practitioner's family members have an ownership interest in, operate, or manage the business entity in which the director is employed or where the practitioner provides professional social work services.

2. Family member means a member of a person's immediate or extended family, by direct descent or by marriage, including intimate or cohabitation relationships.

(e e) **Directed Experience** in the practice of Clinical Social Work means time spent under direction engaging in the activities defined as Clinical Social Work in 135-5-.04(4)(a) above. Directed experience means at least a minimum of twenty (20) hours per week -under direction. If not employed full-time (40 hours per week), no less than 20 hours per week will be accepted by the Board.

~~(d) Supervision means the direct clinical review, for the purpose of training or teaching, by a supervisor of a Social Worker's interaction with clients. The purpose of supervision shall be to promote the development of the practitioner's clinical skills. Supervision may include without being limited to, the review of case presentations, audiotapes, videotapes and direct observation.~~

(f) **Supervision** means an interactive professional relationship between an approved supervisor and a social worker whereby an approved supervisor provides clinical evaluation and direction over the social worker's practice of social work and promotes

continued development of the social workers knowledge, skills, and abilities to engage in the practice of social work in an ethical and competent manner. Supervision may include, without being limited to, the clinical review of case presentations, audiotapes, videotapes and direct observation. For supervision to enable the applicant to qualify for Clinical Social Work licensure, it must be concurrent with the directed work experience.

1. Individual Supervision means one supervisor meeting with a maximum of two supervisees.
2. Group Supervision means one supervisor meeting with a maximum of six supervisees.

~~(e) Supervisor means a person who is licensed as a Clinical Social Worker, Professional Counselor, Marriage and Family Therapist, Psychologist, or Psychiatrist and must have practiced in their specialty for at least 2000 clock hours over a minimum of 2 years following licensure.~~

(g) **Supervisor** means the individual who promotes the development of the social worker's clinical skills. While providing a supervisee with support, education, and administrative assistance in developing clinical competence, a supervisor must maintain paramount focus on the quality of services that clients are receiving from licensees. Clinical Social Workers providing supervision must have:

1. Practiced in their specialty for at least 2000 clock hours over a minimum of 2 years following licensure. **Effective October 1, 2024** Clinical Social Workers providing supervision must have practiced in their specialty for at least 3000 clock hours over a minimum of three (3) years following licensure.
2. A supervisor may also be a licensed professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, psychologist, or psychiatrist who has met the requirements to be considered an approved supervisor in their respective discipline.
3. Supervisors shall not provide supervision to family members. In addition, supervisors shall not provide supervision for any practitioner when that practitioner, or any of that practitioner's family members have, an ownership interest in, operate, or manage the business entity where the supervisor is employed or where the practitioner provides professional social work services.
4. Family member means a member of a person's immediate or extended family, by direct descent or by marriage, including intimate or cohabitation relationships

**(h) Private Practice** means the provision of clinical social work services by a licensed Clinical Social Worker who assumes responsibility and accountability for the nature and quality of the services provided to the client in exchange for direct payment or third-party reimbursement.

**(i) Independent Practice** means practice of social work outside of an organized setting, such as a social, medical, or governmental agency, in which the social worker assumes responsibility and accountability for services provided.

**Statutory Authority is found in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-10A-3, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-6, 43-10A-8, and 43-10A-12.**

**RULES**  
**OF**  
**THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS,**  
**SOCIAL WORKERS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS**  
**CHAPTER 135-5 REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE**  
**RULE 135-5-.03 MASTER SOCIAL WORKERS**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the proposed adoption is to amend the rule to read more fluently, require continuing education hours to re-take the national licensure exam a fourth or more time, define supervisor credentials.

**Rule 135-5-.04. Clinical Social Workers**

(1) **The Practice of Clinical Social Work**. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker may practice all authorized services of licensed master's social workers and may provide: supervision; direction; psychosocial evaluation through data collection and analyses to determine the nature of an individual's mental, cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and interpersonal problems or conditions; counseling, and psychotherapy to individuals, marriages, couples, families and groups; interpretation of the psychosocial dynamics of a situation and recommend and implement a course of action to individuals, marriages, couples, families, or groups. This practice may occur in such settings as private practice, family service and counseling agencies, health care facilities and schools and practitioners may provide direct evaluation, casework, social work advocacy, education, training, prevention and intervention services in situations threatened or affected by social, intrapersonal stress, interpersonal stress or health impairment.

(2) **Requirements for Licensure as a Clinical Social Worker**

(a) **Education** The applicant must have earned a master's degree in Social Work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education in which candidacy, conditional or accreditation status was in effect when the degree was awarded.

(b) **Experience – Master's Degree in Social Work**. The applicant with a master's degree must have completed three (3) years' full-time directed work experience concurrent with supervision, as defined below, in the practice of social work following granting of the master's degree. If not employed full-time (40 hours per week), no less than 20 hours per week will be accepted by the Board. Of the three years of directed experience, only the first two (2) years must be under clinical supervision.

1. The applicant must present evidence of a minimum of 3000 hours of directed experience in the practice of clinical social work acquired over a period of **no less** than 36 months and no more than 60 months. **Effective**

**October 1, 2024**, the applicant must present evidence of a minimum of 3000 hours of directed experience in the practice of clinical social work acquired over a period of no less than 36 months and no more than 60 months.

(i) The first 2000 hours/24 months of directed experience must be under concurrent supervision and direction in the practice of clinical social work.

(ii) The final 1000 hours/12 months of experience shall have occurred within two years immediately preceding application for licensure as a clinical social worker, **or**,

(iii) Applicants not meeting (ii) above, specifically, the requirement that the final year of experience occur within the two (2) years preceding the application for licensure, shall have met the following continuing education requirement established by the board for clinical social work during the year immediately preceding application:

(I) The applicant shall submit documentation of 17 ½ clock hours of continuing education as follows: 2.5 hours in ethics, 10 core hours and 5 related hours pursuant to rule 135-9-.01.

(II) These continuing education hours may be used for the first renewal of the issued license pursuant to rule 135-9-.01.

2. Applicant must also submit documentation of having acquired 100 hours of concurrent supervision during this time, no more than 50% of which may be group supervision and at least 50% must be provided by a licensed clinical social worker who meets requirements to be a supervisor as defined below.

(i) The acquired 100 hours of supervision shall be concurrent with the directed work experience, and

(ii) Shall have been obtained in no less than twenty-four (24) months.

3. Both supervisors and supervisees are each required to maintain a contemporaneous record of the date, duration, type (individual or group), and a brief summary of the pertinent activity for each supervision session to be submitted to the Board upon request. If there are any discrepancies in hours, contemporaneous documentation of supervision will be requested. Contemporaneous logs must be signed, with the signature notarized, and dated by the supervisor.

4. Each calendar day/month shall be counted only one time.

(c) **Experience – Master’s Degree in Social Work and a Doctoral Degree.** An applicant who holds a master's degree in social work and holds a doctoral degree in Professional Counseling; Social Work; Marriage and Family Therapy; Medicine; Psychiatric Nursing; Applied Psychology; Pastoral Counseling; or Applied Child and

Family Development may substitute this for one year of directed experience, and must also present evidence of:

1. A minimum of 2000 hours of directed experience in the practice of clinical social work acquired over a period of **no less** than 24 months and no more than 72 months. If not employed full-time (40 hours per week), no less than 20 hours per week will be accepted by the Board. Effective **October 1, 2024**, the applicant must present evidence of a minimum of 2000 hours of directed experience in the practice of clinical social work acquired over a period of no less than 24 months and no more than 60 months.

(i) The first 1000 hours/12 months of directed experience must be under concurrent supervision and direction in the practice of social work.

(ii) The final 1000 hours/12 months of directed experience shall have occurred within two years immediately preceding the application for licensure as a clinical social worker, or

(iii) Applicants not meeting the requirements in (ii) above, shall have met the following continuing education requirement established by the board for clinical social work during the year immediately preceding application:

(I) The applicant shall submit documentation of 17 ½ clock hours of continuing education: 2.5 hours in ethics, 10 core hours and 5 related hours pursuant to Rule 135-9-.01.

(II) These continuing education hours may be used for the first renewal of the issued license pursuant to Rule 135-9-.01.

2. Applicants must also submit documentation of having acquired 60 hours of supervision provided by a supervisor as defined below, 50% of which may be group supervision and at least 50% of the supervision must be provided by a licensed clinical social worker.

(i) The acquired 60 hours of supervision shall have been obtained in no less than twenty-four (24) months.

3. Both supervisors and supervisees are each required to maintain a contemporaneous record of the date, duration, type (individual or group), and a brief summary of the pertinent activity for each supervision session to be submitted to the Board upon request. If there are any discrepancies in hours, contemporaneous documentation of supervision will be requested. Contemporaneous logs must be signed, with the signature notarized, and dated by the supervisor.

3. Each calendar day/month shall be counted only one time.

**(3) Examination.**

(a) Upon approval by the Board of an application for a clinical social worker's license, the licensee must then take the required examination. Upon receipt of notification that the licensee has passed the Clinical Social Work licensing examination, and after meeting all requirements as prescribed in O.C.G.A. 43-10A-8 and 43-10A-12, the Board may issue a Clinical Social Work license.

(b) If the licensee fails the examination, the Board shall require the applicant to remain under direction and supervision until the applicant has taken and passed the examination.

1. The exam must be passed within the one-year approval period by the Board. If the examination has not been passed within the one-year period, to obtain approval to test again, a new application, fee and all supporting documents including the documentation of current, ongoing supervision and direction must be submitted.

2. If the applicant fails the examination three or more times, the applicant shall not engage in independent or private practice of counseling or psychotherapeutic techniques in the State of Georgia until such time as the applicant has taken and passed the clinical social work examination.

3. To take the clinical social work exam a fourth or more time, an ASWB approved licensure examination preparation course, or other license preparation course approved by the Board, is required for each subsequent exam. Verification of completion of course must be submitted, along with the new application as defined above in #1, to the Board for approval prior to registering for a subsequent exam.

**(4) Definitions.**

(a) **Social work** means that specialty which helps individuals, marriages, families, couples, groups, or communities to enhance or restore their capacity for functioning: by assisting in the obtaining or improving of tangible social and health services; by providing psychosocial evaluations, in-depth analyses and diagnoses of the nature and status of emotional, cognitive, mental, behavioral, and interpersonal problems or conditions; and by counseling and psychotherapeutic techniques, casework, social work advocacy, psychotherapy, and treatment in a variety of settings which include but are not limited to mental and physical health facilities, child and family service agencies, or private practice.

(b) A **licensed clinical social** worker may practice all authorized services of licensed master's social workers, and in addition, may provide:

1. Clinical supervision as an approved supervisor if meeting the requirements in 135-5-.04(4)(f)(g) below.

2. Direction as an approved director if meeting the requirements in 135-5-.04(4) (c)(d)(e) below.

3. Psychosocial evaluation through data collection and analyses to diagnose the nature of an individual's mental, cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and interpersonal problems or conditions.

4. Counseling, and psychotherapeutic techniques to individuals, marriages, couples, families, and groups.

5. Interpretation of the psychosocial dynamics of a situation and recommend and implement a course of action to individuals, marriages, couples, families, or groups.

6. This practice may occur in such settings as private practice, family service and counseling agencies, health care facilities and schools and may provide direct evaluation, casework, social work advocacy, education, training, prevention and intervention services in situations threatened or affected by social, intrapersonal stress, interpersonal stress or health impairment.

(c) **Direction** means the ongoing administrative oversight by an employer or superior of a Social Worker. The person providing direction shall be responsible for assuring the quality of the services rendered by the practitioner and shall ensure that qualified supervision or intervention occurs in situations which require expertise beyond that of the practitioner.

(d) **Director** means the person who provides direction and who is either the employer of the person who receives direction or is the superior in the employment chain of command to the person who receives direction.

1. Directors shall not provide direction to family members. In addition, directors shall not provide direction for any practitioner when that practitioner or any of that practitioner's family members have an ownership interest in, operate, or manage the business entity in which the director is employed or where the practitioner provides professional social work services.

2. Family member means a member of a person's immediate or extended family, by direct descent or by marriage, including intimate or cohabitation relationships.

(e) **Directed Experience** in the practice of Clinical Social Work means time spent under direction engaging in the activities defined as Clinical Social Work in 135-5-.04(4)(a) above. Directed experience means at least a minimum of twenty (20) hours per week -under direction. If not employed full-time (40 hours per week), no less than 20 hours per week will be accepted by the Board.

(f) **Supervision** means an interactive professional relationship between an approved supervisor and a social worker whereby an approved supervisor provides clinical

evaluation and direction over the social worker's practice of social work and promotes continued development of the social workers knowledge, skills, and abilities to engage in the practice of social work in an ethical and competent manner. Supervision may include, without being limited to, the clinical review of case presentations, audiotapes, videotapes and direct observation. For supervision to enable the applicant to qualify for Clinical Social Work licensure, it must be concurrent with the directed work experience.

1. Individual Supervision means one supervisor meeting with a maximum of two supervisees.
2. Group Supervision means one supervisor meeting with a maximum of six supervisees.

(g) **Supervisor** means the individual who promotes the development of the social worker's clinical skills. While providing a supervisee with support, education, and administrative assistance in developing clinical competence, a supervisor must maintain paramount focus on the quality of services that clients are receiving from licensees. Clinical Social Workers providing supervision must have:

1. Practiced in their specialty for at least 2000 clock hours over a minimum of 2 years following licensure. **Effective October 1, 2024** Clinical Social Workers providing supervision must have practiced in their specialty for at least 3000 clock hours over a minimum of three (3) years following licensure.
2. A supervisor may also be a licensed professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, psychologist, or psychiatrist who has met the requirements to be considered an approved supervisor in their respective discipline.
3. Supervisors shall not provide supervision to family members. In addition, supervisors shall not provide supervision for any practitioner when that practitioner, or any of that practitioner's family members have, an ownership interest in, operate, or manage the business entity where the supervisor is employed or where the practitioner provides professional social work services.
4. Family member means a member of a person's immediate or extended family, by direct descent or by marriage, including intimate or cohabitation relationships

(h) **Private Practice** means the provision of clinical social work services by a licensed Clinical Social Worker who assumes responsibility and accountability for the nature and quality of the services provided to the client in exchange for direct payment or third-party reimbursement.

(i) **Independent Practice** means practice of social work outside of an organized setting, such as a social, medical, or governmental agency, in which the social worker assumes responsibility and accountability for services provided.

**Statutory Authority is found in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-10A-3, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-6, 43-10A-8, and 43-10A-12.**