

State Board of Clinical Social Workers

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Rule Changes Impact CE Reporting!

At their public meeting on December 13, 2005, the Board adopted most of the changes to the Oregon Administrative Rule, Chapter 877, which had been previously proposed. The Board tabled the sections relating to the national data bank fingerprint check for further review.

In addition to moving to a birth-month renewal process and changing the fees for annual renewal of Licenses and Certificates, the biggest changes affected the Continuing Education (CE) requirements for Licensed Clinical Social Workers. The areas of greatest change are described in one paragraph of the Rule, OAR 877-025-0005(5). That paragraph states:

The Board may allow up to 10 hours of credit per reporting period for continuing education activities not approved by a mental health professional body. The activities must be clinical in nature and relevant to the licensee's social work practice. The licensee must **apply for Board acceptance at least 90 days prior to renewal of their License** in the continuing education reporting year. Application for approval shall include date(s) of the event, title of the event (and a brief description of the course), name and credentials of the presenter(s), number of continuing education units requested, and a copy of the certificate of completion. (Highlights added.)

The following articles explain the major changes highlighted above and what impact they will have as you meet your Continuing Education requirements in the future.

Only 10 Hours!?!

That's right, only 10 hours! The recently adopted Rules **limit the number of non-credentialed CE coursework hours that a licensee can use to meet their 40 hour requirement.**

Currently, some licensees used non-credentialed coursework to satisfy most or even all of their CE needs for a reporting period. Processing these requests takes extra time by both Board members and the staff. Reviewing those requests also incurs additional expense for the Board.

From now on, you can only submit a total of 10 non-credentialed CE coursework hours in fulfillment of your 40-hour requirement every two years. Please be sure that at least 30 of the hours on your report were accrued in a setting credentialed by a body accepted by the Board. Remember that 20 of those 30 hours can be accumulated in a Board-approved study group setting.



90 Days!?!

Right again! If you intend to request Board approval of some non-credentialed CE hours (see article on front page about the 10 hour limit!) **you must submit that request at least 90 days prior to the renewal of your License, which will occur in your birth month!**

With this change in the Rule, the Board is trying to save you money! Frequently it takes two or three Board meetings (that means two or three months) for the Board's CE Committee to process a request to accept non-credentialed courses. In a majority of cases, the Committee needs to get additional information about the course from what was submitted with the original request. By applying at least 90 days prior to your renewal month, hopefully you will know whether or not the Board will accept those hours prior to renewing your License and you won't be charged a late fee.

Obviously, this Rule applies to all LCSWs. But it's going to immediately impact those whose Licenses end in an even number and who were born in July. If you wish to request Board approval of a non-credentialed CE course, you need to have that request into the Board office no later than April 1, 2006.

Arrrghghgh!

The rest of you with a License ending in an even number and whose birth month is sometime between August and December, do the math and count back three months from the beginning of your birth month. If you need to request approval for non-credentialed CE coursework, the 90-day deadline will be here soon.

All licensees who seek Board acceptance of up to ten (10) non-accredited CE coursework need to submit the following information, at least 90 days prior to renewal:

- Date and title of training.
- Name and credentials of presenter.
- Outline of workshop material with goals and objectives which gives enough information to show that the training was clinical in nature and relevant to your work or practice.

Submitting the above information will facilitate the Board's ability to process your request as quickly as possible. Your cooperation will save both you, the Board, and the staff time, money and hassle.

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