

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world, with 132,000 members. NASW works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards, and to advance sound social policies. www.socialworkers.org

Changes to the Michigan Social Work General Rules January 2017

In late 2016, the General Rules for Michigan social workers were updated by the authority of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), under the guidance of the Attorney General's office and the Michigan Board of Social Work. These were the first updates since the initial rules were written in 2005 and include changes that impact all social workers seeking and renewing licenses. Below are some of the more significant changes. The updated General Rules document can be found at http://w3.lara.state.mi.us/orr/Files/AdminCode/1497_2014-157LR_AdminCode.pdf. Question can be directed to LARA at 517-373-1820.

When will the new rules impact me?

The new rules took effect on December 22, 2016. Changes do not impact licensed social workers until their first renewal after the effective date.

Supervision Requirements for Limited Licensed Social Workers

Old Rules (R 338.2908f, (3)c, d)

- The applicant shall meet individually and in person with his or her supervisor, or in a group modality that includes individual contact.
- Supervisory review shall be conducted for at least 4 hours per month with at least 1 hour being conducted between the applicant and the supervisor on an individual basis.

New Rules (R 338.2949, b)

- The applicant shall meet with her or her supervisor using any of the following methods:
 - Individually and in person.
 - Individually using a telecommunications method that provides for live and simultaneous contact.
 - In a group modality that provides for 50% of the supervision to include individual contact.
- Supervisory review shall be conducted for at least 4 hours per month with at least 2 hours being individual.

Adding a Second Master's Designation

Old Rules (R 338.2908, 4)

- An applicant for licensure may add the second designation by completing an additional 2,000 hours of post-degree social work experience, with at least 50 hours of supervisory review.

New Rules (R 338.2949 (2)b)

- In addition to the 2,000 hours of post-degree social work experience, with at least 50 hours of supervisory review, an applicant may add a second master's level social work designation by completing and passing the appropriate examination for that designation.

Changes to the Michigan Social Work General Rules

Continuing Education - Pain Management

Old Rules (R 338.2908m)

- 1 continuing education contact hour in each renewal period shall be in pain and pain symptom management. Continuing education in pain and pain symptom management may include, but are not limited to, courses in behavior management, psychology of pain, behavior modification, and stress management.

New Rules (R 338.2963 and Rule 61 (1))

- 2 continuing education contact hours in each renewal period shall be in pain and pain symptom management which may include, but are not limited to, courses in behavior management, psychology of pain, behavior modification, and stress management.

Continuing Education - Alternative Learning

Old Rules (R 338.2908n (h))

- A maximum of 10 continuing education contact hours may be earned for completion of online computer programs pertaining to social work.

New Rules (R 338.2963 and Rule 63 (1))

- One half of the required continuing education contact hours must be completed in-person using live, synchronous contact. The remaining contact hours may be completed in any other approved format.

Human Trafficking Training

R 338.2929. Rule 29

- ALL social workers seeking licensure (including a limited license) shall complete training in identifying victims of human trafficking. The training does not need to be continuing education.
- Training needs to be completed prior to the license renewal.
- This is a one-time only training requirement.

Rules for Relicensure/Lapsed Licenses

Old Rules (R 338.2908m)

- No rules written about the process for relicensure, except for immediate renewals (up to one year being lapsed).

New Rules (R 338.2945 and R 338.2955)

- Set clarifying standards for 0-3 years lapsed, 3-7 years lapsed, and 7+ years lapsed.

	Lapsed 0-3 years	Lapsed more than 3, but less than 7 years	Lapsed more than 7 years
Application & Fee	✓	✓	✓
Continuing Education (45 hours)	✓	✓	✓
1000 hours of practice under supervision by LMSW		✓	✓
Passage of ASWB exam			✓