

## Chapter SFC 4

### SUPERVISED PRE-CERTIFICATION SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

SFC 4.01 Supervised pre-certification social work practice.

**Note:** Chapter SFC 4 was created as an emergency rule effective April 26, 1993.

**SFC 4.01 Supervised pre-certification social work practice.** (1) Supervision of pre-certification practice of social work under s. 457.08 (3) (c) and (4) (c), Stats., shall include the direction of social work practice in face-to-face individual or group sessions of at least one hour duration during each week of supervised practice of social work. Such supervision may be exercised by a person other than an employment supervisor.

**Note:** The one hour per week supervision requirement may be averaged out over the course of the period of supervision. The supervisor may exercise discretion as to the frequency, duration, and intensity of the supervision sessions to meet an average of one hour supervised session per week during the supervision period.

(a) The person supervising the pre-certification practice of social work shall have adequate training, knowledge and skill to competently supervise any social work service that a social worker undertakes. Supervision of the professional practice of social work in the applied skills of the profession may be exercised by a person other than an employment supervisor. The supervisor may not permit a supervisee to engage in any social work practice that the supervisor cannot competently supervise. All supervisors shall be legally and ethically responsible for the activities of the social worker supervisee. Supervisors shall be available or make appropriate provision for emergency consultation and intervention. Supervisors shall be able to interrupt or stop the supervisee from practicing in given cases, or recommend to the supervisee's employer that the employer interrupt or stop the supervisee from practicing in given cases, and to terminate the supervised relationship if necessary.

(b) After May 31, 1995, supervision may be exercised by either:

1. A social worker certified at least at the level of the social worker being supervised, if the supervising social worker has a master's or doctoral degree in social work and is qualified to practice without supervision, or

2. A psychologist licensed under ch. 455, Stats., or a psychiatrist licensed under ch. 448, Stats., approved by the social worker section in advance of the supervision of the practice of social work if the social worker section determines that supervision by a certi-

fied social worker is unobtainable or unreasonably restrictive of the delivery of social work services to a particular population, or unduly interferes with training social workers in providing services to a particular population.

(2) If supervision is provided in group sessions, the group shall consist of no more than 6 persons receiving supervision for every one person providing supervision, and may not credit any time which is primarily social activity with the group or supervisor as part of a supervision session. A supervision session which is provided by more than one supervisor may not be credited for more than the actual time elapsed during the supervision session, not including social activities.

(3) A period of supervised practice of social work shall include, but not be limited to, practice in each of the following activities:

(a) Evaluation and assessment of difficulties in psychosocial functioning of a group or another individual;

(b) Developing plans or policies to alleviate those difficulties, and either carrying out the plan or referring individuals to other qualified resources for assistance;

(c) Intervention planning, which may include psychosocial evaluation and counseling of individuals, families and groups; advocacy; referral to community resources; and facilitation of organizational change to meet social needs.

(4) At the end of the period of supervised practice, the candidate for certification shall have demonstrated to the candidate's supervisor competence in each of the activities listed in sub. (3).

**Note:** Independent social workers are qualified to practice social work, but not psychotherapy, without supervision. Independent clinical social workers are qualified to practice social work, including psychotherapy, without supervision. Thus, under s. SFC 4.01 (1) (b) 1., a person credentialed as an advanced practice social worker or an independent social worker must receive supervision from an independent clinical social worker in order to accumulate supervised experience prior to applying for certification as an independent clinical social worker, and a person credentialed as an advanced practice social worker must receive supervision from an independent social worker or an independent clinical social worker in order to accumulate supervised experience prior to applying for certification as an independent social worker.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1993, No. 455, eff. 12-1-93; CR 01-020: am. (1) (b) 1. and 2., Register December 2001 No. 552, eff. 1-1-02.