



Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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To: Social Workers, Social Work Students, and Social Work Educators

From: Brian Carnahan, Executive Director

Re: Social Work Licensure Exam Policy Change

Date: 2-8-2016

The Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, & Marriage and Family Therapist (CSWMFT) Board's current policy allows Social Work graduate students to take the Association of Social Work Board (ASWB) Clinical or Advance Generalist exam before completing two years of supervised experience post graduate degree. Nationally, Ohio is only one of two states that allow Social Workers to take the ASWB Clinical and Advanced Generalist exam before completing two years of supervised practice. The current practice in Ohio is not in line with the exam policy and test preparation standards adopted by ASWB, which assume at least two years of supervised Social Work practice. The ASWB Social Work exams are the best Social Work licensing exams available to the CSWMFT Board at this time.

After discussions with stakeholders, including Ohio Social Work faculty, and after consulting with ASWB, which recently re-confirmed its exam policy, effective June 30, 2016, CSWMFT will no longer approve Social Workers to sit for the ASWB Clinical or Advance Generalist exam before completing two years of supervised practice as a Licensed Social Worker.

Persons currently in the last term of a master's degree program in Social Work, or those persons who completed a Master's degree but have not yet completed two years of supervised practice, may, by June 30, 2016, apply to sit for either the Clinical or the Advanced Generalist exam, using the application materials currently available on the CSWMFT Board web site. Eligibility letters expire after 6 months. No extensions of exam approvals will be granted.

After June 30, 2016, in addition to the completion of a brief application requesting approval to take the exam, Social Workers will have to demonstrate, using the Professional Employment Reference, they have completed two years of supervised practice as a Licensed Social Worker before being approved to take either exam. All individuals initially applying for as an LSW will take and pass the Bachelor's level exam.