

Spring
2010



You can view the Laws and Rules on the Board's website; they have changed 8 times since September 2007 and will likely change again within the next year. If you do not have a computer at home, you can download or print the Laws and Rules from a computer at your local library.

Copies of revised professional disclosure statements are available on the Board's website. Please make sure your PDS is up-to-date!

News Link

Save Time & a Stamp!



Due to the current fiscal constraints of the state and in an effort to be environmentally responsible, the Board asks all licensees to renew online using a credit card. Anyone not having an email, credit card or a computer usually has a family member or friend who can help them complete this process. This policy went into effect with the July through December 2009 renewals. Many other Boards are also using this policy. Our goal is to have over 99% of renewals completed online due to the increased efficiencies and cost effectiveness of that process. If you are unable or do not want to renew your license online, you must contact the Board in writing (emails okay) to request a printed renewal application. You should receive your printed application approximately two weeks from the date of your request.

Social Workers—You can take any CEU from....

The Social Worker Professional Standards Committee of the Board has approved all CEUs for social workers that are approved:

1. By the Association of Social Workers (ASWB) ACE Program
2. By the National Association of Social

Workers (NASW) with a NASW program #

3. By NASW State Chapters with a NASW program #

This change should give you a broader choice of pre-approved CEU programs.

News From the Renewal Coordinator

HELP!!! The Board spends an enormous amount of money in postage to mail renewal notices to each licensee three to six months prior to your renewal dates, only to turn around and spend time and money in receiving an average of fifteen calls per day from licensees requesting the same information. Most callers admit they received the information but do not know where it is. We need your help. Is there a way we can get renewal information to you that would be easier for you to maintain?

Currently, renewal information is mailed in May for all licensees due for renewal July 1 to December 31 and in November for all those

due for renewal the following January 1 to June 30. My suggestion is to go to a quarterly mailing. Please email your suggestions to Rhonda.Franklin@cswb.state.oh.us

Tips to help streamline the renewal process:

1. Keep mail address current with the Board.
 2. Keep email address current with the Board.
- If you do not receive a renewal notice by mail at least 45 days prior to your renewal date, contact the Board, do not wait until the week your renewal is due to request renewal information.

Reminder: Late fees have been instituted. Renew your license before your expiration date and avoid the additional fee.

Board Budget Includes Fines; May add Fee for CE Programs

Licensure and renewal fees have been the same since our inception in 1985. In an effort to continue that amazing record of financial stability, the Board will request new fees as part of the FY 2012-2013 budget bill.

*CE Program application fee proposed as \$25 for all programs that charge for attendance.

*CE Provider status application fee proposed

as \$100 for all providers that charge for attendance except for Ohio Counselor, Social Worker or MFT university programs.

*The Board has fine authority of up to \$500 per violation of the statutes and rules that govern the Board. The Board is discussing this issue for a future rule change.



Renew online and save postage, waiting time and have an immediate receipt showing you have renewed your license!

Following is one of the many comments the Board has received:

"I really like the online renewal. I also appreciated the online Ethics training opportunity. I found it a great way to review and think about Ohio law related to social work practice. Thanks for making these tools so accessible and easy to use."

Continuing Education Issues

The Board's CEU Committee has been reviewing issues pertaining to renewals and CE courses and noted the following:

1. The renewal form online has a link to an online survey for CEU programs. Please give us your feedback on your experience with CEUs. This effort will help the Board provide oversight of the quality of CEU programs!
2. "Co-sponsorship" means an approved provider works jointly with another entity to develop and offer a joint program by both entities. The continuing education program developed may use the approved provider's CEU provider number and the approved provider must keep all records as listed in paragraph (B)(5)(h) of rule 4757-9-05 of the administrative code. Only the Board may

authorize a CEU program when an entity with provider status has not been directly involved as a co-sponsor.

3. "Provider Status" means an individual or entity granted approval to develop continuing education program offerings without prior approval from the Board for each program offered. All continuing education offerings shall utilize the same provider authorization number assigned by the Board. A licensed individual shall review each CEU program as noted on the provider application or most recent renewal application on file with the Board.
4. CE audit compliance has a disturbing failure rate of 11.8% rate for 2009. Don't lose your license; complete your CEUs then renew!

New Ethics Rule 4757-5-13 Proposed - Electronic Service Delivery

Please read the following new ethics rule of the Board.

4757-5-13 Standards of ethical practice and professional conduct: Electronic Service Delivery (Internet, email, teleconference, etc.)

Electronic service delivery is defined in paragraph (EE) of rule 4757-3-01 of the Administrative Code. Licensees are reminded that standards of ethical practice and professional conduct rules 4757-5-01 through 4757-5-12 of the Administrative Code apply to electronic service delivery.

(A) These standards govern the practice of electronic service delivery and address practices that are unique to electronic service delivery and electronic service delivery practitioners.

- (1) All practitioners providing counseling, social work or marriage and family therapy via electronic service delivery to Ohio citizens shall be licensed in Ohio.
- (2) All licensees of this Board providing services to clients outside the state of Ohio shall comply with the laws and rules of that jurisdiction.
- (3) Electronic service delivery shall require an initial face-to-face meeting, which may be via video/audio electronically, to verify the identity of the electronic service delivery client. At that meeting steps shall be taken to address impostor concerns, such as by using passwords to identify the client in future electronic contacts;
- (4) Informed consent shall include information

defining electronic service delivery as practiced by the licensee and the potential risks and ethical considerations per paragraph (B) of rule 4757-5-02 of the Administrative Code.

- (a) Licensees shall obtain written informed consent;
- (b) Licensees shall not provide services without client signed informed consent.
- (5) Licensees shall provide links to websites for all of their certification bodies and licensure Boards to facilitate consumer protection.
- (6) Licensees shall identify an appropriately trained professional who can provide local assistance, including crisis intervention, if needed. Licensees shall provide electronic service delivery clients the local crisis hotline telephone number and the local emergency mental health telephone number;
- (7) Licensees shall provide a link to the Board's online license verification site on their web page. They shall also have a copy of the professional disclosure statement available on their web site per rule 4757-5-12 of the Administrative Code.

(B) Confidentiality in electronic service delivery shall be maintained by the licensee:

- (1) Licensees shall use encryption methods for electronic service delivery; and
- (2) Shall inform electronic service delivery clients details of data record storage.

Disciplinary Action Taken Against Licensees

Social Workers:

Lakesha Smith (LSW) Improper termination. Revoked.

Calvin Hall (LSW) Felony conviction not related to practice. Reprimand.

Kristin Fisher (LSW) Falsification of records. Revoked.

Anne L. Halm (LSW) Sexual boundary violation. Suspension, monitoring, community service and ethics.

Melissa Siet (LSW) Improper renewal. Surrender of license.

Sheryl Ascherl (LISW) Non-sexual boundary issues. Personnel counseling, monitoring, and suspension of supervision credential.

Cornelius Vines (LSW) Sexual boundary violation with a former client. Suspension, practice restriction and ethics.

Joy Pratt (LSW) Improper Renewal. Surrender of license.

Christopher Mullen (LSW) Non-sexual boundaries. Surrender of license.

Julie McClellan-Rivera (LSW) Improper Renewal. Surrender of license.

Carla Butler (LSW) Improper Renewal. Indefinite suspension of license.

Cheryl Soo Yun Kim (LISW) Failure to maintain accurate records. Reprimand.

Dale Agnew (LISW) Felony conviction

unrelated to social work practice. Reprimand.

Ronald Kirkpatrick (LISW) Non-sexual boundary issues. Surrender of license.

Lynell Soares (LSW) Improper renewal. Indefinite suspension of license.

Rachel Luma (LSW) Improper renewal. Indefinite suspension of license

Dorothy Johnson (LSW) Improper renewal. License revoked

Leslie Milstein-Pastel (LSW) Improper renewal. License revoked

Regina Anderson (LISW) Improper renewal. License revoked

Amy Jenkinson (LSW) Improper renewal. License revoked.

Counselors:

Darlene Kelley (PCC) Improper recommendation in a custody case. Monitoring and ethics.

David E. Randall (PCC). Improper renewal. Surrender of license.

Barbara Tudas, (PCC) Standards of care. Monitoring and ethics CEU's.

Brenda L. Watson (LPC) Non-sexual boundary issues. Community service, reprimand and monitoring.

Ronald Zidian (PC) Allegations of unprofessionalism. Surrender of license.



Please make sure you have completed your continuing education requirements before you renew.

For 2009 the audits show a non-compliance rate of 11.8%!

Several licenses have been revoked and other disciplinary actions taken! Don't let it be you!

See Siet, Pratt, Doss, McClellan-Rivera, Butler, Soares, Luma, Johnson, Milstein-Pastel, Anderson, Jenkinson and Randall on the discipline list on the top left of this page.

New Board CEU offering and Applicant Law and Rule Exam

The Board has developed online CEUs for ethics that reviews the laws and rules of the Board. The CEUs are for three (3) hours and meet the ethics requirements for licensees. Please check the web site for instructions if you are interested in using this option.

Applicants are required to complete the Laws and Rules exam as part of the examination process for licensure for PC, PCC, SWA, LSW, LISW, MFT & IMFT.

The online program is designed in a way that any questions that you miss are re-presented until you get them all correct.

There is a link to the section of the laws and/or rules that apply to each question.

The students and licensees that have taken the exam and CEUs have found it very easy to use and very informative. The biggest surprise was the wordiness of questions and answers that directly quote the laws and rules.

Board Web Site Updates

The Board changed our web site front page. We removed links to eliminate difficulties locating information. In the center of the page there are white boxes with the most used links. One link for those of you moving out of state that need license verification the link is [Verify Ohio License to Other State - Form](#)

Due to budget cuts only one wallet card will be mailed after you renew your license. In the past you were asked to place one of the cards with your wall certificate, but this is no longer

necessary. Only the disclosure statement is required by law to be “displayed in a conspicuous location”.

Another change due to the budget is the Board cannot re-print lost or misplaced wallet cards. If you lose your card or never received your card you can utilize the Board's Online License Verification. Enter only your last name and first initial click search and then click on your name for proof of licensure. This actually gives more information than your wallet card.



News Link

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COUNSELOR, SOCIAL
WORKER & MARRIAGE
AND FAMILY
THERAPIST BOARD

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*The Board
regulates the
practice of
counseling, social
work and marriage
and family
therapy for the
State of Ohio.*

Meet Tommie Robertson, IMFT, MFTPSC Chair

Rev. Tommie L. Robertson resides in Cincinnati, Ohio. Governor Strickland recently reappointed him for a second term on the Board, which he has served since July, 2007. He is the chair of the Marriage and Family Therapist Professional Standards Committee (MFTPSC). Tommie previously served as the Investigative Liaison and the Inactive Status Ad Hoc Committee chair.

Tommie is an Independent Marriage and Family Therapist (IMFT) in Ohio and Kentucky with several years of experience. He obtained his Masters of Science degree in Family Studies: Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Kentucky after spending over twenty-six years in the Information Technology business while working for AT&T. His career transformation was borne out of a sincere desire to help people solve their problems in a calm and supportive environment. He enjoys working with adults and adolescents as families, couples, or on an individual basis. He specializes in resolving marital and family

issues, divorce and anger management. He currently works as an IMFT at NorthKey Community Care in Florence, Kentucky and until recently worked as an IMFT at A Sound Mind Counseling Service in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Since becoming a MFT, Tommie was called to the ministry at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Glendale, Ohio. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Christian Ministries from Temple Baptist College, which he hopes to complete in 2011.

With Rev. Robertson, family always comes first. He is the consummate family man having chaired his family reunion three years ago. He has been married to his wife, Carolyn Smiley-Robertson, for over twenty-six years and has three sons: Tommie Jr., Kevin, and Michael.

Serving on the Board has been very rewarding and challenging for Rev. Robertson. He is honored to be serving on the Board. As a Board member, he believes that he can help protect Ohio's consumers while advocating the needs of therapists.

Ethics Issues – Records Requests

Records requests— what can you release? Many licensees call and ask about the appropriateness of releasing records when an attorney subpoenas them. If the client has signed a release it is appropriate and required that you provide a copy of the records. If the records contain information regarding other individuals, such as a married couple who have been seen jointly for marriage counseling, you would require a signed release from each individual. When only one individual has provided a signed release, they are able to

obtain a copy of the records; however, you would need to redact any portion of the records pertaining to the other client.

Review section 5757-5-09 (F) “...When providing clients with access to their records, licensees shall take steps to protect the confidentiality of other individuals identified or discussed in such records.”

Questions you would like to see addressed under the “Ethics Issues” column can be sent to: Tracey.Hosom@cswb.state.oh.us

Discipline Improvements and Monitoring

The Board has a committee reviewing past discipline actions in order to improve the process and implementation of supervised practice that may be required. In that process, the Board changed the terminology used in disciplinary action. Previously, if the Board required a licensee's work have oversight with reports submitted to the Board, it was called supervision. “Monitoring” more accurately describes a licensee's supervised practice while meeting the terms of formal disciplinary action. The Board is working with professionals throughout the state to develop standards for monitored supervision.

The members of the committee are contacting

disciplined licensees' supervisors for input on what guidelines or tools would have made that experience more functional. An interview process is under way to try to define areas for improvement.

Recently the Investigations and Compliance Department of the Board met with Cindy Webb, Director of the Ohio Chapter of NASW to discuss ideas surrounding this specialized competency. The Ohio Chapter is working on compiling a list of appropriately trained monitoring supervisors for social workers. For further information, please contact the Ohio NASW at 614-461-4484.