



KENTUCKY BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

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Andy Beshear
Governor

Florence Huffman
Executive Director

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: All Licensees and Applicants for Licensure
FROM: Kentucky Board of Social Work
RE: Executive Order 2020-243
DATE: March 19, 2020

The Governor released Executive Order 2020-243 yesterday entitled State of Emergency Relating to Social Distancing. This Executive Order has direct implications on several provisions of the statutes and administrative regulations related to the Kentucky Board of Social Work (hereinafter “the board”). Executive Order 2020-243 specifically orders all citizens of the Commonwealth to take all feasible measures to engage in appropriate social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19, in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (hereinafter “CDC”) and the Kentucky Department of Public Health. It further orders all boards to take actions necessary to ensure appropriate social distancing and states that, to the extent that any statute or regulation conflicts with this mandate, they are to be suspended. Please note that these changes are only in place during the state of emergency. In response, the board has determined that the following statutes and regulations shall be suspended during the state of emergency contained in Executive Order 2020-215 as related to COVID-19:

1. KRS 335.070(1)(a) - Review of applications for licensure: All deadlines related to the review of applications for completion or acceptance shall be suspended until the state of emergency is lifted.
2. KRS 335.130 and KRS 335.080, 335.090 and 335.100 – License Renewal for Licensed Social Workers (LSW), Certified Social Workers (CSW) and Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW):


Expiration dates of all currently held licenses under these sections shall be suspended until the state of emergency is lifted.

3. KRS 335.158 – Telehealth: Until the state of emergency is lifted, and in order to meet the mandates of social distancing, “treating clinical social worker” for purposes of providing telehealth services under the provisions of this statute, shall include CSWs that are under board-approved clinical supervision of an LCSW supervisor. This expanded definition will only apply until the state of emergency is lifted.
4. 201 KAR 23:015 Section 1(6) – Supervision of CSWs to practice clinical social work with a temporary permit under the supervision of an LCSW: The requirement that supervision occur face-to-face is suspended. Supervision, as required by the administrative regulation, may occur electronically as defined in 201 KAR 23:070 Section 1(2). This expanded definition will only apply until the state of emergency is lifted.
5. 201 KAR 23:015 Section 1(7)(b) – Expiration of temporary permits issued to CSWs to practice clinical social work under the supervision of a LCSW: The 240-day limit of temporary permits is suspended until the state of emergency is lifted.
6. 201 KAR 23:070 Section 4(1)(c)(2) and 201 KAR 23:075 Section 2(5) – Training course for LCSWs providing supervision to CSWs: The requirement that the three-hour training course on supervisory practice required for LCSW supervisors during each licensure period is suspended in that the deadline to complete such a course is suspended until the state of emergency is lifted. The requirement that the course be in person is also suspended until the state of emergency is lifted and the course may occur through electronic media or technology, including distance learning or teleconference courses, as long as the content remains the same as the previously approved training course, until the state of emergency is lifted.

7. 201 KAR 23:070 Section 7 and Section 8(1) – Client contact during supervision: The requirement that a CSW be engaging in direct client care while receiving clinical supervision under a board approved supervision contract is suspended until the state of emergency is lifted. CSWs will be allowed to receive supervision whether or not they are seeing clients directly during the state of emergency under their previously board-approved clinical supervision contract.
8. 201 KAR 23:070 Section 8(2)(b) – Distribution and method of supervision hours between CSW supervisee and LCSW supervisor: The requirement that electronic supervision be limited to 50% of all supervision hours, and only occur after the first 25 hours of supervision, is suspended until the state of emergency is lifted. Any excess electronic supervision hours acquired during the state of emergency will not be counted toward the restriction of electronic hours.
9. 201 KAR 23:075 Section 2 – Continuing Education deadlines – Deadlines for obtaining continuing education course credits are hereby suspended until the state of emergency is lifted.
10. 201 KAR 23:075 Section 3(2) – Method of presenting Continuing Education hours: Any continuing education course approved to occur in-person may occur using electronic media or technology, including distance learning, online or teleconference courses, so long as the content remains the same as previously approved.
11. 201 KAR 23:075 Section 4 Continuing Education approval and renewal: Any deadlines for the approval or renewal of continuing education programs due from providers and sponsors are suspended until the state of emergency is lifted.
12. KRS 335.155(2) – Scheduling of hearings: Any deadlines related to the scheduling of hearings before the board are suspended until the state of emergency is lifted.

 , Ph.D., CSW

Justin "Jay" Miller, Ph.D., CSW
Chairman, Board of Social Work
Dated: March 19, 2020


J. Michael Brown
Secretary of the Executive Cabinet
Commonwealth of Kentucky
Dated: March 19th, 2020