

Important  
Answers to

**Frequently  
Asked  
Questions**

***for Associate  
Clinical Social  
Workers (ASWs)***



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# Associate Clinical Social Worker

## Frequently Asked Questions



The information provided in this publication is supplemental and is intended to serve as a quick answer guide for common questions for those pursuing licensure as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). The Board’s [Statutes and Regulations](#) contain the official legal code sections and language. The BBS encourages you to thoroughly read the *Statutes and Regulations* pertaining to the clinical social work profession.

For information about the exam process and requirements for registered ASWs, see the Board’s website.

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## A. ASW REGISTRATION; LAW AND ETHICS EXAM

### 1. What coursework must be completed prior to applying for ASW registration?

All applicants must possess a master's degree in social work from an accredited school of social work. Applicants with out-of-state education, experience or licensure, who apply for registration as an ASW are required to complete 18-hour course in California Law and Professional Ethics.

All accredited social work schools in California have notified the Board that the California Law and Ethics requirement has been met by their graduates. No other coursework is required for ASW registration.

*Statutes cited: Business and Professions Code (BPC) sections 4996.17 and 4996.18*

### 2. When can my hours begin counting towards the LCSW licensing requirements?

This depends on when you applied for ASW registration, as the law changed effective January 1, 2019.

If you applied for ASW registration PRIOR TO January 1, 2019:

Hours of work experience and supervision may only begin counting once your ASW registration number has been issued.

If you applied for ASW registration AFTER January 1, 2019:

If the Board receives your application for ASW registration within 90 days of your degree award date, and you are thereafter issued an ASW registration, all postdegree hours of supervised experience may be credited. Hours gained under this "90-day rule" must comply with all experience and supervision requirements in order to count toward licensure.

**For applicants completing graduate study on or after January 1, 2020:**

Hours may only be accepted under the "90-day-rule" described above IF the hours are obtained at a workplace that, prior to the applicant gaining hours, required live scan fingerprinting. The applicant must provide documentation to the Board consisting of a copy of the processed "State of California Request for Live Scan Service" form. This form must be submitted with the application for licensure in order for the hours gained between graduation and registration issuance to be accepted. There are no exceptions.

*Statute cited: BPC section 4996.23(b)*

### **3. When can I begin working in a private practice setting?**

### **4. Are there any limitations on working in a private practice?**

You may not work in a private practice until your ASW registration number has been issued by the Board. You may work in private practice for a maximum of six (6) years, until your first ASW registration has met its maximum length. There are no exceptions.

*Statutes cited: BPC sections 4996.23(c) and 4996.28(c)*

### **5. Now that my ASW registration has been issued, can I start practicing independently / open my own office?**

No. Independent practice cannot begin until you have completed all licensure requirements and the Board issues you a license as a LCSW. Independent practice (or opening your own office) is considered unlicensed practice and is subject to disciplinary action by the Board. Additionally, you are prohibited from billing clients directly until you are licensed.

*Statutes cited: BPC sections 4991.1, 4992.3 and 4996; Regulation cited: Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1881*

### **6. When am I required to renew my ASW registration?**

Registrations expire annually and have a total six-year time limit. Your registration's expiration date will be printed on your registration certificate. You will be mailed a courtesy renewal notice 90 days prior to your expiration date. The Board encourages renewing online because it takes effect instantly as long as all renewal requirements are met.

*Statute cited: BPC section 4996.28(c)*

### **7. Are ASWs required to take an exam to renew?**

Yes. Associates who have not yet passed the LCSW California Law and Ethics Exam **MUST** have taken this exam during their renewal cycle in order to renew. There are no exceptions.

To apply for the exam, download the exam application from the Board's [website](#) and mail it in with the required fee. Allow 4-6 weeks for processing. See the [FAQs](#) about the Law and Ethics Exam for more information.

*Statute cited: BPC section 4992.09*

## **8. What happens if I don't pass the California Law and Ethics Exam?**

You do not need to pass the exam in order to renew; you just need to have taken it. You may retake the exam after at least 90 days have passed from the date you last took the exam. The *Application for Re-Examination* is available on the Board's [website](#).

If you don't pass the exam prior to your registration's expiration date, you must complete a 12-hour course in California Law and Ethics before you will be allowed to retake the exam during your NEXT renewal cycle. You will not be allowed to retake the exam after your registration expires until you submit proof of course completion. See the [FAQs](#) about the Law and Ethics Exam for more information.

*Statute cited: BPC section 4992.09; Regulation cited: Title 16, CCR section 1805.05*

## **9. Where can I take the 12-hour California Law and Ethics course?**

The course must be taken through a school that holds a regional or national institutional accreditation recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, a school approved by the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, or an acceptable continuing education provider.

*Statute cited: BPC section 4992.09*

## **10. What happens if I haven't passed the Law and Ethics Exam by my registration's 6-year time limit?**

California law permits a registration to be renewed a maximum of five (5) times before being cancelled. ASWs may apply for a subsequent (second or third) registration number. You cannot be granted a subsequent number unless you have passed the Law and Ethics Exam. There are no exceptions.

*Statutes cited: BPC sections 4992.09 and 4996.28*

## **11. How do I obtain a second or third ASW registration number?**

## **12. Can I work in a private practice under a subsequent ASW registration number?**

Download the *ASW Subsequent Registration* application from the Board's [website](#) and submit it with the required fee. Be sure to submit it in advance of your registration's expiration date to allow time for processing.

Only those who have been issued a first ASW registration number may work in a private practice. An applicant issued a subsequent ASW number cannot work in a private practice setting. All other work settings are permissible.

*Statute cited: BPC section 4996.28(c)*

### 13. What happens once I pass the Law and Ethics Exam?

If you are still earning your hours of supervised experience, you will continue as a registrant until you have completed your hours. No further exams are required until you apply for licensure. You may apply for licensure once you have met all education and experience requirements. Upon approval of your *Application for Licensure and Examination*, you will be required to take and pass the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Clinical Level Exam.

*Statute cited: BPC section 4992.05; Regulation cited: Title 16, CCR section 1877.1*

## B. EXPERIENCE HOURS, SUPERVISION & EMPLOYMENT

### 14. What is the breakdown for the experience required to become a LCSW?

California law requires 3,000 hours of supervised post-degree professional experience, including 104 supervised weeks, in order to qualify for LCSW licensure.

#### **3,000 Hours of Supervised Experience** **Breakdown of Requirements**

| Category   | Minimum/Maximum                                  |
|--|--|
| Clinical psychosocial diagnosis, assessment, and treatment, including psychotherapy or counseling  | Minimum 2,000 hours                              |
| Face-to-face individual or group psychotherapy   | Minimum 750 hours<br><i>(of the above 2,000)</i> |
| Client-centered advocacy, consultation, evaluation, research, workshops, seminars, training sessions or conferences, and direct supervisor contact | Maximum 1,000 hours                              |
| Supervision by an LCSW   | Minimum 1,700 hours                              |
| Supervision by another type of qualified licensed mental health professional   | Maximum 1,300 hours                              |



**104 “Supervised Weeks”**  
**Breakdown of Requirements**

NOTE: A “supervised week” is a week in which an ASW meets with a supervisor for either one (1) hour of individual or triadic supervision, or two (2) hours of group supervision

| Supervision Amount & Type   | Minimum                           |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| One (1) hour of <b>Individual or Triadic</b> supervision per week                   | 52 weeks                          |
| One (1) hour of <b>Individual or Triadic</b> supervision by an <b>LCSW</b> per week | 13 weeks <i>(of the above 52)</i> |

**Additionally, the following is required:**

- A minimum of one (1) hour of individual or triadic supervision, or two (2) hours of group supervision within the same week in which experience is claimed;
- A minimum of one (1) hour of individual or triadic supervision, or two (2) hours of group supervision per week for each work setting;
- A maximum of 40 hours of experience earned in any week between all settings may be credited; and,
- A maximum of six (6) hours of individual, triadic, or group supervision in any week may be credited.

An applicant for licensure cannot be approved to sit for the clinical exam without completing both the 3,000 hours of professional experience and the 104 required supervised weeks.

*Statutes cited: BPC sections 4996.23 and 4996.23.1; Regulation cited: Title 16, CCR section 1874*

**15. What is triadic supervision?**

Triadic supervision is defined as face-to-face supervision consisting of one supervisor and two supervisees. It is counted under the law as equivalent to individual supervision.

*Statute cited: BPC section 4996.23.1(b)(2)*

**16. What is the definition of “telehealth counseling”?**  
**17. How many telehealth hours can I gain?**

Telehealth refers to the mode of delivering health care services and public health via information and communication technologies to facilitate the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management, and self-management of a patient’s health care while the patient is at the originating site and the health care provider is at a distant site. ASWs are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the “Standards of Practice for Telehealth,” available in the Board’s [Statutes and Regulations](#).

There is no limit on the number of telehealth hours that can be counted toward the supervised experience requirements.

*Statutes cited: BPC sections 2290.5 and 4996.23; Regulation cited: Title 16, CCR section 1815.5*

### **18. How far back can hours of experience be counted? What is the six-year rule?**

The Board cannot accept hours of experience older than six (6) years from the date the Board receives your *Application for Licensure and Examination*. The law does not allow the Board to grant exceptions.

For example, the Board receives an *Application for Licensure and Examination* on 4/27/2018. The Board can only accept hours earned by this applicant (under all ASW numbers) between 4/27/2012 and 4/27/2018 if all other requirements are met.

It is important to note that if your *Application for Licensure and Examination* is abandoned, you will be required to re-apply. Your six (6)-year period will be recalculated to six (6) years back from the date your new application is received. For more information on abandonment, see question 33.

*Statute cited: BPC section 4996.23*

### **19. How do I determine the amount of supervision I need each week?**

### **20. What is the required ratio of supervision to individual or group psychotherapy hours?**

*“One unit” of supervision = one (1) hour of individual or triadic supervision OR two (2) hours of group supervision.*

ASWs are required to obtain one (1) unit of supervision, as defined above, during any week in which experience is gained in each setting.

If the ASW provides more than 10 hours of direct clinical counseling during a single week in a work setting, the ASW must receive a total of two (2) units of supervision in that same week in that setting.

**EXAMPLE #1:** An ASW works one job and provides 25 hours of direct clinical counseling in a single week. This applicant must receive two (2) units of supervision during this week.

**EXAMPLE #2:** An ASW works two jobs, and provides 12 hours of direct clinical counseling at Job A and nine (9) hours of direct clinical counseling at Job B during the same week. This ASW must receive a total of three (3) units of supervision during that week - two (2) units at Job A and one (1) unit at Job B.

*Statute cited: BPC section 4996.23.1*

## **21. Can I be paid as a 1099 / independent contractor or bill clients directly?**

## **22. Can I be employed as a volunteer?**

You must be either a paid W-2 employee or a volunteer employee. You also may not bill clients directly. There are limited circumstances under which you may be paid under a 1099. If you work as a volunteer in any setting other than a private practice, and receive reimbursement for expenses actually incurred, receiving a 1099 for those reimbursements is acceptable. If you have received a stipend or educational loan repayment from a program designed to encourage demographically underrepresented groups to enter the profession, or to improve recruitment and retention in underserved regions or settings, a 1099 for the stipend or loan repayment is acceptable. Those paid under a 1099 may be audited by the Board to ensure the payment was for one of the above purposes.

*Statute cited: BPC section 4996.23.2(g), (h) and (i)*

## **23. Who is eligible to supervise ASWs?**

Only licensed mental health professionals may supervise ASWs, as follows:

- LCSWs
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs)
- Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCCs)
- Licensed Clinical Psychologists
- Licensed Physicians certified in Psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology

Additionally, the supervisor must meet all of the following:

- Maintain a current and active California license that is not under suspension or probation. (You can check your supervisor's status any time [here](#)).
- Have been licensed in California or any other state for at least two (2) years out of the last five (5) years prior to the commencement of supervision.
- Have practiced psychotherapy during at least two (2) years out of the last five (5) years prior to the commencement of supervision OR
- Provided direct supervision to ASWs, Associate Professional Clinical Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) Trainees, and/or Associate MFTs who perform psychotherapy during at least two (2) years out of the last five (5) years prior to the commencement of supervision. Supervision of psychotherapy performed by a student (social work intern or a professional clinical counselor trainee) shall be accepted if the supervision performed is substantially equivalent to the supervision required for registrants.
- If the supervisor is an LCSW, LPCC or LMFT, the supervisor must have completed a one-time 15-hour course in supervision. Psychologists and Physicians certified in Psychiatry are not required to take the supervision course.

*Statute cited: BPC section 4996.20 Regulations cited: Title 16, CCR sections 1870 and 1874*

**24. How many supervisees can participate in a session of group supervision?**

Group supervision sessions shall include no more than eight (8) persons receiving supervision, even if there are two (2) or more supervisors present. Group supervisors must ensure that the amount and degree of supervision is appropriate for each supervisee.

*Statute cited: BPC section 4996.23.1(b)(3)*

**25. Can group supervision be broken into one-hour increments?**

Group supervision can be broken into one-hour sessions, as long as both increments (full two hours) are provided in the same week as the experience being claimed.

*Statute cited: BPC section 4996.23.1(b)(3)*

**26. Can I receive supervision via videoconferencing or over the telephone?**

An ASW working for a governmental entity; school, college, or university; or an institution that is both nonprofit and charitable may obtain supervision via live two-way videoconferencing. The supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the client confidentiality is preserved.

Individual and group supervision may not be provided over the telephone, as supervision must consist of face-to-face contact.

*Statute cited: BPC section 4996.23.1*

**27. Do my supervisor and I have to be employed by the same employer?**

**28. Does my supervisor have to be on site?**

Only in a private practice setting does a supervisor need to be employed by, and practice at, the same site as the registrant's employer. Alternatively, the supervisor may be an owner of the private practice. However, if the site is a corporation, the supervisor must be employed full-time at the site and be actively engaged in performing professional services at the site.

In a setting that is not a private practice, the supervisor may be employed by the ASW's or applicant's employer on either a paid or volunteer basis. If employed as a volunteer, a written oversight agreement that addresses the supervisor's and employer's responsibilities must be signed by the supervisor and the employer prior to commencement of supervision. Please see the Board's [website](#) for a sample written oversight agreement. Retain for future submission with your *Application for Licensure and Examination*.

In any setting, ASWs and applicants may only perform services at the places where their employers regularly conduct business, which may include performing services at other locations, so long as the services are performed under the direction and control of their employer and supervisor, and in compliance with the laws pertaining to supervision.

Whether a supervisor is required to be on site depends on the situation. Supervisors must consider their responsibilities as defined in LCSW law, which includes taking responsibility for, and control of, the quality of clinical social work services being provided. Among other responsibilities, supervisors are required to do all of the following, whether they are on site or off site:

- Ensure that the extent, kind and quality of clinical social work performed by the ASW is consistent with the training and experience of the person being supervised.
- Monitor and evaluate the supervisee's assessment, diagnosis and treatment decisions and providing regular feedback.
- Monitor and evaluate the ability of the ASW to provide services at the site(s) where he or she will be practicing and to the particular clientele being served.
- Monitor and address clinical dynamics, including, but not limited to, countertransference-, intrapsychic-, interpersonal-, or trauma-related issues that may affect the supervisory or the practitioner-patient relationship.
- Ensure compliance with all laws governing the practice of clinical social work.
- Review the supervisee's progress notes, process notes, and other patient treatment records, as deemed appropriate by the supervisor.
- With the client's written consent, providing direct observation or review of audio or video recordings of the supervisee's counseling or therapy, as deemed appropriate by the supervisor.

Upon request by the Board, a supervisor is required to provide the Board with documentation that verifies the supervisor's compliance with all requirements.

*Statutes cited: BPC sections 4996.20 and 4996.23.3; Regulation cited: Title 16, CCR section 1870*

## **29. Where can I find more information about supervision?**

Please see the *Guide to Supervision*, available on the Board's [website](#).

## **30. What forms must I use to record my experience hours and supervision?**

While gaining your hours of experience, use the following forms, available on the Board's [website](#):

*Responsibility Statement for Supervisors of an ASW:* Your supervisor must sign this form prior to commencing supervision and provide you with the original. Retain for future submission with your *Application for Licensure and Examination*.

*Supervisory Plan:* Your supervisor must sign this form prior to commencing supervision and provide you with the original. Retain for future submission with your *Application for Licensure and Examination*.

*Experience Verification:* This form is completed upon the termination of your supervised experience with your supervisor, and must indicate the total hours completed in each category under your supervisor, your supervisor's license information and certain information about your employer. Your supervisor will sign the form and provide you with the original for submission with your *Application for Licensure and Examination*.

*Optional Form - Weekly Tracking Log:* Log your hours on this form on a weekly basis and have your supervisor sign weekly. You will retain the original logs.

**31. How do I fill out *Experience Verification* forms or the *Weekly Tracking Log* if I have more than one supervisor in the same work setting?**

If you are receiving supervision from two individuals in one employment setting, document the hours from each supervisor on separate forms. As long as the time periods on the two forms overlap and the employment setting is the same, the BBS will combine the experience and supervision together when evaluating your experience.

**32. When do I need to send in supervision-related forms?**

All supervision-related forms (*Supervisor Responsibility Statement*, *Supervisory Plan*, and *Experience Verification* forms) must be submitted with the *Application for Licensure and Examination*.

## C. APPLYING FOR LICENSURE

### 33. Should I be concerned about abandonment of my *Application for Licensure and Examination*?

Yes – and abandonment could have major consequences, such as losing experience hours that are too old. Once an application is abandoned, an applicant may reapply, but must pay a new application fee and meet all current requirements. One of those requirements is that your hours are less than six (6) years old.

**If your *Application for Licensure and Examination* is abandoned, you would lose any hours of experience that are more than six (6) years old, based on the date the Board receives the new *Application for Licensure and Examination*.** See question 18 for more information about the six (6)-year rule.

In accordance with Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1806, an application shall be deemed abandoned in any of the following circumstances:

- Applicant does not submit the remaining documents or information requested in the application deficiency letter within one (1) year from the date of the deficiency letter;
- Applicant does not complete the application within one (1) year after it has been filed;
- Applicant who has submitted experience hours does not sit for an examination within one (1) year after being notified of initial eligibility to take the examination;
- Applicant who has submitted experience hours does not take an examination within one (1) year from the date the applicant was notified of failing an examination; or,
- The applicant fails to pay the initial license fee within one (1) year after notification by the Board of successful completion of LCSW requirements.

*Statute cited: BPC section 4996.23; Regulation cited: Title 16, CCR section 1806*

### 34. What type of employment documentation does the Board require with my *Application for Licensure and Examination*?

If a Paid Employee: You must provide a W-2 for each year of paid employment with your *Application for Licensure and Examination*. W-2s are required for all tax years during which you gained experience. For the current tax year, include a photocopy of your most recent pay stub. A copy of your 1040 or other tax filing form is not acceptable.

If a Volunteer Employee: You must provide a letter from your employer verifying your status as a volunteer with your *Application for Licensure and Examination*. A sample letter verifying volunteer status is available on the Board's [website](#).

*Statute cited: BPC section 4996.23.2*

**35. Do I need to send in originals of my W-2s or most recent pay stub?**

Originals are not required - photocopies are acceptable.

*Statute cited: BPC section 4996.23.2*

**36. What additional coursework do I need to take prior to submitting an Application for Licensure and Examination?**

In addition to possessing a master’s degree in social work from an accredited school of social work, an applicant must complete specific courses prior to submitting an *Application for Licensure and Examination*, as follows:

| Course   | Required of:   | Length   | Content Required   |
|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Suicide Risk Assessment and Intervention*</b>   | All applicants submitting an application <b>on or after January 1, 2021</b>            | 6 hours  | BPC section 4996.27  |
| <b>Child Abuse Assessment and Reporting</b>  | All applicants   | 7 hours  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See Title 16, CCR section 1807</li> <li>• Course must be based on Calif. law</li> </ul> |
| <b>Human Sexuality</b>   | All applicants   | 10 hours   | 16 CCR section 1807.2  |
| <b>Alcoholism and Chemical Substance Abuse &amp; Dependency</b>                                | All applicants   | 15 hours   | 16 CCR section 1810  |
| <b>Aging, Long Term Care and Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse</b>                                   | Applicants who entered a MSW program after 1/1/2004                                    | 10 hours   | BPC section 4996.25(a)   |
| <b>California Law and Professional Ethics</b>  | Out-of-State applicants ONLY   | 18 hours   | BPC section 4996.17  |
| <b>Spousal/Partner Abuse Assessment, Detection, and Intervention (OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS)</b> | All applicants with out-of-state education, experience or licensure                    | 15 hours   | BPC 4996.2(f)  |
| <b>Spousal/Partner Abuse Assessment, Detection, and Intervention (IN-STATE APPLICANTS)</b>     | All in-state applicants EXCEPT for those who entered a MSW program prior to 01/01/1995 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific number of hours for those who entered a MSW program prior to 12/31/03, but must be of sufficient length to cover the topics of assessment, detection and intervention</li> <li>• 15 hours for those who entered a MSW program after 1/1/2004</li> </ul> | BPC section 4996.2(f)  |

\*Does not have to be a course. Supervised experience may count. See question 37.

*Statutes cited: BPC sections 4996.2, 4996.17, 4996.18, 4996.25 and 4996.27; Regulations cited: Title 16, CCR sections 1807; 1807.2 and 1810*



### **37. Do I need to take my additional coursework at a university?**

No. Additional coursework may be completed through an accredited college or university, a CE provider, or a governmental entity, taken in-person or online.

“Suicide Risk Assessment and Intervention” (required of all applicants on and after January 1, 2021) does not have to be an actual course. If this content was included within your supervised experience, and you can obtain a written certification from the program’s director of training, or from your primary supervisor stating that the training was included within your supervised experience, it may be accepted in lieu of a course. If this content was included within your degree program, you will need to obtain a written certification from the registrar or training director of your school or program stating that this coursework was included within the curriculum required for graduation, or within the coursework that was completed by you.

*Statutes cited: BPC sections 4996.23 and 4996.27; Regulations cited: Title 16, CCR sections 1807, 1807.2, 1810 and 1874*

### **38. Is my additional coursework too old? Can the coursework be gained at the undergraduate level?**

Coursework taken to meet the additional coursework requirements do not ever expire, and may be gained at the undergraduate level.

### **39. How can I provide verification of my experience if my supervisor is deceased or incapacitated?**

The Board will review documentation on a case by case basis in order to make a determination. However, we recommend that you submit all of the following:

- If your supervisor is deceased, documentation such as a copy of the obituary
- The previously signed, original *Supervisor Responsibility Statement*
- The previously signed, original *Supervisory Plan*
- Documentation of logged hours
- Documentation by the employer verifying employment of the supervisor and supervisee
- The written oversight agreement for supervision if your supervisor was not employed by your employer.

*Statutes cited: BPC sections 4996.23, 4996.23.2 and 4996.23.3; Regulations cited: Title 16, CCR section 1870 and 1870.1*

#### **40. Do I need to resubmit fingerprints with my *Application for Licensure and Examination*?**

Applicants do not need to resubmit fingerprints if one or more of the following is true at the time the Board receives the application:

- Applicant still possesses a current ASW registration number.
- Applicant has an ASW number that has been cancelled for less than 30 days.

*Regulation cited: Title 16, CCR section 1815*

#### **41. What happens once I submit my *Application for Licensure and Examination*?**

The Board will evaluate your application and notify you either that:

- There are one or more deficiencies in your application. You will have one (1) year from the date of the initial deficiency notice to clear all deficiencies

OR

- You have been found eligible for examination, and will be provided with information on how to register.

Once you pass both required exams: Download the *Request for Initial License Issuance* form from the Board's [website](#), and submit it with the required fee. Your license will be issued within 30 business days from the date of receipt.

*Regulation cited: Title 16, CCR section 1806*

#### **42. Do I need to maintain a current ASW registration number to participate in the clinical exam?**

The Board encourages all individuals to maintain a current Associate registration and to continue recording experience hours until licensed as an LCSW, as a safeguard in the event that some of the hours submitted are unable to be accepted by the Board either now or in the future due to application abandonment and/or the “six-year rule” (see question 33 for more information).

Whether you are required by law to maintain a registration, however, will depend on the type of setting you are working in. If working in a private practice, you are required to maintain a current Associate registration until your LCSW license has been issued. If you are working in an exempt setting (an institution that is both non-profit and charitable, a school or a governmental entity), or other non-private practice setting, you are not required to maintain a registration once you have submitted your experience hours. However, your employer may require it as a condition of employment.

*Statutes cited: BPC sections 4996.14 and 4996.23 Regulation cited: Title 16, CCR section 1806*

### **43. Must I continue to have supervision after my experience hours have been approved?**

Once the required number of experience hours are gained, you must receive a minimum of one hour of direct supervisor contact per week for each practice setting in which direct clinical counseling is performed. Once the required number of experience hours are gained, further supervision for nonclinical practice shall be at the supervisor's discretion.

*Statute cited: BPC section 4996.23.1(g)*

### **44. Once I pass my exams, can I start practicing independently?**

No. A successful examinee still must submit a *Request for Initial License Issuance* form and fee before the Board will issue a LCSW license. You will need to [download](#) and submit this form and fee upon completion of all licensure requirements. Your license will be issued within 30 business days from the date of receipt. Independent practice cannot begin until the Board issues a license. Otherwise it is considered unlicensed practice, which is subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

*Statute cited: BPC sections 4996 and 4996.3*