**02 DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**416 BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKER LICENSURE**

**Chapter 14: CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**

**Summary:** This chapter sets forth the nature and amount of continuing professional education contact hours required for renewal of licenses issued by the board.

**1. Required Contact Hours**

 1. **25 Contact Hours Required for License Renewal**

 Except as set forth in 10 M.R.S. §8003(5-A)(D)(4), no license will be renewed unless the licensee has completed 25 contact hours of continuing professional education directly related to the practice of social work during the preceding biennial license term as set forth in this chapter and has completed the course work in family or intimate partner violence required by 32 M.R.S. §7060, if applicable.

 2. **Licensed Social Worker-Conditional: Ethics and Assessment**

 For holders of a licensed social worker-conditional license, at least 6 of the 25 contact hours must be earned in social work ethics and at least 6 of the 25 contact hours must be earned in psychosocial assessment.

 3. **All Other Licensees: Ethics**

 For all other licensees at least 4 of the 25 contact hours must be earned in social work ethics.

**2. Audit**

 The licensee's attestation of completion of continuing professional education is subject to audit pursuant to Chapter 13 of the rules of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

 The licensee shall retain documentation of continuing education activities included in the most recent two continuing education certifications submitted by the licensee, including the current renewal period.

**3. Continuing Professional Education Activities**

 Continuing professional education contact hours may be earned by in-person or virtual participation in the following activities only:

1. At least 15 hours of educational activities, including seminars, workshops, institutes, academic courses, and in-service training sessions, in which immediate interaction with the instructor is available.

A maximum of 10 hours total is permitted to be earned through continuing professional education contained within subsections 2 and 3 below.

1. Educational activities, including seminars, workshops, institutes, academic courses, and in-service training sessions, in which immediate interaction with the instructor is not available.
2. Teaching, Writing, Independent Study

 A. **Teaching.** A licensee may claim continuing professional education credit for preparation and presentation of a course, workshop or seminar for the first time it is presented only.

 B. **Writing.** A licensee may claim continuing professional education credit for writing articles and books for publication, as well as for reviewing and editing articles and books.

 C. **Independent Study.** A licensee may claim continuing professional education credit only once for a particular course of independent study. Continuing professional education credit may not be claimed for a course of independent study that is substantially similar to a course that the licensee has previously taken for credit during that same renewal period.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

 32 M.R.S. §7030(5)

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