

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

### **BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE**

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#### **LAPSED LICENSE POLICY**

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The Board of Social Work Licensure recognizes that an individual may inadvertently allow his/her license to expire. However, applicable law prohibits an individual from working in Tennessee as a Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker, Licensed Master's in Social Work, Licensed Advanced Practice Social Worker, or Licensed Clinical Social Worker, unless he or she has an active Tennessee license. While the Board does not condone an individual working on an expired license, the Board recognizes that these inadvertent lapses can occur. As such, the Board has adopted the following procedures for reinstatement of an expired license.

1. Immediately upon recognition that his/her license has expired, the individual must cease practicing if a licensed is required as a part of his/her employment or if clinical licensure is required to treat patients and contact the Board's administrative office to request a reinstatement application.
2. Upon receipt of the reinstatement application, the individual is to complete the application in its entirety, providing a detailed work history since the license expiration date. The application is to be signed, notarized, and returned to the Board's administrative office along with any additional information and all fees specified in the instructions.
3. Upon receipt of a completed reinstatement application, supporting documentation (including any required proof of continuing education), and the applicant's payment of all fees, the Board's administrator may reinstate a license which has been in an expired status for less than sixty (60) calendar days. Although the Board and administrative staff recognize the applicant's urgent interest in having his or her license reinstated, preferential treatment will not be given to these applicants. All applications are reviewed in the order in which they are received.
4. If the work history reflects that the individual has practiced in excess of sixty (60) calendar days, but less than six (6) months on an expired license that is required as a part of his/her employment or if clinical licensure is required to treat patients, the Board will present to the licensee, an Agreed Citation which specifies payment of a fine in the amount of \$100 per month for every month in which the individual has worked at least one day beyond the sixty (60) calendar day grace period. The individual's license will not be reinstated unless and until the Agreed Citation is executed by the licensee and payment of the fine remitted to the Board's administrative office.
  - A. The licensee shall be notified that all Agreed Citations prepared in accordance with this policy shall be reportable on the Department of Health's website, its disciplinary action report issued in the month the action is taken and to all appropriate federal databanks including the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

- B. This remedy is only available to those social workers who have practiced on a lapsed license for less than six (6) months from the date the license went into expired status.
5. If the licensee refuses to execute the Agreed Citation and/or remit the civil penalty described therein within sixty (60) days of the date the Agreed Citation is sent to the licensee, or if the licensee practiced on a lapsed license for six (6) months or longer, the licensee shall be referred to the Office of Investigations and Office of General Counsel for formal disciplinary action. Upon a proven violation, the minimum disciplinary action for this violation shall be:
- A. A formal and reportable Reprimand on the license;
  - B. Assessment of civil penalties in an amount which may exceed \$200 per month for every month in which the individual has worked at least one day beyond the sixty (60) calendar day grace period;
  - C. Assessment of costs associated with investigating and prosecuting the matter; and
  - D. Any and all other remedies the Board deems appropriate.
6. In the event the matter is referred to the Office of Investigations and Office of General Counsel for formal disciplinary action, the Board's administrative office shall be permitted to reinstate those applicants for whom they have received a completed reinstatement application, supporting documentation (including any required proof of continuing education), and the applicant's payment of all fees, subject to further action on the license as described in paragraph five (5) above. Though the Board's administrator may reinstate such a license upon approval from the Board's consultant, preferential treatment will not be given to these applicants. These applications will be reviewed in the order in which they are received. For those applicants who have declined an Agreed Citation, their application will be deemed received sixty (60) days from the date the Agreed Citation was sent.

**ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE  
ON THE 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2016.**