



STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

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Reno, Nevada 89502
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ADVISORY OPINION NO 4

QUESTION

May licensees in other professions and occupations under Title 54 of the Nevada Revised Statutes perform social service functions without being licensed as a social worker?

ANALYSIS

The practice of social work is regulated in the State of Nevada by Chapter 641B of the Nevada State Revised Statutes. Social work means "the application of methods, principles and techniques of case work, group work, community organization, administration, planning, consultation, and research to assist persons, groups or communities to enhance or restore their ability to function physically, socially and economically" and is frequently used interchangeably with the term "social service(s)" NRS 641B.030(2). Persons engaged in such practice are required to be licensed. See NRS 641B.500 and 641B.510. Representing oneself as a social worker without a license is unlawful NRS 641B.500.

Other licensed professions perform functions that are similar to or that overlap the practice of social work. Thus, functions such as discharge planning may be performed by a variety of professionals including nurses and social workers. However, discharge planning performed by a nurse constitutes the practice of nursing, while discharge planning performed by a social worker constitutes the practice of social work. When performing those functions, it must be clearly established that a person licensed under another discipline is performing acts congruent within their own discipline and not "social work" or "social work services".

CONCLUSION

An individual calling himself a social worker or performing as a social service worker, must be licensed as a social worker.

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By:

Handwritten signature of Jane A. Lamb in cursive.

Jane A. Lamb
President