

How to Ensure That Clinical Supervision Will Count Towards Licensure in Both Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Supervision obtained PA may count in NJ. Similarly supervision obtained in NJ may count in PA. Just be aware of each state's regulations. Some key points on this topic are summarized below:

(1) **Your supervisor must be licensed in the state where your work is performed.** When working in NJ your supervisor must be licensed in NJ. When working in PA your supervisor must be licensed in PA. In either case your supervision will count in both states provided you follow all other regulations for each state. *One must follow this rule or the supervision will not be valid in any state.*

(2) **The way hours are counted differ between the states.** In PA one must acquire "3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience" in which half (or 1,500 of the 3,000 hours) must consist of providing direct services such as assessment and psychotherapy. In NJ one must acquire "1,920 hours of direct face-to-face contact." So it may take slightly longer to accumulate PA required hours due to the differences in how hours are calculated. Also be sure to track your hours under both the PA and NJ rules so as not to misrepresent yourself to either state.

(3) **Who can supervise is different in each state:**

a) NJ only allows LCSWs to supervise. PA requires LCSWs to supervise at least half of the required hours. The other half of the hours may be supervised by licensed professionals in a related field. *Therefore only use LCSWs if you want your PA supervision to count in NJ.*

b) NJ requires supervisors to have held the LCSW for 3 years no matter how long the supervisor has practiced. PA requires supervisors to be licensed and have 5 years of clinical experience in the last 10 years. (But the supervisor need not have possessed the LCSW during those 5 years.)

c) NJ requires supervisors to have completed at least 20 hours of continuing education from an approved provider (NASW, ASWB sponsored, or CSWE approved.) NJ supervisors should be able to show documentation of this to supervisees when they begin supervision. As PA does not have this requirement, NJ LCSW applicants will likely be asked to submit a supervisor's CV at the time of license application in order to have this requirement waived for an out-of-state supervisor.

(4) **How much supervision per week is different in each state.** NJ requires one hour of face-to-face individual or group supervision per week (regardless of actual numbers of hours worked in any given week.) PA requires two hours of supervision for every 40 hours of supervised clinical experience (and one of those two hours of supervision must be individual while the other hour may be either individual or group.)

In summary, please educate yourself on the regulations of each state in which you are seeking clinical licensure. Make sure your supervisor has:

- (1) A license in the state where your work is *performed*
- (2) Enough years of experience
- (3) 20 hours of documented continuing education in an approved program on supervision (for work performed in NJ only).