

Certification Standards for Continuing Education in Practice with Children & Their Families

Continuing Education (CE) is an important part of advanced practice. ABE requires that BCD applicants for the Practice with Children & Their Families certification have twenty (20) clock hours of CE related to practice with children & their families, achieved during the past three years. This CE may be *formal or informal*, and must directly address the professional practice of clinical social work and meet the guidelines below. Once you hold the Practice with Children & Their Families certification, **you will need to amass 20 hours of CE annually (to maintain your BCD), of which that at least five (5) clock hours are applicable to your specialty**.

Formal Activities

Formal CE activities are practice-oriented seminars, courses, workshops, staff-development activities, webinars, podcasts, or other forms of "distance learning"- all must be verifiable and accredited by state licensing boards, professional associations, or graduate schools.

Informal Activities

Informal CE activities include clinical learning at professional meetings and discussions, including the following:

- Staff meetings focused on clinical social work methods or theory but not on specific administrative matters;
- Speaker presentations (at professional society meetings) addressing clinical social work methods, theories, or issues;
- Peer-group meetings, panel discussions, and study groups, in which practitioners discuss clinical social work methods, theories, or issues.

Teaching

ABE extends time-and-a-half credit to BCD clinicians who, in the past two years, taught a college-level clinical social work course or an advanced clinical social work workshop for the first time (verifiable by the sponsoring organization).

Documentation of Activities

A certain percentage of applicants are asked to furnish documentation of continuing education activities. You will be notified in you are in that group.

For formal activities, ABE requires photocopies of a certificate or a letter from the event's sponsor or instructor (including your name, date, CE hours attained, and, if needed, the course syllabus or conference brochure), or a description of the activity (with participants, date, topics, and duration) signed by the coordinator or group leader.

For informal activities, provide a document that summarizes the activity and its clinical social work content, with date, duration, name/title of leader/coordinator, mention of participants (e.g. clinical staff of Acme Hospital), indication of your attendance, and signature of person responsible.

Do not submit documentation of continuing education to ABE unless requested.