

## **COVID-19 and Utah Social Work: Telehealth Rules and Recommendations, Navigating CEU's, Licensing Exam Information, NASW-UT Upcoming Events and More**

Updated May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Like you, we are monitoring the current coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak very closely. **We care deeply about the health and well-being of our members and the clients and communities you serve.**

Please visit [www.utnasw.org](http://www.utnasw.org) for updates. Look for them under ANNOUNCEMENTS.

### **Key Highlights:**

- ✓ Utah has adopted the requirements and recommendations set forth by the U.S. Dept of Health and Human services regarding the provision of teletherapy.
- ✓ Utah is temporarily allowing in real-time remote supervision without special permission
- ✓ Utah social workers, live webinars that take place IN REAL TIME are considered a live, category 1 CEU trainings. So, if they are live (even if they take place via webinar) they will not count toward your 15-hour limit
- ✓ Utah has waived the in-person CEU requirements for social workers renewing their licenses this year.
- ✓ ASWB is now allowing exams to take place for essential workers including Social Work exams

### **Remote Supervision**

Due to Covid19 supervision CAN be conducted via real time electronic means. When providing services remotely, licensees must protect the security of electronic, confidential data and information.

### **Therapy Across State Lines**

Per Utah's regulatory board, regulations require mental health professionals be licensed in the state where the client is physically located at the time of service. However, Utah (and many other states) allow exemptions in the event of a national, state, or local emergency, a public health emergency as defined in Section 26-23b-102, or a declaration by the president of the United States. Find Utah's exemption language [here](#), and the application [here](#). For information about other states [click here](#)

### **Teletherapy Rules and Guidelines**

Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, DOPL has stated that Utah providers may adhere to the requirements and recommendations set forth by the U.S Department of Health and Human Services: [Telehealth in a Public Health Emergency](#)

Note: This guidance is not intended to alter the applicable standard of practice for any mental health profession. All providers shall be held to the same standards of practice, including maintaining patient confidentiality and recordkeeping, that would apply to the provision of the same services in an in-person setting.

- Medicare recently updated and eased requirements for telehealth, [click here for updates to Medicaid and Medicare](#). In summary:
  - CSWs can provide teletherapy to beneficiaries if the client is in their home.
  - They can also see new or existing patients.
  - Telephone/audio has recently been added to allowable service delivery methods.
  - HIPAA requirements are eased.
- Clients should contact their insurer to verify that they are eligible for telemental health services – many insurance providers are allowing telemental health services on a temporary basis due to the ongoing pandemic



## TRAINING ON PROVIDING TELEMENTAL HEALTH

NASW Utah has partnered with *The Telebehavioral Health Institute* to provide training and certification on the appropriate and ethical use of telemental health. For more information, click here: <https://telehealth.org/naswut/>

### Webinars and Online CEU's

- Many CEU events are moving online including upcoming NASW UT branch meetings. Keep an eye on our website for updated upcoming events
- If you are planning a training and want to convert it to a virtual format instead of cancelling or postponing, find a FREE resource [here](#)
- If you are wanting to convert an approved NASW workshop to an online format, please email us at [office.naswut@socialworkers.org](mailto:office.naswut@socialworkers.org) with the changes you would like to make with the subject line CEU Addendum. We have waived the online approval fee at this time; all we require is an additional quiz for attendees that checks for content mastery.

### ASWB and Social Work Licensing Exams

ASWB is now ALLOWING Social Work exams to continue as they are essential workers! Visit [ASWB](#) for more information on testing

### CEU'S

- **DOPL has waived live workshop requirements for social workers renewing their licenses through September 30th, 2020.**
- IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR CEU APPROVAL, we are accepting email submissions while we are working remotely - if you send in a new application make sure the subject line reads **"CEU Application"**
- Utah NASW has partnered with California NASW to provide a catalog of online courses! Take a look here: [NASWCA Online Course Catalog](#)
- If you would like to convert your training to a virtual format [click here](#) for more information from Higher Logic
- Through May 30<sup>th</sup>, NASW-UT will waive the \$15 fee to approve continuing education for online or home study. Regular application fees still apply.
- If you want a previously approved application considered for online/home study approval, please email us the following: 1) title of the workshop, 2) sponsor, 3) contact person and a copy of the assessment tool used to evaluate content mastery.



## **Additional Information**

National NASW has put out a [practice alert for social workers](#) concerned about the spread of COVID-19 including resources and free webinars. Please take a moment to review this document.

The Utah Department of Public Health (UDH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) should be your go-to resources to remain updated about the novel coronavirus outbreak:

- UDH <https://health.utah.gov/>
- CDC: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/)
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/preparedness-resources.html>

In solidarity,  
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