

Social issues & regulator responses

The wave of social issues that impact regulation, license/registration application review

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In response to...	Social workers may...	Boards may consider...
The opioid crisis	Need to know whether administering naloxone is permissible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring social workers receive training Using Good Samaritan laws to protect the social worker How regulation for accessing naloxone pertains to social workers That using naloxone is more like doing CPR than giving a medication The safety of naloxone even if administered accidentally
Pressure to exempt child, youth, and family protective services workers from licensure	Practice without a license, exposing clients to a risk of harm without recourse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certifying aspiring social workers to bring them under the regulatory umbrella Offering an associate license Encouraging a culture of professionalism Communicating with legislators about removing exemptions
Decriminalization and/or legalization of marijuana and medical assistance in dying	Be eligible for licensure despite criminal background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessing applicants based on applicant conduct and client safety rather than criminal convictions Distinguishing the severity of the crime Determining whether the offense was related to practice or unrelated, such as a DUI
Disproportionate incarceration of people who are minorities	Be licensed despite a history of incarceration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using in-person interviews with licensure applicants with criminal records Getting an evaluation from a forensic psychologist Using an impaired professional program Putting the burden on the professional to demonstrate that the issue has been corrected Allowing ex-offenders to petition the licensing board before applying to find out if the offense will be disqualifying Using behavior, not moral character, to determine eligibility Restricting previously convicted practitioners from working with certain populations Welcoming reformed offenders and their experience with at-risk populations

