

IASW Guidance for supervisors willing to offer supervision/consultation and supervisees seeking supervision/consultation

1:0. Introduction:

The Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW) launched its working document for professional social work supervision 'Promoting Quality Professional Supervision' in May 2016. This document provides social workers with an overview of professional social work supervision and standards for supervisors and supervisees. The IASW is aware that some social workers do not have access to supervision from a qualified social worker and so they need to seek supervision from outside their agency. Hence IASW offers the following guidance to potential supervisors willing to offer supervision/consultation and supervisees seeking supervision/consultation.

1:1. Quality of Supervision:

As a regulated profession, CORU Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics (2019) states that social workers must 'seek and engage in supervision in professional practice on an on-going and regular basis, in line with your knowledge, skills, competence and experience'. Although current continuous professional development (CPD) requirements can be met without referring to supervision, the IASW recommends that a minimum of 10 CPD credits in each 12-month cycle are from learning activities related to supervision. IASW also recommends that professional supervision is provided by social workers equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to provide quality supervision. In response to the needs and requests of members, IASW has compiled a supervision directory for those who may be interested in availing of the services of a supervisor for private supervision/consultation. As IASW is not in a position to guarantee the quality of supervision offered by any potential supervisor, the following specific recommendations have been outlined to ensure that supervisors are appropriately trained and experienced to provide supervision in professional practice.

2:0. Recommendations for Supervisors who wish to be on the IASW Supervisors List:

The IASW standards for Supervision (2016) require that:

- Supervisors have professional qualifications in social work recognised by CORU and have an up to date registration with CORU
- Supervisors are/have been employed at a Senior Social Worker/Team Leader or Principal Social Worker grade, have a minimum of 3 years post qualifying experience and possess the knowledge and skills to assist others in their learning.
- Supervisors have a clear understanding of the contemporary professional and practice issues, legislation and policy relating to the supervisee's field of practice.
- Supervisors engage in continuing professional development for the provision of professional supervision and undertake relevant continuing professional development to ensure up to date knowledge in the relevant fields of practice.
- Supervisors engage in their own professional supervision as part of their commitment to professional practice.

2:1. Additional recommended requirements:

- Supervisors have completed training in supervision, (such as the HSE course based on the work of Tony Morrison or university social work practice teaching training).
- Charge no more than 120 euro per hour and provide a receipt or invoice to the supervisee.
- To be a member of IASW.

3:0. Quality assurance regarding the Supervisee's experience of Supervision:

IASW reserves the rights to contact the supervisees who have accessed supervision via the IASW Supervisors List, as a means to obtain feedback regarding their experience of supervision.

Disclaimer:

IASW reserves the right not to place a supervisor on or remove a supervisor from the Supervision List.