

## **NASW Procedures for Professional Review Revisions**

### Introduction

The following recommendations were approved by the NASW National Board of Directors at its October, 2009 meeting in Washington, DC. This new procedure is effective immediately. These new procedures have been adopted in order to address concerns about protection of the public, since the surrogate complaint process has been removed from the *NASW Procedures for Professional Review* (Ch. 1, D. 2, p. 2).

### **Approved Procedures**

#### Automatic Revocation of Membership

Automatic revocation of membership will be implemented based on action taken by a state licensing board to revoke a member's license or as a result of a criminal felony conviction in a publicly reported forum. The action taken will be as follows:

- If a social work licensing board action requires revocation of the member's license: NASW membership will be revoked.
- If a member is convicted of a felony: NASW membership will be revoked.

This will not require a review by the National Ethics Committee or NASW Board of Directors' Executive Committee. Membership Services will facilitate the revocation of membership by notifying the member.

#### Self Reports

When a chapter becomes aware of a substantiated criminal or social work licensure violation by a social worker member based on information available in the public domain that has resulted in an action less than a felony or revocation of a social work license, the chapter will forward the information to the national office for review. The NASW national office will notify the member, in writing, of the information received from the public domain, provide a recommendation that the member self-report, and provide notice that failure to self-report within 30 days will result in automatic suspension of NASW membership. This will not require a review by the National Ethics Committee or NASW Executive Committee. Suspension of membership will be facilitated by the Office of Ethics and Professional Review and processed by Membership Services. If a self-report is filed, the matter will be handled according to the process available under the *Procedures for Professional Review, Revised* (see, pp. 2 -3). This will enhance consistency of outcomes and expedite the review process.

The proposed national office notification assures that a member whose violation or conviction has become public knowledge (with the exception of license revocations and felonies) will be afforded an opportunity for review before automatic sanctions are implemented by NASW.