

If you hold a **current social work license in another state or jurisdiction**, you can apply for a Minnesota social work license by endorsement.

How do I know if I need to be licensed as a social worker in Minnesota?

If you have a **social work degree**, a license is required if you **provide social work services** as defined in [Minnesota Statutes section 148E.010](#), subdivisions 6 or 11, or **use the title social worker**, unless you are employed by a county or a federally recognized tribe. Go to [When is a License Required?](#) on the Board's website for more information.

What are the different types of social work licenses in Minnesota?

There are four permanent social work license types in Minnesota:

Licensed Social Worker (LSW)

- Bachelor's license
- Authorized to practice **only** [nonclinical social work](#)

Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW)

- Master's license
- Authorized to practice [nonclinical](#) and [clinical](#) social work; ongoing licensing supervision required for clinical practice until an LICSW is obtained

Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW)

- Advanced practice master's license (requirements vary between states, but typically means a master's license plus nonclinical supervised practice)
- Authorized to practice [nonclinical](#) and [clinical](#) social work; ongoing licensing supervision required for clinical practice until an LICSW is obtained

Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW)

- Independent clinical master's license (requirements vary between states, but typically means a master's license plus clinical supervised practice)
- Authorized to practice [nonclinical](#) and [clinical](#) social work; no licensing supervision required

How do I know what type of Minnesota license to apply for?

Endorsement applicants can only apply for a Minnesota social work license that is comparable to the license you hold in another state or jurisdiction. For example, if you hold an active/current master's license in another state, you may apply for the LGSW in Minnesota. If you hold an active/current independent clinical license in another state, you may apply for the LICSW in Minnesota.

If you hold a **current social work license in another state or jurisdiction**, you can apply for a Minnesota social work license by **endorsement**.

What documentation do I need to submit with my endorsement application?

Endorsement applicants are required to submit the following:

- Application and application fee
- Fingerprint-based criminal background check
- Verification of current license in another state (*submitted directly to BOSW from the licensing body in your state*)
- Official academic transcript (*submitted directly to BOSW from your school*)

Refer to the [Application Action Steps](#) fact sheet for detailed information on the application process.

How long does it take to be licensed by endorsement?

Getting your permanent license involves multiple steps and generally takes at least a couple months and can take longer. Applications are reviewed in order of date received and initial application review typically takes between 30 and 60 days from the date an application is received by the Board. If you have not submitted the required supporting documentation for your application, your application will be delayed. Refer to the [Application Action Steps](#) fact sheet for detailed information on the application process.

Since endorsement applicants hold a current license in another state, you are also eligible to apply for a temporary license while your permanent license application is being processed, which can typically be issued more quickly than a permanent license. Go to [Apply for Temporary License](#) on the Board's website for more information. The Board cannot grant a temporary license until you have completed the required criminal background check.

I am currently licensed in another state as a master's social worker and have completed requirements in my state to be eligible for an independent clinical license. Can I apply for a Minnesota LICSW by endorsement?

No. If you hold an active/current master's license in another state, you are eligible to apply for a Minnesota LGSW by endorsement. While you would have the option to apply for a Minnesota LICSW by examination, you must meet all Minnesota requirements including Minnesota's [supervised practice requirements](#) and the [360 Clinical Clock Hour requirement](#) before you can be approved by the Board to take the ASWB Clinical exam. Another option is to obtain an independent clinical license in your current state, and then apply for a Minnesota LICSW by endorsement once you hold an active independent clinical license in another state.

If you hold a **current social work license in another state or jurisdiction**, you can apply for a Minnesota social work license by **endorsement**.

Do I need to obtain licensing supervision for social work practice once I am licensed in Minnesota?

Licensing supervision is an intentional professional relationship between a supervisor and a social worker. In Minnesota, licensing supervision is required for LSWs and LGSWs in nonclinical practice, and for LGSWs and LISWs in clinical practice. Go to the [Supervised Practice](#) page on the Board's website to learn more.

Whether licensing supervision is required for licensees who obtain their license by endorsement depends on your practice experience, license type, and whether you practice clinical or nonclinical social work:

LGSW or LISW by Endorsement in Clinical Practice

Applicants who obtain a Minnesota LGSW or LISW by endorsement and practice clinical social work in Minnesota must receive licensing supervision in compliance with Minnesota's [clinical supervised practice requirements](#). Submit a [Supervision Plan](#) form within 60 days of starting a social work position in Minnesota.

LICSW by Endorsement

Applicants who obtain a Minnesota LICSW by endorsement are not required to receive licensing supervision for clinical or nonclinical practice.

LSW or LGSW by Endorsement in Nonclinical Practice

For applicants who obtain a Minnesota LSW or LGSW by endorsement, licensing supervision is not required if you have practiced social work for at least 4,000 hours (about two years working full time) with an active license in another state during the 4 years immediately preceding your application for a Minnesota social work license by endorsement. If you do not satisfy this requirement, you are required to receive licensing supervision in compliance with Minnesota's [supervised practice requirements](#).

Example 1: If you are licensed as a Minnesota LSW by endorsement in 2019, and you held a current/active bachelor's license in North Dakota through 2019 and practiced social work full time during in 2017 and 2018, you are not required to receive licensing supervision for social work practice in Minnesota.

Example 2: If you are licensed as a Minnesota LSW by endorsement in 2019, and you held a current/active bachelor's license in North Dakota through 2019 but had not been in a social work position since 2013, you will be required receive licensing supervision for social work practice in Minnesota.

Once your Minnesota LSW or LGSW license is issued, documentation of 4,000 hours of practice while you held an active license in another state is required to satisfy the licensing supervision noted above. You must request the "Report of Practice Hours in Another State or Jurisdiction" form via [email](#) from the BOSW. Complete and return the form to the BOSW for consideration.

If you have not completed 4,000 hours of practice while you held an active license in another state during the 4 years immediately preceding your application for a Minnesota social work license, submit a [Supervision Plan](#) form within 60 days of starting a social work position in Minnesota to document compliance with Minnesota's [supervised practice requirements](#).