

*This fact sheet is an at-a-glance reference of social work license requirements and information, and is not an exhaustive resource. **As a licensed professional, you are responsible for being aware of and complying with all licensing requirements.** Always visit the [Board's website](#) and reference [Minnesota Statutes Chapter 148E](#) for complete information.*

1 Definition of Social Work Practice

In Minnesota, you are required to be licensed if you use the title social worker or provide social work services as defined in [Minnesota Statutes section 148E.010](#), subdivisions 6 or 11. A license may still be required even if the job does not require direct client contact, the job title is not social worker, or if the employer does not require licensure. Only the Board has the authority to determine whether someone is engaged in social work practice. Review the [Social Work Practice Act](#), and specifically the definitions of [social work practice](#) and [clinical social work practice](#), to avoid unlicensed practice in Minnesota.

2 Supervised Practice

Once licensed, supervision is required for at least the first 4,000 hours of social work practice for LSWs and LGSWs. Supervision is required for both nonclinical and clinical practice. Supervision for 4,000 hours of practice is required for eligibility for the LISW and LICSW license. LGSWs and LISWs who practice clinical social work must maintain ongoing supervision. Compliance with supervised practice may be required even if you were licensed as a social worker in another state. Visit the [Supervised Practice](#) page on the Board's website for complete information.

3 Continuing Education

You must complete Continuing Education (CE) hours. You will be required to verify that you completed CE hours for the previous two years when you renew your license. [Log in to your license profile](#) to check the number of CE hours you will be required to report at license renewal. Visit the [Continuing Education](#) page on the Board's website for complete information about the hours required and acceptable CE content and activities.

4 License Renewal

You must renew your social work license every two years by the last day of your birth month. Keep your license current and active to continue practicing social work. You will be required to verify compliance with licensing requirements, including supervised practice and CE hours, when you renew your license. [Log in to your license profile](#) to verify your expiration/renewal date and other license renewal information. Visit the [License Renewal](#) page on the Board's website for complete information about renewal requirements, fees, and deadlines.

5 Standards of Practice

It is critical that you review and familiarize yourself with the [Standards of Practice](#) found in Minnesota Statutes sections 148E.185 to 148E.290, and reference them often as you practice social work in Minnesota. The Standards of Practice in the [Social Work Practice Act](#) serve to protect the public by ensuring that everyone licensed as a social worker in Minnesota meets minimum standards of practice. Violations of the Standards of Practice are grounds for disciplinary action against your license.

6 Representation & Name Changes

Your clients have the right to know that you are licensed and regulated by the Board of Social Work. Your license details are available using the [Public License Lookup](#) online service at the Board's website. The [Social Work Practice Act](#) requires you to use your social work license designation (LSW, LGSW, LISW, LICSW) in all professional use of your name. You must also display your license certificate at your place(s) of practice. You must represent yourself to clients and the public using your name as shown on your license certificate and [Public License Lookup](#) online service. Refer to [Minnesota Statutes sections 148E.195](#) for complete information on representations to clients and the public. You are required to report name changes to the Board [within 30 days of the change](#). A [Name Change Form](#) is available on the Board's website.

7 Address + Email Changes

You must notify the Board of any changes to your address, telephone number, or email address [within 30 days of the change](#). The Board will contact you regarding your license via mail, and you will receive your license renewal reminder via email, so it is critical that your contact information is up to date. You can review and update your contact information at any time by [logging into your license profile](#).

8 Online Services

You can renew your license, apply for a different license type, submit supervision documentation, and update your contact information through online services by [logging in to your license profile](#) on the Board's website. PDF forms are available on the [Downloadable Forms](#) page of the Board's website.

9 Reporting Requirements

You are required to comply with the reporting requirements in [Minnesota Statutes section 148E.240](#). This includes certain types of criminal convictions, unlicensed practice, and misconduct of other licensed health professionals. Certain reporting obligations can be satisfied with a report to the [Health Professionals Services Program](#) (HPSP), rather than the licensing Board (see Minnesota Statutes sections [148E.205](#) and [214.33](#)).

10 Stay Connected with the Board!

[Sign up](#) to receive news and updates from the Board on topics relating to licensing requirements, educational innovations, and social work regulation and practice in Minnesota. The Board is committed to staying connected with our customers and stakeholders. Visit the [Resources](#) and [About the Board](#) pages on the Board's website for public meeting schedules, Board minutes and reports, Board committee information, and more!