

Feel confident in your career moves

Applying for a license? Moving to a new jurisdiction? The ASWB Social Work Registry can help you gather and keep your important documents in one place.

The Registry is a go-to ASWB mobility service that will request, verify, submit, and safely store your critical documents—from academic transcripts and social work exam results to licensing history and supervisory records.

You can also store other records, such as CE courses completed, employment history, and professional credentials.

Start a Social Work Registry file today. Email registry@aswb.org or call 866.825.9580 for an application.

Focus on social work practice mobility

What does the future of social work practice mobility look like?

- The reality is that social workers don't know where they might have to work—down the street, across the state, or at some distant disaster.
- Each jurisdiction has its own laws and regulations to protect the public.
- If you practice electronically across jurisdictions, you likely will need to be licensed in multiple locations.

The conversation has begun to find solutions that work for regulators, social workers, and the public.

What has been your mobility experience? We'd like to hear from you. Write to info@aswb.org.

About ASWB

The Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) is the nonprofit association of social work regulatory bodies in the U.S. and Canada. ASWB develops and maintains the social work examinations and provides support and services to the social work regulatory community.

That community includes not only regulatory bodies but also social workers, social work students and faculty, and other social work organizations.

For more information, visit www.aswb.org or email info@aswb.org.

The mission of ASWB is to strengthen the protection of the public by providing support and services to the social work regulatory community to advance safe, competent, and ethical practices.

Join us on social media



Facebook – ASWBonline. Exam tips and information about services to licensees



Twitter – @ASWB. News on the exam, services, and the association

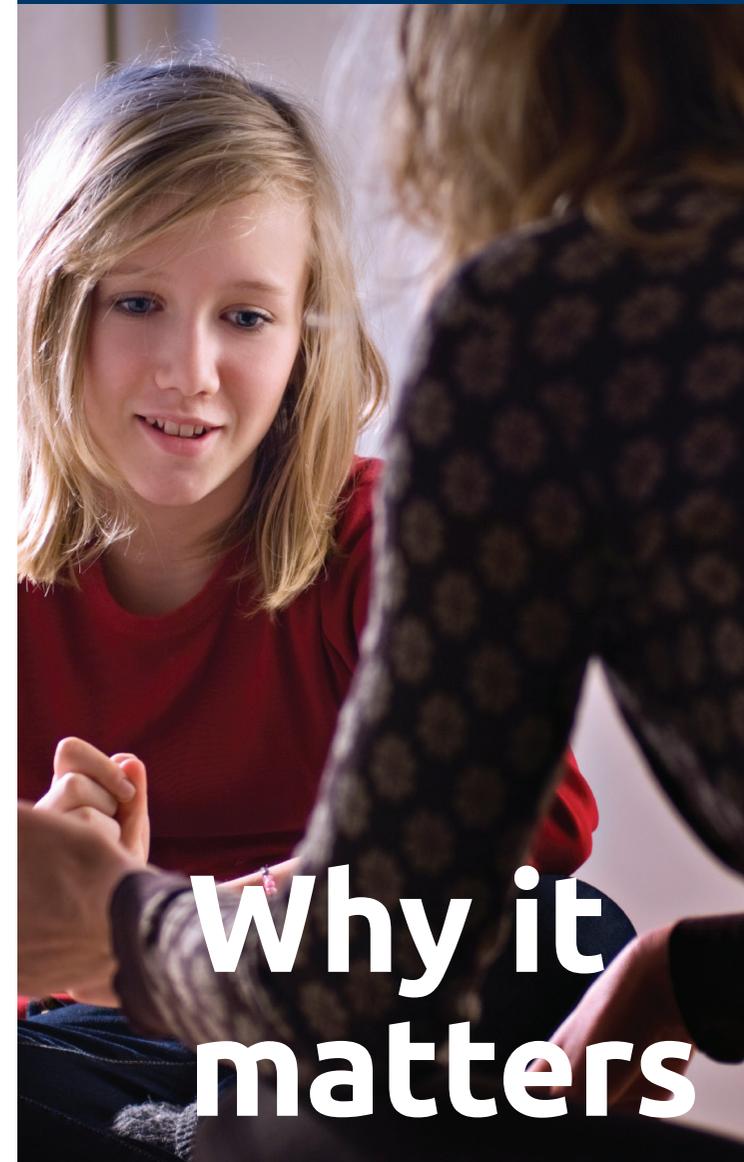


LinkedIn – ASWB Social Work Regulation Forum. Meaningful discussion about social work licensing and regulation



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SOCIAL WORK LICENSING



Why it matters



Social work licensing is a fact of professional life.

All 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, all ten Canadian provinces, and the Northwest Territory regulate the practice of social work. For future and recently graduated social workers, this means one thing: licensure with your U.S. jurisdiction or registration in Canada at some point in your career.

And what more and more social workers are finding is that licensing or registration is simply a good idea. It means that you have been legally recognized as a responsible professional, capable of practicing with professional standards that carry the force of law. In most jurisdictions, the title of social worker is legally protected. You need a license in order to call yourself a social worker.

But most important is what licensing or registration does for the people you help every day. A licensed or registered social worker provides a practice backed by a legal guarantee—that service will be safe, competent, ethical, and responsible.

The FAQs:

Isn't licensing just for clinical social workers?

No. Most social work boards offer multiple categories of licensure. Most jurisdictions require licensure for the BSW, MSW, and clinical categories.

Does NASW issue licenses?

No. The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is a professional membership organization that supports licensure but does not issue licenses. Your jurisdictional board (or equivalent) operates through state/provincial legislation, administers laws and regulations, and issues licenses.

Don't I only need a license to bill insurance?

A license may allow you to bill insurance; however, if you want to be recognized as a social worker, you must be licensed or registered in most jurisdictions.

Is ASWB in charge of licensing?

No. Your jurisdiction's regulatory body establishes rules and regulations for acquiring and maintaining your license. ASWB provides the licensing examinations required by the boards. Questions about licensure application procedures and requirements need to be directed to your jurisdiction's regulatory body. Contact information can be found at www.aswb.org.

What about the exams?

There are four ASWB exams: Bachelors, Masters, Advanced Generalist, and Clinical. Each is designed to measure competency

at different educational and experiential levels. Candidates have four hours to complete the exam, which contains 170 multiple-choice questions developed from surveys of actual social work practice.

If I pass the exam, am I automatically licensed?

No. The exams are only one part of the licensing requirements. Education, supervised experience, and other factors also weigh heavily in licensing decisions in each jurisdiction.

But I don't think I'm ready to get a license yet.

Even if you're just beginning your social work career, you're ready to get a license. Remember, licensing represents a minimum level of competency for social work practice—in other words, what you should be able to perform on your first day on the job, not what highly developed skills you may refine later in your career.

So what do I do to get licensed?

Visit the website of your jurisdiction's social work regulatory body for information about applying for your license. Contact information for every regulatory body can be found at www.aswb.org.

Can a licensed social worker practice in any state or province?

No. Mobility varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Contact the regulatory body in the jurisdiction in which you wish to practice for their requirements.