

Electronic social work practice in Newfoundland & Labrador

Information for registered social workers in other Canadian jurisdictions

Social work practice in NL is governed by An Act Respecting the Practice of Social Work CHAPTER S-17.2 (short title Social Workers Act) 2010. This legislation requires that all individuals using the title *social worker* and engaging in the practice of social work meet the criteria for registration and be registered to practice.

Electronic social work services mean the use of computers (including the Internet, social media, online chat, text, and email) and other electronic means (such as smartphones, landline telephones, and video technology) to (a) provide information to the public, (b) deliver social work services to **clients**, (c) communicate with **clients**, (d) manage confidential information and case records, (e) store and access information about **clients**, and (f) arrange payment for professional services.¹

Social workers from other Canadian jurisdictions who are reviewing this information and who intend to engage in electronic social work practice with clients in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) are responsible for knowing current regulations and practice standards that exist in this province and adhering to additional requirements as appropriate.

The title *social worker* and the practice of social work are regulated in NL. Residents of other Canadian jurisdictions who wish to engage in electronic social work practice with clients in NL must be registered members in good standing in the other Canadian jurisdiction based upon criteria for registration which is equal to the criteria in this province. Specifically, individuals must hold a bachelors, masters or doctoral degree in social work accredited by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education, the Council on Social Work Education or international equivalent and possess a clear certificate of conduct. Further information about the criteria for social work registration in NL is available at http://www.nlasw.ca/registration_process.html

When providing social work service to residents of NL, social workers must inform clients of the jurisdiction in which the social worker holds a registration to practice and the name of the regulatory body. Social workers engaging in electronic social work practice in NL should be aware of local resources to assist clients and must provide clear and explicit guidance to clients who may require crisis services when the social worker is unavailable. Social workers in other Canadian jurisdictions who practice in NL must adhere to the following:

- [Canadian Association of Social Workers \(CASW\) Code of Ethics](#)
- [CASW Guidelines for Ethical Practice \(2005\)](#)
- [NLASW Standards of Practice for Social Workers in Newfoundland and Labrador \(2018\)](#) and the
- [NLASW Standards for Technology Use in Social Work Practice \(2012\)](#)

¹ Model Regulatory Standards for Technology and Social Work Practice, ASWB International Technology Task Force 2013-14
www.aswb.org

Before engaging in electronic social work practice in NL, Registered Social workers in other Canadian jurisdictions must:

- ✓ Submit a completed declaration form [declaration form](#)
- ✓ Submit a completed [verification of registration form](#)
- ✓ Ensure current professional liability insurance policies which provide adequate coverage for electronic social work practice in this province.