

## **SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE INFORMATION**

### Rule 2.1 Types of Social Work Licenses

- A. "LSW" (Licensed Social Worker) is the license held by an individual licensed to practice social work in the state of Mississippi at the baccalaureate level. (Part 1902, Chapter 3, Rule 3.2, A: Guidelines of Practice LSW.)
- B. "LMSW" (Licensed Master Social Worker) is the license held by an individual, with a masters or doctoral degree, who is licensed to practice social work in the state of Mississippi at the masters level. (See Part 1902, Chapter 3, Rule 3.2, A: Guidelines of Practice LMSW.)
- C. "LCSW" (Licensed Certified Social Worker) is the license held by an individual who has fulfilled the requirements for LMSW and completed the requirements of the BOE SW/MFT for post-masters professional supervision. This individual is licensed at the certified level. Only licensed certified social workers who have completed clinical supervision and taken the ASWB clinical exam may hold himself/herself out to the public as a "clinical social worker." (See Part 1902, Rule 3.2, C: Guidelines of Practice LCSW.)

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§73-53-3, 73-53-11(1) (c) and (k) and 73-53-13 (Supp. 2011).

### Rule 2.2 REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE

#### A. Prerequisite to performance of services

All individuals not exempt from licensure are prohibited from performing services for compensation, for which licensure is required by these Regulations. They are also prohibited from holding themselves out to the public by any title or description of services set out in these Regulations or by any title or description of services likely to cause public confusion with any title or description of services set out in these Regulations.

#### B. General Requirements

An applicant for social work licensure shall meet the following general requirements:

1. Is at least twenty-one (21) years of age;

2. Is of good moral character, as defined in these Rules and Regulations;
3. Has on file a fingerprint criminal history information record check acceptable to the Board.
4. Has on file a Mississippi Sex Offender Registry check acceptable to the Board;
5. Holds United States citizenship or status as a legal resident alien;
6. Is free of conviction of a felony related to the practice of social work within the last ten (10) years;
7. Is mentally competent with no decree of mental incompetence still standing in any court;
8. Is currently free from dependency on alcohol or drugs, other substances or any other type of addiction;
9. Has no pending disciplinary action;
10. Has an acceptable social work degree for level of licensure requested.

C. Specific Requirements

Application shall be made on forms provided by the Board and available on the Board's website. Payment of application fees must be included with an initial licensure application and other supporting documentation as required. (See Schedule of Fees: Part 1902, Chapter 4, Rule 4.3, B)

1. **LSW Level:** An applicant for LSW designation must submit the following to the Board:
  - a. An Initial application;
  - b. Verification of a baccalaureate degree in social work from a college or university accredited by Council on Social Work Education) (CSWE) or Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS);

- c. A current fingerprint criminal history record information check conducted by the appropriate governmental authority or authorities within one-hundred eighty (180) days of the completed application. This criminal history record information check must be received by the Board directly from the appropriate governmental authority or authorities, not from the applicant;
- d. An acceptable Sex Offender Registry check conducted by the Board;
- e. Passing scores on the examination from the ASWB basic exam;
- f. Full licensure fee (See Part 1902, Chapter 4, Rule 4.3, B).

2. **LMSW Level:** An applicant for LMSW designation must submit the following to the Board:

- a. An Initial application;
- b. Verification of a master's degree from a school of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) or a doctorate in social work (D.S.W. or Ph.D.);
- c. A current fingerprint criminal history record information check conducted by the appropriate governmental authority or authorities within one-hundred eighty (180) days of the completed application. This criminal history record information check must be received by the Board directly from the appropriate governmental authority or authorities, not from the applicant;
- d. An acceptable Sex Offender Registry check conducted by the Board;
- e. Passing scores on the examination from the ASWB intermediate exam;

- f. Full licensure fee (Part 1902, Chapter 4, Rule 4.3, B).
3. **LCSW Level:** An applicant for LCSW designation must be a current LMSW in good standing who has completed the Supervision process as outlined in Part 1902, Chapter 2, Rule 2.3 as verified by Board records, and must submit to the Board:
- a. An Initial application for LCSW license;
  - b. Supervision Plan and Contract for Supervision as outlined by the MS Board of Examiners for Social Workers in the LMSW Guide for Supervision;
  - c. Four evaluations (1 approximately every six months for 24 months) not to exceed thirty-six (36) months for the supervision process to be completed;
  - d. Termination of Supervision Contract;
  - e. A current fingerprint criminal history record information check conducted by the appropriate governmental authority or authorities within one-hundred eighty (180) days of the completed application. This criminal history record information check must be received by the Board directly from the appropriate governmental authority or authorities, not from the applicant;
  - f. An acceptable Sex Offender Registry check conducted by the Board;
  - g. Three character/professional references from persons in current professional contact with applicant; references may be from disciplines related to social work, but at least one(1) must be from a LCSW other than the applicant's supervisor;
  - h. Passing scores from the ASWB examination on either the Clinical level or Advanced level;
  - i. Applicable fees: No additional licensure fee is required, if upgrading from LMSW status in good standing.

Any subsequent application shall be treated as a new application.

E. Exemptions from Licensure

No provision in the law or these Regulations shall be construed to:

1. Prevent individuals licensed or certified by this state, whose activities overlap with the practice of social work, from carrying out the functions covered by their respective licenses or certificates, or to prevent duly ordained or licensed members of the clergy from carrying out the functions for which they have been trained, provided that such clergy or individuals shall not hold themselves out to the public by any title set out in these Regulations.
2. Apply to or in any way interfere with any office, officer, agency, or employee of the United States, while such office, officer, agency, or employee is engaging in the performance of official duties within the course and scope of such employment or duties.
3. Apply to or in any way interfere with an individual who performs services described by these Regulations solely for the benefit of a member of that individual's immediate family without compensation.
4. Apply to or in any way interfere with the activities and services of a student while pursuing a course of professional education qualifying as education under these Regulations, if these activities or services constitute a part of such student's supervised course of study and such activities are supervised by an individual licensed under these Regulations.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§73-53-1, 73-53-5, 73-53-7(1), 73-53-11(1) (c), (d), (k), (l), (u) and (3), 73-53-13 and 73-53-15(2) and (6) (Supp. 2011).

**Note: All licensees are required to inform the Board, through submission of a Change of Status Form, of a change of address, name, and etc.**

**4. Licensure by Reciprocity/Endorsement:**

Applicants for licensure by reciprocity/endorsement who hold a valid license from another state may be eligible for licensure in Mississippi provided:

- a. The examination completed for licensure is the same examination endorsed or prescribed by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) for the license level for which reciprocity/endorsement is being requested.
- b. The applicant has a comparable license in good standing or registration from another state or territory of the United States that imposes qualifications equal to or greater than the current requirements of the Mississippi Board of Examiners. Exams administered by individual states are not considered equal.
- c. Applicants, who have complaints or disciplinary action pending against them in another state, will not be granted a Mississippi license until such complaints are resolved to the satisfaction of the Board.
- d. The applicant has the required degree for licensure according to the current Rules and Regulations of the Board.

**D. Abandonment of Application**

An application for licensure as a LSW or a LMSW shall be considered abandoned if the ASWB exam has not been attempted within six (6) months from the date on which the application was received by the Board.

An application for licensure as a LCSW shall be considered abandoned if the ASWB exam has not been attempted within six (6) months from the date on which termination of supervision was approved by the Board and the applicant was approved to take the ASWB exam at the Clinical or Advanced level.