TENNESSEE SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE LAW

The chart below provides a brief overview of Social Work Licensure in Tennessee.

NASW, Tennessee Chapter advocated with the Tennessee General Assembly in 2008 to implement licensure changes that allow for increased recognition and accountability for social workers that have graduated from Council on Social Work Education accredited social work program. Tennessee citizens and employers can now trust that a licensed social worker has met specific educational, testing and continuing education requirements. Licensed social workers also are under the oversight of the Tennessee Social Work Licensure Board that has the authority and responsibility to issue licenses, and to take action when licensees have engaged in inappropriate practice.

Additional information on Social Work Licensure in Tennessee is posted on the NASW, Tennessee Chapter website at www.naswtn.com. The licensure section on that website has direct links to the Tennessee Social Work Licensure Board where individual licensure applications can be downloaded. All applicants and licensees should also be familiar with the **Rules and Regulations** related to Social Work Licensure in Tennessee. These rules are posted on the Licensure Board website and a link is also on the NASW, Tennessee Chapter website.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)

Requirements for licensure

Complete 3,000 hours of clinical experience under supervision of a LCSW (after receipt of LMSW), Applicant must complete appropriate forms, submit criminal background check, pay fees and pass Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) clinical practice exam.

Practice info Can practice clinical and non-clinical social work in an agency, organization, or independently. LCSW meeting requirements for supervisors can supervise LMSW working towards LCSW or LAPSW.

Examples: LCSW providing services and supervision in AIDS service organization and clinical social worker in private practice.

Licensed Advanced Practice Social Worker (LAPSW)

Requirements for licensure

Complete 3,000 hours of advanced generalist practice under supervision of a LAPSW or LCSW (after receipt of LMSW). Applicant must also complete appropriate forms, submit criminal background check, pay fees and pass Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) advanced generalist practice exam.

<u>Practice info:</u> Can practice non-clinical social work in an agency, organization, or independently. LAPSW meeting requirements for supervisors can supervise LMSW working towards LAPSW.

Examples: Social worker providing consulting services, social work educator or social work administrator.

Licensed Master's Social Worker (LMSW)

Requirements for licensure

Graduate from CSWE accredited social work graduate program, complete appropriate forms, submit criminal background check, pay fees, pass Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) master's licensing exam.

<u>Practice info:</u> Practice within agency or organization. No independent practice.

Example: Master's social worker in community mental health center working under LCSW supervision, social worker employed to assist with research study.

Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker (LBSW)

Requirements for licensure

Graduate from CSWE accredited baccalaureate social work program, complete appropriate forms, submit criminal background check, pay fees, pass Association for Social Work Boards (ASWB) bachelors licensing exam.

<u>Practice info:</u> Generalist social work practice within agency or organization.

Examples: Geriatric social worker providing case management in senior service organization, social worker assisting homeless families with basic needs that works in an agency..