



IDFPR

Illinois Department of
Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

Qualifications for Licensure: LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER (149)

Effective: 05/2025

Revised: N/NNNN

READ ME FIRST

The Division of Professional Regulation hopes that you will find the below useful in successfully applying for a license in the State of Illinois. Carefully review this information as it will assist you in applying for your license and eliminate any processing delays.

Important:

- An application is active for three years from the date of receipt by the Department.
- Before contacting the Department, please review our [FAQs](#) for answers to most questions.
- If your question is not addressed in our FAQ's, please contact the department at 1-800-560-6420.

LICENSE QUALIFICATIONS

Licensed Clinical Social Worker is an INDEPENDENT PRACTICE level license.

Education:

- A graduate level (Master's or Doctorate) Social Work degree.
- **Degrees that are NOT Social Work degrees are not acceptable for Illinois Social Worker licensure.**
- Degree programs must be accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).
- Degrees from outside the United States must be evaluated as equivalent to a US degree by the CSWE's International Social Work Degree Recognition and Evaluation Service.
- [Rules 68 IAC Section 1470.30](#) addresses the education requirements for licensure.

Clinical Experience:

- MSW applicants must provide evidence of 3000 hours supervised CLINICAL experience (DSW applicants must provide evidence of 2000 hours supervised CLINICAL experience).
- The experience must be AFTER the graduate level SW degree was awarded.
- The experience must be supervised by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.
- The experience must include an average of at least 4 hours per month spent in supervision.
- The experience must be evaluated as satisfactory by the supervisor.
- [Rules 68 IAC Section 1470.20\(a\)](#) addresses the supervised clinical experience requirements for licensure.

Examination:

- The Association of Social Work Boards *Clinical* Examination,
OR

LICENSE QUALIFICATIONS (Continued)

3000 hours PROFESSIONAL (Exam Alternative) Experience.

- IDFPR provides exam approval upon submission of the IL LCSW licensure application.
- [Rules 68 IAC Section 1470.70](#) addresses the examination requirements for licensure.

Exam Alternative Experience:

- Must have attempted the ASWB Clinical exam after January 1, 2019.
- 3000 hours supervised PROFESSIONAL experience.
- Exam Alternative hours are separate from or **in addition to** the CLINICAL hours required by [Rules 68 IAC Section 1470.20\(a\)](#).
- The experience must be AFTER the graduate level SW degree was awarded, but do not need to be after the ASWB Clinical exam attempt.
- The experience must be supervised by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, a Licensed Clinical Psychologist, a Licensed Psychiatrist (Physician), or a Licensed Advance Practice Psychiatric Nurse.
- The experience must be evaluated as satisfactory by the supervisor.
- Experience must be not more than 10 years old at the time the application is submitted.
- Beginning January 1, 2026, one must be licensed as a Licensed Social Worker or School Social Worker while completing the Exam Alternative experience.
- [Rules 68 IAC Section 1470.10\(a\)\(2\)](#) addresses the supervised PROFESSIONAL (Exam Alternative) experience requirements for licensure.
- Experience is reported on application form VE-SW (version 2024 or later).

REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

One must provide:

Proof of Education:

- A [Certification of Education \(ED\) form](#) completed by a university official,
OR
- An official final, transcript, showing the date the degree was awarded,
OR
- A letter from the CSWE's International Social Work Degree Recognition and Evaluation Service confirming one's international degree was equivalent to a US social work degree.

Proof of Experience:

- [Application form VE-SW](#) is used to document supervised experience. The form must be completed by the supervisor. The experience documented must meet the requirements of [Rules 68 IAC Section 1470.20\(a\)](#) in order to count towards licensure.
- A separate VE-SW form should be submitted for each site, each supervisor, and each experience
- One whose experience was completed in another state may be able to arrange for another state board to provide copies of experience documented to the other state as part of their licensing process.
- One who is not able to successfully document an experience already completed is permitted to complete new experiences.

REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (Continued)

Applicants licensed in another state must also provide:

Certification of Licensure from the other state/US jurisdiction.

Certification of Licensure is detailed information about the license such as: status, issue and expiration date, and whether the license has been disciplined. The other state board or agency provides the information and *certifies* that it is true and correct as of a specific date. You may use [form CT](#) to request Certification of Licensure from the other state board. Most states have their own format for this information. IDFPR will accept other states' formats if it contains the required minimum information. If the Certification is only available online, you may print the online certification/verification and upload it. If the other state board will only send the certification directly to IDFPR, you will need to upload evidence of ordering the certification or confirmation of delivery to IDFPR.

An individual applying under the Endorsement licensure method who:

- has been licensed at the *independent practice level* in another state or U.S. jurisdiction
- for 5 consecutive years
- without discipline

will be directed to provide Certification of Licensure (CT forms) for each state in which the applicant practiced during the 5 years instead of proof of education or proof of experience.

Applicants who have already successfully completed the ASWB Clinical exam in another state must also provide:

An Official Score Transfer from ASWB. One must contact ASWB to make arrangements for the score transfer to be provided to IDFPR.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ONCE LICENSED

- All Illinois Social Worker expire November 30 of odd years. The first licensure period may be less than 2 years. After the first renewal, the licensure cycle is 2 years. No Continuing Education is required for the first renewal.
- It is your responsibility to update your contact information including email address with the Department to ensure that you receive all courtesy renewal email reminders and other notifications.