



QUALIFICATIONS FOR  
LICENSURE:  
  
LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER  
(150)

Effective Date: 05/2025

Revised Date: 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. <http://www.idfpr.illinois.gov/About/FAQ.html>
- If your question is not addressed in our FAQ's, please contact the department at 1-800-560-6420.

## LICENSE QUALIFICATIONS

**Licensed Social Worker is the SUPERVISED PRACTICE level license.**

### Education:

- **EITHER**  
A Bachelor of Social Work degree **with** three years supervised experience,  
**OR**  
A Master of Social Work degree (no supervised experience required).
- 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.
- **Degrees that are NOT Social Work degrees are not acceptable for Illinois Social Worker licensure.**
- [Rules 68 IAC Section 1470.30](#) addresses the education requirements for licensure.

### Examination:

- Beginning January 1, 2022, no licensing examination is required for Illinois Licensed Social Worker (LSW) licensure. ([PA 102-0326](#)). Prior to January 1, 2022, the ASWB Master's Level Examination was used for licensure.

### Experience (for BSW applicants only):

- One must document three years supervised clinical professional experience.
- The experience must be AFTER the BSW degree was awarded.
- The experience must be supervised by an LSW or LCSW or other appropriate Social Work supervisor.
- 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\(b\)](#) addresses the experience requirements for licensure.

## 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.

### BSW applicants must also provide:

#### 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\(b\)](#) in order to count towards licensure.
- A separate VE-SW form should be submitted for each site and for each supervisor.
- One who is not able to successfully document an experience already completed is permitted to complete new experiences.

### 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.

## 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.