

Temporary Electronic Social Work Practice Policy for Registered/Licensed Social Workers in other Canadian/American jurisdictions ¹

The Manitoba College of Social Workers (MCSW or “the College”) is the provincial body that regulates the profession of Social Work in Manitoba. The College received its authority from the *Social Work Profession Act*, 2009. This legislation requires that all those who use the title “Social Worker”, “Registered Social Worker” or represent themselves as Social Workers in Manitoba, either expressly or by implication, must be registered with the College.

Electronic social work services means the use of computers (including the Internet, social media, online chat, text, and email), mobile phones, video technology and other means of communication and information, acquisition, transmission and storage used on the Internet and with other technology to (a) provide information to the public, (b) deliver services to **clients**, (c) gather, manage and store information about clients; or educate, supervise, and train Social Workers. ¹

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, registered/licensed social workers in good standing with an active Certificate of Practice in another Canadian/American jurisdiction may be authorized to temporarily engage in electronic social work services with clients in Manitoba without registering with the College for a period of 3 months, with possibility of renewal of authorization for an additional three month period. Social workers from other Canadian/American jurisdictions who intend to engage in electronic social work practice with clients in Manitoba are responsible for understanding and adhering to current legislation, regulations and practice standards that exist in this province.

When providing social work services to residents of Manitoba, Social Workers must inform clients of the jurisdiction in which they hold a Certificate of Practice and the name of the regulatory body. Social Workers engaged in electronic social work practice in Manitoba must 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/American jurisdictions who practice in Manitoba must adhere to all applicable legislation and standards including but not limited to the following:

- [The Social Work Profession Act](#)
- [The Social Work Profession Regulation](#)
- [The Manitoba College of Social Workers By-Law](#)
- [The Manitoba College of Social Workers Code of Ethics](#)
- [The Manitoba College of Social Workers Standards of Practice](#)
- [Standards for Technology in Social Work Practice](#)

¹ NASW, ASWB, CSWE, CSWA Standards for Technology in Social Work Practice, 2017

Before engaging in electronic social work practice as a Social Worker in Manitoba, registered/licensed social workers in other jurisdictions must:

- Submit an application form
- Submit a completed verification of registration form
- Ensure current professional liability insurance, including cyber insurance, which provides coverage for electronic social work practice in Manitoba

This temporary policy is effect until September 17, 2020.

Approved by MCSW Board of Directors April 6, 2020