Practice Note

Manitoba College of Social Workers

Social Work Practice in Other Jurisdictions

The Manitoba College Social Workers (MCSW or "the College") is the provincial body that regulates and supports the profession of Social Work in Manitoba. The College receives its authority from *The Social Work Profession Act*.

When **either** a Social Worker **or** service participant is in a different province or country, it is the Social Worker's responsibility to ensure they meet the legal and regulatory requirements of all jurisdictions in which they are practicing. This applies even when services are provided temporarily or delivered electronically or virtually.

Electronic social work services include the use of computers (including the Internet, social media, online chat, text, and email), mobile phones, video technology and other digital tools to:

a) provide information to the public,
b) deliver services to clients,
c) gather, manage and store information about clients,
d) or educate, supervise, and train Social Workers.

Some provinces offer specific registration categories for Social Workers registered in another Canadian jurisdiction who will be limiting their practice to electronic social work practice. For example, MCSW offers the "Electronic Social Work Practice" (ESWP) category for Social Workers who hold primary registration in another Canadian jurisdiction who provide virtual Social Work services in Manitoba.

In addition to the legislation that guides our practice, the MCSW has adopted the Standards for Technology in Social Work Practice to support ethical and competent service delivery.

Section 2.02 of these Standards state:

> *Social workers who provide electronic social work services shall comply with the laws and regulations that govern electronic social work services within both the jurisdiction in which the social worker is located and in which the client is located.*

Social Workers must also consider professional liability and insurance requirements when offering social work services outside of Manitoba or to service participants in another jurisdiction. If registered in more than one jurisdiction, Social Workers are responsible for complying with all registration and practice requirements of each regulatory body.

Additional considerations may include legal or tax implications, work visa obligations, and ethical responsibilities such as maintaining confidentiality, obtaining informed consent, managing

boundaries, proper documentation access to records and managing crisis or emergency circumstances.

Before providing services in another jurisdiction, it is recommended that Social Workers contact the relevant regulatory body to confirm specific registration and practice requirements.

Resources:

The Social Work Profession Act, C.C.S.M. c. S169

Electronic-Social-Work-Practice-Policy-Sept-2024.pdf

Standards for Technology in Social Work Practice

October 2025

Practice Notes provide support and information for Manitoba social workers, employers, and members of the public regarding social work practice issues. These notes offer general guidance only and are not a substitution for legal advice. College members with specific inquiries are invited to consult the College.