

Practice Note

Use of the Title “Clinical Social Worker”

Why can't a registrant of the Manitoba College of Social Workers (MCSW) use the title “clinical social worker” and/or “registered clinical social worker” in respect to their practice?

In Manitoba, *the Social Work Profession Act* (SWPA, or *the Act*) **does not** authorize a clinical designation, i.e.: “clinical social worker” however, this is a protected title in other jurisdictions across Canada and internationally.

Section 3(2) of the SWPA requires anyone who uses the protected titles or abbreviations below to be registered and hold a current certificate of practice with the MCSW:

- social worker
- registered social worker
- S.W.
- R.S.W.

The primary goal of title protection and professional regulation is to protect the public interest and promote transparency and public confidence in the profession of Social Work. Therefore, none of the following titles, abbreviations or variations can be used by social workers registered with MCSW:

- clinical social worker
- registered clinical social worker or RCSW
- licensed clinical social worker or LCSW

Social Workers practice in a variety of settings including clinical and private practice. Regardless of educational specialization, the legislation in Manitoba does not distinguish a clinical designation for social workers.

If you have any questions regarding the use of protected titles, please contact the College at: info@mcsw.ca

Adapted from the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers: [Q&A: Use of the Title “Clinical Social Worker” - OCSWSSW](#)

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.