

Renewal of Certification/Licensure

Why?

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute (Chapter 90B) it is unlawful to engage in or offer to engage in clinical social work practice without first being licensed as a clinical social worker by this Board. Other certification levels are voluntary but promote a high standard of professional performance for those engaged in the practice of social work through national examination and continuing social work education. Continuing education for social work certification/licensure is required to maintain current professional knowledge and competence in the social work profession. The Board recognizes the importance of lifelong learning to the social work profession and the opportunity continuing education affords to stay current. Social workers in all areas of practice can benefit from continuing coursework in familiar subjects, or exploring new topics.

When?

The North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board will issue your credential for a period of time not to exceed two years. You will need to renew your credential prior to the expiration date to remain current and active. Renewal information is sent to certified/licensed social workers at least 45 days prior to the expiration of your current credential. Please make sure the Board has your current contact information (including email). **The Renewal Affidavit and appropriate fee must be received by the Board prior to the expiration of your current credential to avoid a lapse in your certification/licensure and late fee penalty or the need for reinstatement.**

PLEASE NOTE:

- Individuals, who received their credential by academic or exam exemption and allow their credential to lapse, must satisfy current requirements in order to reinstate that credential.

How?

Certification/Licensure renewal is accomplished by submitting to the Board the Renewal Affidavit documenting the required continuing education activity along with the required renewal fee. **Online renewal and payment are now available. A link for renewal is provided on the Home Page of the Board's website.**

Points to Remember:

- Review the Social Work Practice Act and N.C. Administrative Code posted on this website before completing your renewal.
- Renewal of certification/licensure requires 40 contact hours of continuing education **within** the two-year cycle. Initial certification/licensure issued for less than two years requires 30 contact hours of continuing education.
- Of the 40 hours (30 if cycle is less than two years), at least 4 contact hours must be focused on ethics in social work practice and ethical decision-making.
- No more than 20 contact hours (or half the required continuing education) may be obtained through distance learning activities.
- The Public Notice Statement must be provided with ALL renewal submissions and may also be completed through the Online Renewal.

Please refer to the Position Statement on Continuing Education for more information on the Board's policy and procedures regarding distance learning activities and pro-rated CE for Associate licensees.

Late Renewal, Reactivation or Reinstatement of an Expired Credential

- Persons whose applications for renewal are received by the Board after the expiration date of their certificate or license, but within 60 days after the expiration date, will be assessed a late fee of \$50.00 in addition to the renewal fee.
- If a certificate/license has been placed on non-practicing status, to re-activate the certificate/license, the individual will need to submit the current Renewal Affidavit listing the required 40 hours of continuing education (4 of which must be in Ethics) completed within the most recent two year period with the current renewal fee.
- Persons failing to renew within 60 days after the expiration date will have their certificate/license suspended for failure to renew and will be assessed a reinstatement fee of \$125.00 in addition to the renewal fee and updated forms required by the Board.
- ***A social worker whose certification/license was issued under "academic" or "exam" exemption and who allows their certification/licensure to lapse will be required to reapply in accordance with all current qualifications listed in Chapter 90B-7 of the North Carolina General Statute, which requires an appropriate social work degree and professional examination.***