

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.

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 every two years to remain current and active. Renewal information will be sent to you at least 45 days prior to the expiration of your current credential. Please make sure the Board has your current address and contact information. **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 applicable late fee or the need for reinstatement.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Individuals, who received their credential via “grandfathering” by academic or exam exemption and allow their credential to lapse, must satisfy current requirements in order to reinstate that credential.
- Pursuant to NC General Statute §90B-7(f), associate licensees (LCSWA) must pass the qualifying clinical examination prescribed by the Board within the first two year licensure period to be eligible for renewal of the associate license.

How?

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 by credit card are not available at this time but will begin with the launch of a new website currently under development.**

Points to Remember:

- You will need to 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, 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.

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 or Reactivation 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.
- 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 any other applicable fees and required forms.
- **A social worker whose certification/license was issued under “academic” or “exam” exemption (grandfathered) 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.**