



## Professional Social Work Licensure in New York State

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## Objectives

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- Brief review of New York State Licensing Laws
- Differences and similarities between the LMSW and LCSW
- Application requirements and instructions

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## The Law

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- The New York State licensing law for social workers went into effect September 1, 2004.
- It is the 49<sup>th</sup> state to license social workers
- Consumer protection
- Defines scopes of practice
- Allows for state to ensure professional conduct and investigate/discipline unprofessional conduct

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## The Law

- You can hold licenses in as many states as you want.
- Licenses do not expire, but in New York, you must renew your license every three years
  - No CEU requirement in NY

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## June 1, 2013

- Any person in the employ of a program or service operated, regulated, funded, or approved by:
  - OMH/DMH
  - OASAS
  - OCFS
  - OMRDD
  - DOCS
  - SOFA
  - DOH

may legally provide services under either the LMSW or LCSW scope of practice, although they may not call themselves licensed or sign "LMSW" or "LCSW" after their names (unless permanently exempt)

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## June 1, 2013

- Unless exemptions are extended, on June 1, 2013, ALL social workers must have a limited permit or a license in order to legally practice.

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## LMSW and LCSW: What's the Difference?

- Two different licenses
  - **LMSW** Licensed Master Social Worker
    - In New York County, there are 3,228 LMSWs
  - **LCSW** Licensed Clinical Social Worker
    - In New York County, there are 4,622 LCSWs
- *For most social workers, the LMSW will be the only license they need*

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## LMSW Scope of Practice: What LMSWs Do

The law defines the practice of Licensed Master Social Work as the “professional application of social work theory, principles, and methods” to address mental, social, emotional, behavioral, developmental and addictive disorders, conditions and disabilities and psychosocial aspects of illness and injury.

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## LMSW Scope of Practice: What LMSWs Do

- LMSWs engage in:
  - Social Work Advocacy
  - Community Organizing and Planning
  - Case Management
  - Counseling
  - Consultation
  - Research
  - Teaching
  - Administration and Management
  - Administration of tests and measures of psychosocial functioning

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### LMSW and LCSW: the Big Difference?

- **LCSW** can provide (*without supervision*)
  - Psychotherapy
  - Assessment-based treatment planning
  - Diagnoses
- **LMSW** can provide the level of service under supervision of an **LCSW**, **Licensed Psychologist** or **Psychiatrist (MD)**.

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### LMSW and LCSW: What's the Difference?

- LCSW is needed
  - For private practice
  - Supervise LMSW in clinical practice
  - Reimbursement at mental health clinics or fee-for-service clinics

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### LMSW Scope of Practice: What LMSWs Do

LMSWs work with:

- Individuals
- Couples
- Families
- Groups
- Communities
- Organizations
- Society

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## How to Apply for Your LMSW



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## Reciprocity/Endorsement

- New York State has no reciprocity. Social workers from other states must apply for licensure in New York State.
- May not have to take an exam if previously passed one in another state given by the ASWB.

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## How to Apply for the LMSW Step 1

### Be or Have

- MSW
- 21 Years of Age
- Good Moral Character
- Completed Approved Child Abuse ID and Reporting Course
- File Form I and Form II with NY State

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## How to Apply for the LMSW

### Step 2

#### Send to NYSED

- Application for Licensure (Form 1)
- Request Registrar send Certification of Professional Education (Form 2)
- Proof of Child Abuse Training, if applicable
- \$294.00 (Includes fees for licensure plus first-time registration)
- \$70.00 Fee for Limited Permit Fee, if appropriate – check with the state

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## How to Apply for the LCSW

### Same process different forms and fees

#### Send to NYSED

*There is a new Form 6 (Plan for Supervised Experience)*

- Application for Licensure (Form 1)
- Request Registrar send Certification of Professional Education (Form 2)
- Proof of Child Abuse Training, if applicable
- \$294.00 (Includes fees for licensure plus first-time registration)
- \$70.00 Fee for Limited Permit Fee, if appropriate – check with the state
- Plus appropriate supervision documentation

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## How to Apply for the LMSW

### there is a lot of waiting

- NYSED **notifies** applicant when eligible to register for test.
- Applicant **registers** with ASWB and pays \$230 exam fee
- **Wait** for authorization from ASWB
- **Call** Testing Center to register to take exam – instructions in ASWB authorization letter
- NYSED may approve a Limited Permit application if all the requirements are satisfied except the exam. Allows candidate to use the title of "LMSW" or "LCSW" at an agency as long as supervised by LMSW or LCSW.  
Private practice is not an acceptable setting..

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## Applying for the LCSW

### ○ Requirements

- Experience: Must have 3 years , but not more than 6 years of supervised practice \*,providing diagnosis, assessment-based treatment planning, and psychotherapy **in an approved setting.**  
\*2000 hrs supervised practice
- Supervisor must be an **approved LCSW**, a **Licensed Psychologist**, or a **Psychiatrist (MD)**
- Educational requirements: 12 credits of clinical coursework
- Complete the entire LCSW Application Package about 6 different forms and wait for approval from the state.
- Form 6 (new as of September 2010)

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## Applying for the LCSW

### ○ Acceptable Employment Settings

- Check the NYSED website

### ○ Supervision Requirements

- Qualifying supervision: Must have 100 hours of face to face supervision over the 3 year period on diagnosis, assessment-based treatment planning, and psychotherapy.
- Supervisor must be an approved LCSW, Licensed Psychologist, or Psychiatrist.

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## The Exam

- **Test is computerized**
- **170** questions, **150** are **graded.**
- Other **20 Experimental** not **graded**
- **Four hours** (about 1.5 min per question)
- **No formal breaks** use your time well
- Content:  
<http://www.aswb.org/pdfs/MastersKSAs.pdf>

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## The Exam

### some Facts

- Exam is given nationally.
- Currently, about 8 different versions are in use.
- In NYS, passing score is 75. This is a scaled, not an absolute, score.
- No penalty for guessing.
- Don't skip questions.
- Look for qualifiers.

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## Exam Prep

- Guides:
  - NASW Code of Ethics
  - *Social Work Dictionary*
  - \$30 Study Guide from ASWB
- \$75 practice tests
- NASW-NYC exam prep course

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## Important Contact Information

- National Association of Social Workers  
New York City Chapter
  - [www.naswnyc.org](http://www.naswnyc.org)
  - (212) 668-0050 ext. 221
- Association of Social Work Boards
  - [www.aswb.org](http://www.aswb.org)
  - Download ASWB handbook
- New York State Office of the Professions
  - [www.op.nysed.gov/sw.htm](http://www.op.nysed.gov/sw.htm)
  - Laws, regulations, requirements and application forms for LMSW and LCSW

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