

Newfoundland & Labrador
**College of
Social Workers**

**Interjurisdictional Social Work Practice
FAQ & Practice Guidance for Social Workers in NL**

The Newfoundland and Labrador College of Social Workers (NLCSW) continues to receive inquiries from members about interjurisdictional practice. This document addresses some of the most frequently asked questions and provides guidance to members who are interested or engaged in the provision of social work services across jurisdictions.

1) I am a registered social worker in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL). Am I able to practice in other Canadian Provinces/Territories with my NLCSW registration?

Registration with the NLCSW is required to practice social work in Newfoundland and Labrador. Each jurisdiction outside of NL has their own regulatory requirements pertaining to the delivery of social work services in their jurisdiction. As outlined in the [NLCSW \(2020\) Standards of Practice](#), “Social workers who provide social work services across jurisdictions must comply with the regulatory requirements in the jurisdiction in which the social worker resides and the jurisdiction in which the client resides” (p.10). Therefore, social workers in NL who want to practice in other jurisdictions must be aware of and comply with the necessary regulatory requirements. This would be necessary for the delivery of face to face and electronic social work services outside of NL.

As outlined in the NLCSW (2020) Standards of Practice, it is recommended that social workers who engage in interjurisdictional social work practice have the appropriate professional liability insurance. E-service delivery is covered by the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) Professional Liability Insurance Program. Coverage is world-wide for social workers residing and registered in Canada.

Social workers must comply with legislation and reporting requirements (i.e., reporting child protection concerns) where the client resides.

2) I have a NL client who is a rotational worker in another Canadian province/territory and would like to continue receiving services remotely. Do I need to be registered with the regulatory body in the jurisdiction where the client is working?

In these situations, members are advised to contact the social work regulatory body where the client will be temporarily located to inquire about any regulatory requirements that must be

met. Explaining the full scope of the work that the social worker would be involved in, the context in which it will be delivered, and how long the practice will be occurring is important. Social workers must ensure they meet the regulatory requirements prior to engaging in cross jurisdictional practice.

3) I am providing group therapy through my workplace and have clients who are living in multiple jurisdictions across Canada? Do I need to be registered with each regulatory body?

For social workers residing in NL who are providing group therapy to residents across the country, it is recommended they follow up with the social work regulatory body where the group participants reside and ask about any necessary registration requirements. Explaining the full scope of the work that the social worker would be involved in, the context in which it will be delivered, and the organization providing oversight would be important.

4) I work on contract for an EAP provider and have clients living in several provinces/territories. I am situated in NL and services are provided electronically. The EAP provider handles all the referrals and matches them with an available counsellor in the EAP network. Given that the EAP provider is facilitating service delivery, do I need to be registered in the jurisdictions where my clients are living?

While the EAP provider is responsible for the overall EAP program, social workers are responsible for their own practices and must comply with the regulatory requirements for the delivery of electronic social work services where clients reside. Checking on these regulatory requirements prior to the initiation of social work services would be prudent. Social workers can choose which jurisdictions they would like to be registered or approved to provide services and let the EAP provider know where they can accept referrals.

5) I have been providing social work services to a resident of another Canadian jurisdiction while they are studying at a post secondary institution in NL. Can I continue providing services remotely when they return home during mid-term and summer holidays?

Providing services to non-NL residents while they are in NL is permitted. However, once they go back to their home jurisdiction, social workers wanting to engage in remote service delivery must consult with the regulatory body in the jurisdiction where the client is living to inquire about any necessary requirements that must be met. It would also be important for the social worker to be aware of the resources and supports that are available to clients in that jurisdiction.

6) I am a Registered Social Worker in NL, but currently living in another Canadian jurisdiction. Am I able to provide services remotely to residents of NL?

Yes, social workers who hold active registration with NLCSW and are living in another Canadian jurisdiction can practice in NL. It would be important for the social worker to have knowledge of local resources and supports for clients.

7) I am working with a client who is a resident of NL. There are times when family members are involved in the service delivery. If I am connecting with family members who are residents of another Canadian jurisdiction, do I need to be registered in the jurisdiction where the family members reside?

The [CASW \(2005\) Code of Ethics](#) defines a client as “a person, family, group of persons, incorporated body, association or community on whose behalf a social worker provides or agrees to provide a service or to whom the social worker is legally obligated to provide a service” (p.10). Therefore, the social worker must determine whether the family members are part of the client system. It is recommended social workers working with family members who live in other Canadian jurisdictions as part of their client work, follow up with the regulatory body where the family members reside and ask about any necessary registration requirements. Explaining the full scope of the work and how family members are involved in the provision of service delivery would be important.

8) My client is moving out of country but would like to continue to receive social work service remotely. Am I able to do this?

When providing services to a client living outside of Canada, social workers must contact the social work regulatory body in the jurisdiction where the client is living and follow all registration/licensing requirements.

9) What technology platforms are recommended for electronic interjurisdictional social work service delivery?

There are numerous technology programs available for service delivery and social workers may prefer one that works best for them or their organization, and for their clientele. The NLCSW does not recommend or approve technological platforms. Each platform is unique and questions pertaining to client privacy and confidentiality must be considered. Engaging in communication with clients about what technologies they have access to would also be important.

It is important that social workers engaging in electronic service delivery provide clients with information pertaining to the technology being used. BMS, the professional liability insurer for social workers through CASW, offers a helpful template which provides guidance on the type of information that should be considered in the informed consent process. This resource can be

accessed on the NLCSW website at [https://nlcsw.ca/sites/default/files/inline-files/BMS Template Consent To Use Electronic Communications 0.pdf](https://nlcsw.ca/sites/default/files/inline-files/BMS%20Template%20Consent%20To%20Use%20Electronic%20Communications%200.pdf).

10) *Before engaging in interjurisdictional practice, what standards and guideline documents should I review?*

The NLCSW has developed a wealth of practice resources. These include the NLCSW (2020) Standards of Practice for Social Workers in NL, and the [NLCSW \(2021\) Technology Use in Social Work Practice Explanatory Document](#). A review of relevant practice documents would also be recommended including [Documentation Matters: Tip #3 – What things should I consider pertaining to the documentation of electronic social work services?](#), and Practice Matters including [Beyond Borders: Social Work and Interjurisdictional Electronic Practice](#) and [Electronic Social Work Practice](#).

REFERENCES

Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW). (2005). *Code of Ethics*.

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