

## **Private Practice Policy**

One of the main functions of regulated professions is to ensure that clients receive the highest quality of service. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the provision of social work services is addressed through the *Act Respecting the Practice of Social Work* (2010). This Act requires that all persons using the title “social worker”, and engaging in social work practice, must have the minimum educational qualification of a Bachelors degree in social work.

The private practice of social work is one of the areas of specialization that has been identified by the profession. The NLCSW has established a voluntary registration system for private practitioners. This voluntary registration is intended to increase the protection of the public and to promote and support the choice of social workers who wish to practice privately. Voluntary registration allows the NLCSW to identify and recognize those social workers who meet the College’s criteria for practice. These criteria act as a guide for clients seeking services and social workers planning to provide them.

### **1.0 REGISTRATION CRITERIA FOR PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS:**

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#### **1.1 Criteria for voluntary registration as a private practitioner**

- 1.1.1 MSW from an accredited Canadian School of Social Work or international equivalency.
- 1.1.2 Three or more years experience as a registered social worker relevant to the proposed area of private practice.
- 1.1.3 Ongoing professional development in the proposed fields of practice.
- 1.1.4 Access to registered professionals for consultation.
- 1.1.5 Proof of current liability insurance.
- 1.1.6 RSW in good standing.
- 1.1.7 Registration form completed and registration fee paid.

## **2.0 APPEALS**

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**2.1** Appeals of decisions shall be heard by the NLCSW Board of Directors in accordance with established policies governing appeals.

## **3.0 FEES**

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**3.1** A fee to cover the costs associated with establishing and maintaining the private practice roster will be recommended by the Registration Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

## **4.0 DEFINITION**

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**4.1** Private Practice: The provision of social work services, on a full time or part time basis, by a registered social worker who is self-employed, a member of a partnership/group practice, or independent contractor. Social workers in private practice are autonomous and responsible for the quality of social work services and ensuring compliance with the legislation, code of ethics and standards of practice. Services in private practice are provided on a fee for service model that is mutually agreed to by a client or third party (i.e., insurance company, employee assistance program, organization) or as set out in a contract.