

SPOTLIGHT



On Social Work Regulation

The Spotlight on Social Work Regulation series is designed to promote an understanding of social work regulation and the role of the NL College of Social Workers (NLCSW). Access the full series at <https://nlcsw.ca/Spotlight on Social Work Regulation>.

Can social workers in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) use Registered Clinical Social Worker or Licensed Clinical Social Worker to promote the clinical nature of their work?

In Newfoundland and Labrador, both the title social worker and registered social worker (RSW) is reserved for those who are registered with the NL College of Social Workers as outlined in the [Social Workers Act \(2010\)](#). Social work registration is required to use the title and practice within the scope of the profession. Through their documentation and written correspondence with clients, social workers should inform clients of their registration status by using Registered Social Worker, RSW, or Social Worker. This assures clients that they are receiving services from a qualified professional who have met the criteria to practice social work in NL.

A common question that is often received is whether social workers in NL can use Registered Clinical Social Worker or Licensed Clinical Social Worker to promote the clinical nature of their work. It is important to note that these titles are not included in the Social Workers Act of NL. Some Canadian jurisdictions and US states may grant the use of these titles as per their registration or licensing categories **for use in those jurisdictions**. Currently, NL does not have a separate clinical registration category and therefore, these are not legally recognized in NL, and their use may be confusing to clients and members of the public in this province. Registered social worker is the professional designation in NL.