



Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers

2110 Lorne Street, Regina, SK S4P 2M5

Phone: 306.545-1922

Toll Free: 1-877-517-7279

Email: sasw@accesscomm.ca.

www.sasw.ca

Revisions to SASW Standards of Practice Effective June 1, 2017

SASW Council has approved the Standards of Practice Committee's revisions to "*Standards of Practice for Registered Social Workers in Saskatchewan*". The revision is effective June 1, 2017 and is posted on the SASW website <http://sasw.ca/site/standards?nav=04>. The revision includes rearrangement of some sections, wording changes to provide clarification, additional definitions, and the highlighted changes below. Please review the entire document to ensure you are familiar with all the changes.

Highlights of the changes include:

- A new clause has been added to clarify that when a social worker has their registration cancelled or suspended, they can no longer use the title of social worker until reinstated. (C.1, Maintaining Registration).
- A new section has been added on obtaining consent to share information. (C. 5, "Consent to Share Information")
- A change of wording to strengthen the requirement to advise clients about the limits of confidentiality – the wording has been changed "Where feasible and appropriate, clients shall be given a written description of the limits of confidentiality. (D. 1 Confidentiality)
- There is a change to the length of time in which records must be kept, reducing records retention from 15 years in our current Standards of Practice to 7 years. This change was made following a consultation with legal counsel. (D.5 Maintenance and Disposal of Records).
- A new section has been added on working with youth and confidentiality (D.6 "Legally Dependent Persons")
- A new section has been added regarding the use of electronic records and maintaining privacy and security of those records. (D. 8 "Protection, Privacy and Security of Electronic Records")

- A new section has been added on Cultural Competence (E.2 “Cultural Competence”)
- There is a significant change to Prohibited Relationships in the section on Professional Relationships. First, is clarification that a social worker who has provided services to a client in the previous 24 months shall not enter into a financial/sexual/social or romantic relationship with the client. Secondly, a social worker who has provided psychotherapy or counselling services to a client shall never engage in a sexual or romantic relationship with a client. These new provisions provide a clear standard. (F.7 “Prohibited Relationship”)
- A clause has been added to the section on Professional Accountability that social workers are to be aware of how their personal behaviours, activities, and representations may reflect on the profession, including consideration of what type of content is appropriate to place in a public medium such as social networking and in other communication. (G. 1(b) Professional Accountability)

If you have any questions, please contact the SASW office at 306-545-1922 or sasw.accesscomm.ca