



VELFERÐARRÁÐUNEYTIÐ

Ministry of Welfare

REGULATION
on the education, rights and obligations of social workers
and criteria for granting of licences and specialist licences,
No. 1088/2012.

SECTION I
General provisions.

Article 1
Scope.

This Regulation applies to social workers holding licences and specialist licences from the Medical Director of Health under Articles 2 and 5.

SECTION II
Licences.

Article 2
Professional title.

The right to use the professional title of social worker and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those who have been granted a licence by the Medical Director of Health.

Article 3
Criteria for granting of a licence.

A licence under Article 2 may be granted to those who have completed an MA degree in social work from the Faculty of Social Work in the University of Iceland's School of Social Sciences.

A licence may also be granted on the basis of education from a state within the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland. Recognition of professional qualifications and competence of a social worker who meets the criteria of Directive 2005/36/EC, on the recognition of professional qualifications, with subsequent amendments, is subject to Regulation on recognition of professional qualifications and competence of healthcare practitioners from other EEA states, No. 461/2011.

A licence may also be granted to those who have completed a comparable degree from an educational institution in a state outside the EEA or Switzerland, which is recognised as such by Icelandic health authorities, and by health authorities in the state where the education took place.

Other criteria for the issue of a licence are subject to Article 12.

Article 4
Opinions.

Before a licence is granted under Article 2 on the basis of education outside Iceland under the third paragraph of Article 3, the Medical Director of Health shall elicit the opinion of the Faculty of Social Work in the University of Iceland's School of Social Sciences, with regard to whether the applicant fulfils the criteria for education under the third paragraph of Article 3, for granting of a licence.

The Medical Director of Health may elicit opinions from other bodies, as deemed necessary.

SECTION III

Specialist licences in social work.

Article 5

Specialist licences.

The right to use the title of specialist in a specialist field of social work and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those granted a licence by the Medical Director of Health.

Article 6

Criteria for specialist licences.

Specialist licences may be granted in recognised specialist fields of social work. This is subject to the condition that the specialist education of the applicant is defined as being within the specialist field for which he/she applies for a specialist licence. The relevant specialist field shall have a solid theoretical basis, and an equivalent shall exist in a recognised international forum.

In order to be entitled to receive a specialist licence under Article 5 a social worker shall fulfil the following standards:

1. he/she shall be licensed as a social worker in Iceland under Article 2; and
2. he/she shall have completed a master's or doctoral degree in social work in the relevant specialist field, or equivalent postgraduate study from a recognised university; and
3. he/she shall have worked as a social worker after graduation under indent 2 for the equivalent of at least two years full-time in the field for which the application for a specialist licence is made. If he/she has worked less than full-time, the duration of employment shall be proportionately longer. Up to twelve months full-time may be subtracted if the person has been employed in the relevant speciality alongside doctoral studies; and
4. he/she shall have received supervision from a recognised professional during the period of employment.

A specific field on which the person has focussed within the recognised specialist field may be specified.

Further criteria for the granting of a specialist licence are subject to Article 12.

Article 7

Application and opinions.

An application for a specialist licence in social work, together with documents confirming education and work experience, and other necessary documents, shall be submitted to the Medical Director of Health.

Before a specialist licence is granted under Article 5 the Medical Director of Health shall elicit the opinion of the Faculty of Social Work in the University of Iceland's School of Social Sciences, with regard to whether the applicant fulfils the criteria of Article 6.

The Medical Director of Health may appoint a special committee to evaluate and comment upon applications for specialist licences.

The Medical Director of Health may elicit opinions from other bodies, as deemed necessary.

SECTION IV

Rights and obligations.

Article 8

Professional standards and responsibility.

A social worker shall show respect for the client and perform his/her tasks vigilantly and conscientiously and in accordance with the professional standards required of the profession at any time.

A social worker must be aware of his/her duties and respect ethical rules of the profession, maintain his/her knowledge and professional skill, and master innovations in his/her field of work.

A social worker shall be familiar with legislation and regulations applying to healthcare practitioners, healthcare services, affairs of people with disabilities and other legislation and government directives, as applicable.

A social worker is responsible for the social counselling, diagnosis, treatment and preventions he/she provides.