

Non-Clinical Practice by Social Work Degree Holders

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SUBJECT: Exceptions from social work licensure for non-clinical social work practice

DC Health recently updated the standards and requirements of health professionals through the Health Occupations Revision General Amendment Act of 2023 ([B25-0545](#)). Effective July 19th, 2024, individuals with a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree may now engage in non-clinical practice without a license. Non-clinical practice includes activities such as:

- Helping people connect with social services or resources,
- Providing case management that is non-clinical,
- Organizing community events,
- Speaking up for clients or the community, and
- Doing administrative tasks.

However, people who engage in non-clinical practice cannot call themselves social workers, and they cannot do clinical activities like assessing, diagnosing, or treating mental health problems (they may, however, refer to themselves as “case managers” or other titles).

This change will help non-clinical caseworkers assist District residents, even if they have a social degree, without needing a license or worrying about penalties from the District’s Board of Social Work. For more information, you can visit the [Board of Social Work’s website](#) or email them at dcbosw@dc.gov. You can also find more details in [D.C. Official Code § 3–1208.04a](#).