



Ontario College of
Social Workers and
Social Service Workers

Applying Under Ontario’s Deemed Certification Regulation (O. Reg. 199/25) Effective January 1, 2026

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Deemed Certification Legislation

The [Deemed Certification Regulation \(O. Reg. 199/25\)](#) made under the [Ontario Labour Mobility Act, 2009](#) allows eligible regulated professionals registered in other Canadian jurisdictions to be deemed registered in Ontario, and accordingly practise in Ontario, on expedited basis, for a **one time only six month period**.

Starting January 1, 2026, social workers already registered in good standing in another Canadian jurisdiction who meet specific requirements and provide the required documentation to the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (the College) will receive notice from the College that they are *deemed certified*. This certification allows them to work in Ontario for a **one-time six-month period**.

Steps to Obtain Deemed Certification with the College

If you are a social worker registered in good standing in another Canadian jurisdiction and want to obtain deemed certification with the College, you must provide the following documents or information:

1. A copy of a valid certificate of registration (also known as "licence to practise" or "practice permit") from your home jurisdiction.
2. **An attestation** confirming that:
 - You are currently in "good standing" in every out-of-province jurisdiction in which you hold a certificate for social work.
 - You have not been refused registration as a social worker by any other out-of-province regulatory body in the past two years.
 - You are not currently the subject of any professional misconduct, incompetence or incapacity proceeding or any similar proceeding relating to the profession of social work.
 - You have not had a finding of professional misconduct, incompetence or incapacity made against you in relation to social work.
 - You have not been found guilty of an offence in any jurisdiction.
3. The requirement that you pay an application fee.
4. The requirement to submit a valid and satisfactory [Vulnerable Sector Check](#).

The College's Review

Upon receipt of all of the required information, the College will issue a notice of receipt within **10 business days**. Once this notice is issued, you are deemed to be certified as a social worker in Ontario for six months.

If the College has not received all the required information or the information is incomplete, you will be contacted by email within **10 business days** after receiving the application or incomplete information to advise what is missing.

Deemed Certification and Jurisdiction of the College

Individuals deemed to be certified are considered College registrants, entitled to all the rights and benefits of registration, including the use of protected titles and designations “social worker” (SW), “registered social worker” (RSW), and their French equivalents. Such individuals are also subject to all applicable laws and obligations governing the profession of social work and subject to the College’s jurisdiction.

Out of Province Certificate Subject to Terms, Conditions, and Limitations

- If your certificate from another Canadian jurisdiction has any terms, conditions, and limitations (TCLs), the same TCLs will also apply to your deemed certification in Ontario.
- If the College does not impose equivalent terms, conditions, and limitations, you will not be eligible for deemed certification in Ontario.

End of Deemed Certification before the Expiry of Six Months

Your deemed certification in Ontario will come to an end *before* the six-month period if:

- i. You are granted registration with the College through the [Canadian Free Trade Agreement \(CFTA\) general](#) application stream.
- ii. Your application for registration (described in (i) above) is refused by the College.
 - If your application for registration is refused, deemed certification ends when:
 - The Registrar issues a Notice of Proposal to Refuse and the deadline to request a [review by the Registration Appeals Committee](#) has passed and no review was requested, or
 - A review by the Registration Appeals Committee was requested, and the Registration Appeals Committee directs to the Registrar to refuse to issue a certificate of registration.
- iii. The College determines that the information you provided on the application was inaccurate at the time of application or is no longer accurate.

Contact

If you have any questions or require additional information or clarification regarding deemed certification, contact the College’s Registration and Renewals Department:

- Email: registration@ocswssw.org (please ensure the subject line reads “Deemed Certification in Ontario”)
- Phone: 416-972-9882 or 1-877-828-9380 (toll free)