



ACT

THE PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK REGULATORY
ACT, 2025

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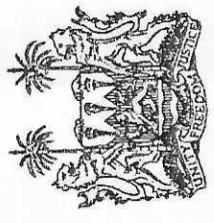
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SIGNED this 18th day of September 2025.



DR. JULIUS MAADA BIO,
President.

LS



No. 14

2025

Sierra Leone

The Professional Social Work Regulatory Act, 2025.

Being an act to make provision for the establishment of the Professional Social Work Regulatory Council, to provide for the regulation of professional Social Workers, Social Work Facilities, Organizations and Institutions in Sierra Leone, including licensing, registration and discipline and to provide for other related matters.

Date of commencement.

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ENACTED by the President and Members of Parliament in this present Parliament assembled.

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PART I - PRELIMINARY

- 1. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires -
 - "Appeals Committee" means a Committee appointed by the Minister under section 31, for the purpose of hearing appeals made by an aggrieved social worker, social work facility, organization or institution against a decision of the disciplinary Committee or the council";
 - "Basic Social Work qualification" means a degree, diploma or certificate in social work from a recognized university, college or institution of higher learning approved by the council";
 - "Certificate" includes certificate of registration, practising certificate and temporary practising certificate;
 - "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Council appointed under subsection (1) of section 3;
 - "Child" means a person under the age of 18 years;
 - "Client- means individuals, families, groups, organizations, or communities receiving social work intervention and/or services."
 - "Council" means the Professional Social Work Regulatory Council established under subsection (1) of section 2;"
 - "Disciplinary Committee" means the Disciplinary Committee appointed by the Council under subsection (2) of section 10 for the purpose of holding inquiry into the conduct of professional social workers;
 - "Licensed Social Worker- means a registered Social Worker who has gone through the necessary education as approved by The Council and is admitted and enrolled by the Council to practice as a Social Worker as may be determined by The Council."

- "Minister" means the Minister responsible for Social Welfare and "Ministry" shall be construed accordingly;
- "Register" means a register of professional social workers, social care facilities, organisations and institutions;
- "Registered professional social worker" means a professional social worker registered and licensed under subsection (1) of section 20;
- "Registrar" means the Registrar of the Council appointed under subsection (1) of section 12.
- "Social work" means the profession concerned with assessing and meeting the needs of individuals, families, groups, communities and society as a whole. To enhance their wellbeing. The practice draws from the application of social work values, principles and skills to support people. It's a practice of promoting social welfare, enhancing individual and collective wellbeing and addressing social issues through assessment, intervention, empowerment, advocacy and support services. It encompasses the provision of social services, including protection, rehabilitation, counselling, community development and policy engagement to individuals, families, groups and communities.
- "Social Worker" means a person who is qualified, licensed and regulated, to be a social worker under this law and is registered in the Register of Social Workers.
- "Social Worker Assistant" means a registered social worker with at least six years' experience in social care and has undergone the necessary training in social work, has undergone the admission and enrollment processes as may be determined by council, and is to practice under the supervision of a licensed social worker.

"Social work facility" means a private or public community-based organization engaged in social work or social services delivery including a care centre or orphanage for a child at risk or for generally a vulnerable child, a care home for vulnerable persons and older people, a recovery centre or shelter for traumatised persons, persons with mental health conditions, victims or survivors of human trafficking, sexual and gender-based violence etc.

PART II—ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK REGULATORY COUNCIL

as

- 2. (1) There is hereby established a body to be known as the Professional Social Work Regulatory Council.
- (2) The Council shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and capable of acquiring, holding and disposing of property, whether movable or immovable, and of suing and being sued in its corporate name and, subject to this Act, of performing all such acts as bodies corporate may by law perform.
- (3) The Council shall have a common seal, the use of which shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman or other member of the Council authorised either generally or specially by the Council in that behalf.

- 3. (1) The membership of the Council shall consist of a Chairman who shall be a registered Professional Social Worker appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister subject to the approval of parliament, and the following other members-
 - (a) the Chief Director, Social Services, Ministry of Social Welfare;
 - (b) the Chief Education Officer, Ministry of Technical and Higher Education;

- (c) the Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health
- (d) the Chief Director, Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs;
- (e) two representatives who are registered Social Workers from the Sierra Leone Association of Social Workers;
- (f) two representatives from organizations working with vulnerable groups;
- (g) the Registrar whom shall be the secretary to the Council with no voting right.

4. (1) The Chairman shall hold office for a term of 3 years Tenure of and shall be eligible for re-appointment for a further term of 3 years members only.

(2) A person shall cease to be a member of the Council on any of the following grounds-

- (a) for his inability to perform the functions of his office by reason of infirmity of mind or body;
- (b) for proven misconduct;
- (c) if he becomes bankrupt or insolvent;
- (d) if he is convicted and sentenced for an offence involving fraud, dishonesty or sexual offence;
- (e) if he fails to attend 3 consecutive meetings of the Council without reasonable cause;
- (f) if he resigns his office by written notice to the Minister.

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(9) The minutes of all meetings of the Council shall be taken and signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Council and kept in proper form.

(10) Subject to this Act, the Council shall regulate its own meeting procedure.

6. (1) A member of the Council who has an interest, whether direct or indirect in any matter being considered or to be considered by the Council, shall disclose the nature of his interest and the disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes of the Council and that member shall not take part in any deliberation or decision of the Council relating to that matter.

(2) A member of the Council who contravenes subsection (1) is guilty of misconduct and shall be removed from the Council.

7. (1) An action or other proceedings shall not lie or be instituted against a member of the Council or member of a Committee of Council in respect of an act or thing done or omitted to be done in good faith in the exercise of his functions under this Act.

(2) A member of the Council shall not be personally liable for any debt or obligation of the Council.

8. (1) The Chairman of the Council shall be paid such remuneration, fees and allowances approved by the minister and shall be reimbursed by the Council for expenses incurred in connection with the discharge of his functions as the Council may, with the approval of the minister, determine.

(2) Members appointed under paragraph a, b, c, d, e and f of sub section (1) of section 3 shall be paid sitting fees and shall be reimbursed by the Council for expenses incurred in connection with the discharge of their functions as the Council may, with the approval of the minister, determine.

5. (1) The Council shall meet for the dispatch of its business at least once every 3 months and at such time as the Chairman may determine.

(2) The Chairman shall preside at every meeting of the Council, and in his absence, the members present shall appoint one of their number to preside.

(3) A minimum of 5 members of the Council may, by notice in writing signed by them, request the Chairman to summon a special meeting of the Council for such purposes as may be stated in the notice.

(4) The Chairman or, in his absence, the member appointed to act in his stead shall summon a special meeting within 5 days of his receipt of the notice referred to in subsection (3).

(5) The quorum at any meeting of the Council shall be 5.

(6) The Chairman or other person presiding shall have a casting vote when there is an equality of votes.

(7) A proposal circulated among all members and agreed to in writing by a two-thirds majority of all members shall be of the same force or effect as a decision made at a duly constituted meeting of the Council and shall be incorporated in the minutes of the next succeeding meeting of the Council:

Provided that, if a member requires that such proposal be placed before a meeting of the Council, this subsection shall not apply to such proposal.

(8) The Council may co-opt a person to attend and participate in its deliberations but that person shall not vote on an issue to be decided by the Council.

Disclosure of interest.

Immunity of member of Council.

Remuneration of members

- (c) a legal practitioner of not less than 5 years standing, appointed by the Council;
- (e) a supervisory authority from the area in which the person whose conduct is the subject of the inquiry operates; and
- (f) the Registrar, who shall serve as secretary to the Committee.

PART III—FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL

11. (1) The council shall be responsible for the regulation of, ^{Functions of Council.}

- (a) Professional Social workers,
- (b) Social Work Assistants and
- (c) Professional Social Work in Sierra Leone.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Council shall -

- (a) act as the principal regulatory agency for social work in Sierra Leone;
- (b) establish and maintain -
 - (i) an updated register of professional social workers;
 - (ii) an updated register of social work facilities, organizations and institutions in Sierra Leone;
- (c) safeguard the rights, privileges and interest of professional social workers registered with the Council under this Act;
- (d) issue -

9. (1) Where the Chairman or a member of the Council dies, resigns, or is removed from office subject to this Act or is absent for a continuous period exceeding 3 consecutive meetings, or is by reason of illness unable to perform the functions of his office for a continuous period of 3 consecutive meetings, in the case of-

- (a) the Chairman, the members of the Council shall elect one of their number to act as Chairman until such time as the Chairman resumes his office or another is appointed in his stead; and
- (b) a member, the Chairman shall, subject to this Act, have another person appointed to the Council.

(2) Where a person is appointed as Chairman or appointed as a member to fill a vacancy, he shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the previous Chairman or member, as the case may be, and shall, subject to this Act, be eligible for re-appointment.

10. (1) The Council may, for the discharge of its functions, constitute one or more committees, to perform such functions as the Council shall determine.

(2) Notwithstanding the generality of subsection (1), the Council may constitute a Disciplinary Committee to hold inquiries into the conduct of professional social workers, consisting of a Chairman, appointed by the Council from among its members and the following other members -

- (a) 3 members appointed by the Council from among its members;
- (b) a registered social worker in the same discipline as the person whose conduct is the subject of an inquiry by the Committee, appointed by the Council;

- (i) advise the Minister on matters relating to social work; and
- (k) perform such other functions as are beneficial to the objects of the Council.

PART IV—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

12. (1) The Council shall have a Registrar who shall be Registrar of appointed by the Minister, in consultation with the Council on such Council. terms and conditions as may be stated in his letter of appointment.

(2) The Registrar shall be responsible to-

- (a) provide overall leadership in the administration of the Council, including the supervision of finances of the Council;
- (b) establish and maintain the respective registers of the Council -

- (i) professional social workers;
- (ii) social work facilities, organisations and institution;
- (c) serve as Secretary to the Council and keep minutes and other records of the meetings of the Council; and
- (d) execute decisions of the Council and carry out such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Council.

(3) A person shall not be appointed as Registrar under subsection (1) unless he -

- (i) practising licences to professional social workers;
- (ii) operating licenses to organisations and institutions registered with the Council under this Act;

(e) monitor and inspect social work facilities organisations and institutions registered with the Council;

(f) collaborate with approved universities and other relevant educational institutions by -

- (i) developing social work course of studies;
- (ii) determining the conduct and standards of qualifying examinations;

(iii) promoting social work education in Sierra Leone;

(g) determine and regulate the standards of practice, competence, conduct and ethics of all persons, institutions, organisations and other bodies registered with the Council;

(h) facilitate networking amongst social work professionals at individual and community levels;

(i) coordinate and interact with international social work bodies, universities and other developmental agencies in social work and related fields;

(a) is a registered professional social worker under this Act; and

(b) holds a Bachelor's degree in social work with at least 10 years of experience approved by the council.

13. (1) The Council shall have a Deputy Registrar that holds a bachelor's degree in social work with at least 5 years of experience who shall be appointed by the Council, on such terms and conditions as may be stated in his letter of appointment.

(2) The Deputy Registrar shall be the principal assistant to the Registrar and shall assist the Registrar in the execution of his functions under this Act.

(3) A person shall not be appointed as Deputy Registrar under subsection (1) unless he is a registered professional social worker under this Act.

14. (1) The Council shall have a secretariat consisting of other staff as may be required for the efficient performance of the functions of the Council under this Act.

(2) Such staff under subsection (1) shall be appointed by the Council and shall hold office on such terms and conditions as the Council may determine.

15. An officer or employee of the Council or a person acting under the direction of the Council shall not be liable in respect of an act done by him in good faith under this Act.

PART V - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

16. (1) The activities of the Council shall be financed by funds consisting of -

(a) monies appropriated by Parliament for the purposes of the Council;

(b) monies given to the Council by way of gifts, endowments, bequests, grants or other contributions by persons and organisations for the purposes of the Council;

(c) fees collected by the Council;

(d) all other monies which may, from time to time, accrue to the Council.

(2) The funds of the Council shall be applied only for the purposes of the approved budget of the Council.

17. (1) The Council shall keep proper books of account and other records in relation to the activities, property and finances of the Council in a form approved by the Auditor-General, and shall prepare in respect of each financial year of the Council a financial statement which shall include -

(a) balance sheet accounts;

(b) income and expenditure accounts; and

(c) source and application of funds;

(2) The accounts of the Council kept under subsection (1) shall, not later than 2 months after the end of each financial year, be audited by the Auditor-General or an auditor appointed by him.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2), the Auditor-General or the auditor appointed by him shall be entitled to have access to all books of account, vouchers and other financial records of the Council and to require such information and explanation thereon as he may think fit.

(4) The Council shall provide the Auditor-General or the auditor appointed by him with all necessary and appropriate facilities for the examination of the accounts and records of the Council.

(5) The Auditor-General or the auditor appointed by him shall submit to the Council a report on the audited accounts and the financial statements referred to in subsection (1) and shall, in his report draw attention to -

- (a) irregularities in the accounts;
- (b) any matter that are likely to adversely affect the operations of the Council; and
- (c) any other matter which, in his opinion, ought to be brought to the notice of the Council.

18. The financial year of the Council shall be the same as the financial year of the Government.

19. (1) The Council shall, within 3 months after the end of the financial year, submit to the Minister a report on the performance of its functions during that year and on its policies and programmes.

(2) The annual report shall include the accounts and annual financial statement prepared under section 15 and the report of the audit thereon.

(3) The Minister shall lay copies of the annual report before Parliament within 3 months after he has received the report.

(4) The Council shall make copies of the report available to all stakeholders once it has been laid before Parliament.

PART VI—REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS.

20. (1) The Registrar shall establish and maintain-

Registration
of Professional
Social Workers.

(a) a Permanent Professional Social Workers' Register, in which shall be recorded the names, addresses and other particulars of professional social workers registered under this Act;

(b) a Temporary Professional Social Workers' Register, in which shall be recorded the names, addresses and other particulars of professional social workers registered in a jurisdiction other than Sierra Leone and are visiting Sierra Leone as an individual, under a scheme (such as NGOs, research institutions, etc.) or agreement with the Government of Sierra Leone to offer professional social work services, including teaching and research.

(2) The Registrar shall record in the appropriate register -

- (a) the name;
- (b) the address of current place of practice;
- (c) the qualification by virtue of which a professional social worker is registered;
- (d) the date of registration; and
- (e) such other particulars as the Council may determine.

21. (1) The Registrar shall enter in the appropriate register - ^{Alteration} of Register.

- (a) an alteration in the names, addresses, qualifications and other particulars stated under subsection (2) of section 20;
- (b) an annotation indicating whether a registered professional social worker -

- (i) has died;
- (ii) has been struck off the Register by the Council;
- (iii) has been suspended from practising; or
- (iv) is no longer registered under this Act.

(2) A registered professional social worker shall inform the Registrar, in writing within 30 days of -

- (a) a change in his name or residential address;
- (b) a change in his practice address or other particulars as may be prescribed; or
- (c) an addition to his qualification.

22. A person shall not register as a professional social worker unless he -

Qualification for registration as social work professional.

- (a) has such qualifications as prescribed by the appropriate body;
- (b) is of good character and has not been convicted of an offence involving fraud, dishonesty or sexual offence;
- (c) has not been disqualified from practice as a professional social worker on account of fraud, professional misconduct or negligence;
- (d) does not suffer from mental or physical incapacity; and
- (e) has paid such fee as may be prescribed.

23. (1) A person who wishes to register as a professional social worker shall apply to the Council to be registered for that purpose.

Application for registration as professional social worker.

(2) An application under subsection (1) shall be in such form as the Council may prescribe and shall be accompanied by -

- (a) a copy of the applicant's identification document;
- (b) a copy of the applicant's qualification certificates;
- (c) a copy of a medical report by a medical practitioner approved by the Council to determine whether the applicant is fit to practise as a registered professional social worker;
- (d) a declaration of Criminal Record (Police Clearance);
- (e) a registration fee prescribed by the Council.

(3) The Council may, if satisfied that the applicant possesses the relevant qualifications, approve the application and authorise:

- (a) the name, address, qualifications and the date of registration of the applicant to be entered in the Register; and
- (b) the name, qualifications and the date of registration of the applicant published in the Gazette.

(4) An application for registration under subsection (2), shall be determined within 21 days of the date of submission.

(5) The Registrar shall, where an application to register as a professional social worker is -

PART VII - REGISTRATION OF SOCIAL WORK FACILITIES, ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

25. (1) The Registrar shall record in the register social work facilities, organisations and institutions in the business of social work, the names addresses and other particulars of -

- (a) private or public consultancy groups or firms and non-governmental and community-based organisations engaged in social work or social services delivery; and
- (b) recovery centres, alternative care centres, or shelters for traumatised persons or people with mental health conditions including victims or survivors of human trafficking, sexual and gender-based violence.

(2) The Registrar shall record in the appropriate register -

- (a) the name;
- (b) the address of the social work facilities, organisations or institutions;
- (c) the conditions by virtue of which the social care facility, organisation or institution is registered;
- (d) the date of registration; and
- (e) such other particulars as may be determined by the Council.

(3) The Registrar shall, in addition to the addresses, conditions or other particulars under subsection (2), enter in the register -

(a) approved, enter the name, address, qualifications and other particulars of the applicant in the Register and issue a Certificate of Registration to the applicant;

(b) refused, give notice to the applicant of the decision of the Council, stating the reasons for the refusal.

24. (1) The Council may, where it is of the opinion that an applicant is not a person eligible to be registered, refuse the application.

(2) An applicant shall be deemed not to be eligible to be registered under subsection (1), if he -

- (a) is not of good reputation and character;
- (b) is unfit to practise as a professional social worker because of his physical or mental condition or for any other reason;
- (c) has failed, without reasonable cause, to submit the documents required to be submitted with his application under subsection (2) of section 23;
- (d) has failed to comply with a condition or restriction of a previous registration as may have been imposed on him by the Council; or
- (e) should not be registered because it would not be in the interest of the public.

(2) A request for registration of a body as a social work facility, organisation or institution shall be by an application to the Council and shall be in such prescribed form, accompanied by -

- (a) a copy of the applicant's identification document;
- (b) a copy of the applicant's qualification certificates;
- (c) a registration fee prescribed by the Council;
- (d) a certificate of satisfaction towards the assessment under paragraph (c) of subsection 1.

(3) Where the Council is satisfied that the applicant possesses the relevant qualifications, it may authorise that the:

- (a) the name, address, qualifications and the date of registration of the applicant to be entered in the Register; and
- (b) the name, qualifications and the date of registration of the applicant published in the Gazette.

(4) An application for registration under subsection (2), shall be determined within 21 days of the date of submission.

(5) The registrar shall, where an application to register a body as a social work facility, or institution is-

- (a) approved, enter the name, address, qualifications and other particulars of the applicant in the Register and issue a Certificate of Registration to the applicant;
- (b) refused, give notice to the applicant of the decision of the Council, stating the reasons for the refusal.

(a) changes in the addresses, conditions and other particulars;

(b) annotations indicating whether a registered social work facility, organisation or institution-

- (i) has ceased operation;
- (ii) has been struck off the Register by the Council;
- (iii) is no longer registered under this Act.

(4) A registered social work facility, organisation or institution shall inform the Registrar, in writing within 30 days of -

- (a) a change in practice address or other particulars as may be prescribed; or
- (b) alterations in the conditions under which the facility, organisation or institution is registered under this Act.

26. (1) A body shall not be registered as a social work facility or institution unless -

- (a) it has met the qualifications prescribed by the Council;
- (b) it has paid such prescribed fee; and
- (c) upon an assessment that satisfy the Registrar or his representative that, the body has suitable premises, staff, facilities to provide social welfare, advise and services.

(6) The Council may refuse to register an applicant who in the opinion of the Council -

- (a) is not a body eligible to be registered;
 - (b) is not of good reputation;
 - (c) has failed, without reasonable cause, to submit the documents referred to under subsection (3) with his application;
 - (d) has failed to comply with a condition or restriction of a previous registration as may have been imposed on him by the Council;
- or
- (e) should not be registered because it would not be in the interest of the public.

PART VIII.- REMOVAL, APPEAL REINSTATEMENT OF A PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKER, SOCIAL WORK FACILITY, ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION.

27. (1) The Registrar shall remove the names and other particulars of a professional social worker entered in the register under subsection (3) of section 20, one -

- (a) who has died;
- (b) who has obtained his registration fraudulently;
- (c) who has not applied to the Registrar for renewal of licence;
- (d) whose name has been ordered to be removed by the Council on account of fraud, negligence, professional misconduct or other grounds under this Act.

(2) The Registrar shall notify the deleted professional social worker of his removal under subsection (1).

(3) The deleted professional social worker whose name is removed from the Register under subsection (1) shall, within 14 days of the date of receipt of the notification of his removal surrender his operating license to the Council.

28. (1) The Registrar shall remove the names and other particulars of a social work facility, organisation or institution entered in the register under subsection (1) of section 25 which -

- (a) has ceased operations;
- (b) has obtained his registration fraudulently;
- (c) has not applied to the Registrar for renewal of licence; or
- (d) upon assessment by the Registrar or a person appointed by him, cannot certify the compliance of a condition set out in the previous registration as may have been imposed by the Council.

(2) The Registrar shall notify the registered social work facility, organisation or institution of a removal under subsection (1).

(3) A registered social work facility, organisation or institution whose name is removed from the Register under subsection (1) shall, within 14 days of the date of receipt of the notification of the removal, surrender their certificate of registration and operating license to the Council.

(4) A registered social work facility, organisation or institution that is aggrieved by the decision of the Council under subsection (1) may, within 30 days of being notified of the removal, appeal to an Appeals Committee.

Removal of a of a social work facility, organisation or institution from Register.

(5) A registered social work facility, organisation or institution that is aggrieved by the decision of the Appeals Committee made under subsection (4), may appeal to the High Court within 30 days of being notified of the Appeals Committee decision.

reinstatement
on removal.

29. (1) The Council may, on its own or upon an application by a deleted professional social worker, social work facility, organisation or institution whose name has been removed from the Register, stating reasons why his or its name should be reinstated, order the Registrar to -

- (a) reinstate the name of the deleted professional social worker in the register; or
- (b) notify the deleted professional social worker of the refusal to his application, giving reasons for such refusal.

(2) The Registrar shall upon an order for reinstatement under paragraph (a) of subsection (1), issue a certificate of re-registration to the applicant subject to the payment of a prescribed fee.

(3) An applicant who is aggrieved by a refusal of the Council to approve his application for reinstatement under paragraph (b) of subsection (1) may, within 30 days from the receipt of the notification, appeal to an Appeals Committee referred to under section 31.

30. (1) A deleted professional social worker, social work facility, organization or institution that is aggrieved by the decision of the Council may, within 30 days of being notified of the removal, appeal to an Appeals Committee.

(2) Where the Appellant is aggrieved by the decision of the Appeals Committee under subsection (1) he may, within 30 days of being notified of the decision, appeal to the High Court.

31. For the purposes of subsection (1) of section 30, an Appeals Committee shall consist of a Chairman appointed by the Minister, from among registered social workers and the following other members

- (a) 2 persons appointed by the Minister who shall be registered social workers and in the same discipline as the person whose conduct is the subject of an appeal by the Committee;
- (b) a supervisory authority from the area in which the person whose conduct is the subject of an appeal operates;
- (c) a legal practitioner of not less than 5 years standing appointed by the Minister;
- (d) the Registrar, who shall also be a secretary to the Committee.

PART IX - SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONALS, FACILITIES, ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS TO BE LICENSED.

32. A person shall not -

- (a) practice as a professional social worker; or
 - (b) operate a professional social work facility, organisation or institution,
- unless he or the social work facility, organisation or institution is registered and licensed by the Council for that purpose.

33. (1) A person who wishes to engage in a professional social work practice shall upon registration with the Council be issued with practising license.

Social work
professionals
and
facilities,
organisations
and
institutions
licensing.
requirements.

Professional
social work
practising
license.

(2) An application for a professional social work practising license under subsection (1) shall not be approved by the Council unless -

- (a) the applicant is a registered a professional social worker and possesses the relevant qualifications prescribed by the Council;
- (b) the application is in such form as may be prescribed by the Council and accompanied by the prescribed fee.

(3) The Council may, if satisfied that the applicant possesses the relevant qualifications and is duly registered, approve the application subject to such conditions as it may consider fit.

(4) A professional social work practising license shall specify the address of the principal place of practice and all other places of practice of the registered professional social worker.

(5) A practicing license issued to a registered professional social worker under subsection (1) shall -

- (a) allow that person to practice social work in Sierra Leone;
- (b) be valid for a period of 1 year.

(6) Where the Council refuses an application under subsection (1), the Registrar shall give notice to the applicant of the decision of the Council, stating the reasons for the refusal.

(7) A registered professional social worker who practises without a practising license commits an offence and shall, upon conviction, be liable to a minimum fine not less than Le. 10,000 or to an imprisonment for a term of not less than 6 months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

34. (1) A person who wishes to operate a social work facility, Social work organisation or institution shall, upon registration with the Council, facility, organisation or institution be issued with an operating license. or institution operating license.

(2) An application for a social work facility, organisation or institution operating license under subsection (1) shall not be approved by the Council unless the-

- (a) applicant is a registered social work facility, institution or organisation and possesses the relevant qualifications prescribed by the Council;
- (b) application is in such form as may be prescribed by the Council and accompanied by the prescribed fee.

(2) The Council may, if satisfied that the applicant possesses the relevant qualifications, approve the application subject to such conditions as it may consider fit.

(3) A social work facility, organisation or institution operating license shall specify the address of the principal place of operation and all other places of operation of the registered social work facility, organisation or institution.

(4) An operating license issued to a registered social work facility, organisation or institution under subsection (1) shall-

- (a) allow a social work facility, organisation or institution to practice in Sierra Leone;
- (b) be valid for a period of 1 year.

(5) Where the Council refuses an application under subsection 1 of Section 24, the Registrar shall give notice to the applicant of the decision of the Council, stating the reasons for the refusal.

(6) A person who operates a registered social work facility, organisation or institution without an operating license commits an offence and shall, upon conviction, be liable to a minimum fine of Le. 20,000 or to an imprisonment for a term of not less than 12 months or to both such fine and imprisonment

35. (1) A registered professional social worker may apply to renew his practising license.

(2) The provision on the application for a professional social work practising license shall apply to an application for renewal.

36. (1) The Council shall make the register available for inspection by members of the public either in person at the administration headquarters of the Council or online.

(2) The register made available to the public must clearly indicate that a -

- (a) professional social worker, social work facility, organisation or institution is registered;
- (b) professional social worker, social work facility, organisation or institution is not registered.

PART X - OFFENCES

37. (1) A registered professional social worker, social work facility, organisation or institution shall not, in carrying out the social work practice, -

- (a) make a false or misleading representation in respect of the social work or services delivery so as to induce, influence or cause a person to enter into a contract for the purchase of such services;
- (b) contravene a written law regulating misleading representation in medical and health matters; or

(c) act contrary to any guidelines or directives relating to misleading representation issued by the Council

(2) A registered professional social worker, social work facility, organisation or institution that contravenes subsection (1), commits an offence and is liable on conviction -

- (a) to a fine not less than Le. 10, 000.00 or to a term of imprisonment not less than 6 months or to both such fine and imprisonment; and
- (b) in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not less than Le. 500.00 for each day during which the offence continues.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "misleading representation" means any action which is likely to mislead the public as to the -

- (a) nature, characteristics, suitability for the purpose or quantity, of the service being provided; or
- (b) services provided of a particular kind, standard, quality or quantity.

38. A person who not being a registered professional social worker under this Act -

- (a) practice, carry on or operate, or hold himself out as practising or carrying on or operating, or take up employment, as a registered professional social worker;
- (b) use the title "registered" to the respective social work professions or any title in a language which may be reasonably construed to imply that he is a registered social work practitioner;

- (c) hold himself out as an expert social worker;
- (d) use or display a sign or other device representing or implying that he is a registered professional social worker; or
- (e) recover in a court, a fee, charge or remuneration for a professional advice or services rendered as a registered professional social worker,

commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not less than of Le. 25, 000.00 or to a term of imprisonment of not less than 12 months or to both such fine and imprisonment

39. (1) A person who-

- (a) procure or cause the procurement of a certificate by making or causing to be made, or producing or causing to be produced, a false or fraudulent declaration, certificate, application or representation;
- (b) forge, alter or counterfeit a certificate;
- (c) use a forged, altered or counterfeited certificate;
- (d) buy or fraudulently obtain a certificate; and
- (e) sell, assign or transfer a certificate.

commits an offence and is liable, on conviction -

- (i) to a fine not less than Le. 25, 000.00 or to a term of imprisonment not less than 12 months or to both such fine and imprisonment; and

- (ii) in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not less than Le. 1,000.00 for every other day during which the offence continues.

40. (1) A person who not being a registered professional social worker- Falsely personating a professional social worker.

- (a) falsely personate a registered professional social worker
- (b) takes or uses a name, title, addition or description implying that he is a registered professional social worker;
- (c) uses a form of equipment or device to induce a person to believe that he is a registered professional social worker; or
- (d) holds himself out, by advertisement or otherwise, as being qualified or authorised to practise as a registered professional social worker,

commits an offence and is liable, on conviction -

- (i) to a fine not less than of Le. 25, 000.00 or to a term of imprisonment not less than 12 months or to both such fine and imprisonment; and
- (ii) in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not less than Le. 1,000.00 for each day during which the offence continues.

41. (1) A person who commits an offence under this Act or Regulations made under this Act for which no penalty is expressly provided is liable, on conviction - General penalty.

(a) in the case of an individual-

- (i) to a fine not less than of Le. 5, 000.00 or to a term of imprisonment not less than 6 months or to both such fine and imprisonment; and
- (ii) for a continuing offence, to a fine not less than Le. 1,000.00 for every other day during which the offence continues.

(b) in the case of a body corporate, partnership or society-

- (i) to a fine not less than of Le. 20, 000.00; and
- (ii) for a continuing offence, to a fine not less than Le. 2,000.00 for each day during which the offences continues.

(2) Where an offence under subsection (1) is committed

- (a) a body corporate, the person responsible for the body corporate shall be guilty of the offence;
- (b) a partnership, every partner in the partnership shall be guilty of the offence; or
- (c) a society, its office bearers shall be guilty of the offence.


PART XI-MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

42. (1) The Minister may by statutory instrument in consultation with the council, make regulations for giving effect to this Act.

Passed in Parliament this *29th* day of *April*, in the year of our Lord two thousand and Twenty Five.


GILBERT BOSCO N'HABABAY,
Ag. Clerk of Parliament.

THIS PRINTED IMPRESSION has been carefully compared by me with the Bill which has passed Parliament and found by me to be a true and correct printed copy of the said Bill.


GILBERT BOSCO N'HABABAY,
Ag. Clerk of Parliament.