



State of Nevada

Board of Examiners for Social Workers

4600 Kietzke Lane, #O-264, Reno, NV 89502

(775) 688-2555

Overview of the Process for Reviewing an Accusation of Wrongdoing

The Nevada Legislature created the State of Nevada, Board of Examiners for Social Worker (Board) to regulate the practice of Social Work in Nevada. The Board is considered a “public protection agency” because social work practice is subject to regulation to protect the public from the practice of social work by unqualified persons and from unprofessional conduct by persons licensed to practice social work. The Board is charged with enforcing Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 641B and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 641B for the protection and benefit of the public.

- Anyone can file an “Accusation of Wrongdoing” against a **current, licensed social worker** in Nevada.
- Our “Accusation Form” is completed online.
- The “Accusation Form” must be fully completed for us to move the accusation forward. **We will not process anonymous accusations.**
- To file an accusation, **you will need the social worker’s first and last name.** We cannot accept an accusation with only the first name. You will be provided with a drop-down menu, listing all current licensees in Nevada. If the person does not show up on the drop-down menu, they are not currently a licensed social worker in Nevada, and our Board has no jurisdiction over him/her.
- When you submit an accusation, you will need to **attach supporting documentation to verify your accusation.** This may consist of a detailed explanation, text messages, emails, and / or documents.
- The Board will evaluate the social worker’s actions against the laws regulating social work practice, NRS 641B and NAC 641B to determine whether a violation of law occurred. *Using the National Association of Social Work (NASW) Code of Ethics as your reasons for an accusation will not apply because our NRS / NAC may differ from the language of the Code of Ethics.*
 - Once reviewed, if no violation(s) are identified, the Accusation will be closed. You will be notified of the outcome of this review.
 - Once reviewed, if potential violations of NRS 641B or NAC 641B are identified, an **investigation** will be commenced. The social worker will be notified that an “Accusation” has been filed against them and (s)he will be provided time to respond.
 - After the investigation is completed, and the licensee has responded, the Board will review the evidence with the Deputy Attorney General assigned to the Board to determine if sufficient evidence exists for the Board to file a **formal complaint** against the social worker.
- If it is determined that there is not sufficient evidence to file a formal complaint, the Board will not open a formal case against the social worker. You will be notified of the outcome of this review.
- If a formal complaint is filed, the matter will be set for a disciplinary hearing, and you may be asked to testify. Once a formal complaint is filed against the social worker, (s)he may, at any time choose to resolve the matter by entering into a **consent decree**, rather than moving to a formal hearing.
 - A consent decree is a written agreement between the Board and the social worker, in which the social worker admits to certain violations and agrees to a particular disciplinary action.

If you have questions, please reach out to the Board at 775-688-2555.