



Montana Board of Behavioral Health

Helena, MT

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General Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

(Updated 9/9/26)

General Information

You can access all the board's statutes and administrative rules on the board website under the *Regulations* menu or through the below links. All licensees are responsible for knowing and adhering to all statutes and rules pertaining to their practice.

- [ARM Title 24, chapter 219](#) (board and profession specific rules)
- [MCA Title 37, chapter 39](#) (board and profession specific statutes)
- [ARM Title 24, chapter 101](#) (general department rules)
- [MCA Title 37, chapter 1](#) (general department statutes)

If you are interested in receiving notification of upcoming board meetings and proposed rulemaking you can subscribe to our interested parties list through the [department website portal](#). You can also find past and upcoming meeting information on the [board meeting webpage](#).

General License Information

Question: What professions does this board license and regulate and what are the licensing requirements?

- Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors (LCPC)
- LCPC Candidates
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT)
- LMFT Candidates
- Licensed Addiction Counselors (LAC)
- LAC Candidates
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW)
- LCSW Candidates
- Licensed Master's Social Workers (LMSW)
- LMSW Candidates
- Licensed Baccalaureate Social Workers (LBSW)
- LBSW Candidates
- Certified Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialists (CBHPSS)
- Certified Family Peer Support Specialist (CFPSS)

Candidate licenses are for individuals who have graduated from a degree program but must earn post-degree supervised work experience hours under a qualified supervisor(s). Candidates have the full scope of practice but must be supervised to practice under that license.

For more information and current license requirements visit the board's website at <https://boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/behavioral-health/>. For more information on supervision requirements for candidates and peer support specialists, view the *Candidate and Peer Support Supervision FAQ* also posted to the board's website.

Question: How do I apply for a license?

Apply for a license using our [online application](#). Paying the fee at the end is what submits the application so one of our staff members may be assigned and begin reviewing your application. Once you submit the application, a staff member will be in contact with you within ten business days via e-mail with any additional questions and/or requests for information or documents.

It's okay to submit an application to begin the review process even if you are still collecting information or documents. Remember, all applicants under this board must also obtain an FBI fingerprint background check through the Montana Department of Justice (DOJ) to complete your application. It typically takes 4-6 weeks for background checks results to be sent to us for your application. Visit the [DOJ website](#) for more information on obtaining a background check.

Question: Do I have to wait for a board meeting so the board can review my application?

License applications that are routine can be issued by department staff without board review. However, applications that are nonroutine must be evaluated by the board's screening panel at a scheduled meeting.

[ARM 24.101.402](#)(12) "Nonroutine application" means an application that staff has determined requires board review, because it involves:

- (a) evidence of unprofessional conduct as defined by law or rule;
- (b) materials that require evaluation by the professional members of the board to determine compliance with qualifications for licensure;
- (c) missing documentation due to natural disaster, national emergency, or other good cause supported by reliable information;
- (d) a matter specifically defined by board or program rule or law as nonroutine; or
- (e) an issue staff deems necessary for the board to review.

The board's specific rules regarding what is nonroutine can be found in ARM [24.219.411](#), [24.219.412](#), and [24.101.406](#).

When considering a nonroutine application the board can: issue a full and unrestricted license; issue a probationary license with stipulations; or deny a license application. If the board issues a probationary license or denies a license it must articulate the reasons for that denial under board/department statute and rule ([37-1-316, MCA](#), and [ARM 24.219.2301](#)).

Question: Do criminal convictions and/or previous license discipline disqualify me from licensure in Montana?

Having a criminal history and/or having previous license discipline in Montana or another state does not automatically disqualify you from licensure. If you apply and pay the fee, the specifics of your personal history will be evaluated as part of your application. See also above regarding nonroutine applications that require review by the board.

Question: I am already licensed in another state. How do I get licensed in Montana?

If you hold an active license in another state(s) you still have to submit an application for a Montana

license using our [online application](#). If you hold a license in a state that the board has determined is substantially equivalent under [ARM 24.219.413](#) you will not need to submit proof of education, experience, and exam(s) with your application. You can find the current list of substantially equivalent states at <https://boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/global-pages/Montana-Substantial-Equivalency-Determinations.pdf>. Use the bookmarks in the PDF to navigate to the Board of Behavioral Health pages.

If you are not licensed in a state that is substantially equivalent, staff will evaluate your application based on your individual qualifications including education, experience, and exam(s) passed.

Question: What are Montana's laws regarding providing services via telepractice/telehealth?

You are considered to be practicing in Montana if your client is physically located in Montana regardless of your physical location. Telepractice is merely a method of delivery of services under your scope of practice. However, if you are physically located in another state you may want to check with its licensing body regarding its laws.

See also below regarding requirements for licensure and exemptions.

Question: Can I practice temporarily in your state without a Montana license, either in-person or via telepractice?

The exemptions for practicing without a license can be found in [37-39-303, MCA](#). Additionally, Montana is currently working to implement a law passed by the Legislature that will allow individuals licensed in another state to register and practice for up to 21 days without a Montana license. However, registration is not yet in place though we are working to complete programming to implement the law as soon as possible.

Question: What is my scope of practice and what can I do under my license?

The scope(s) of practice for all professions licensed under this board can be found in [37-39-102, MCA](#). All licensees are held to their scope of practice and all statutes and rules pertaining to that practice, including unprofessional conduct regulations in [ARM 24.219.2301](#) and [37-1-316, MCA](#).

Question: I am licensed candidate or peer support specialist. What are the board's requirements concerning supervision?

For more information on supervision requirements for candidates, CBHPSS, and CFPSS view the *Candidate and Peer Support Supervision FAQ* also posted to the board's website.

Question: How do I renew my license? When do I renew my license? How much does it cost?

Renew your license online during the renewal period by logging into your existing [license account](#). Renewal fees can be found in [ARM 24.219.401](#).

- LCPC/LCPC candidates, LMFT/LMFT candidates, LCSW/LCSW candidates, LMSW/LMSW candidates, LBSW/LBSW candidates, CBHPSS, and CFPSS renew **annually**. Renewal opens on November 1 and ends on December 31.
- LAC and LAC candidates renew **annually**. Renewal opens on May 1 and ends on June 30.

Question: What are the continuing education (CE) requirements for my license?

CE requirements can be found in [ARM 24.219.435](#).

Question: What are the board's requirements regarding billing including Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance?

Laws pertaining to billing, including private insurance and Medicare and Medicaid, are outside this board's jurisdiction and regulatory authority. As a licensee you must comply with other state and federal laws that pertain to your scope of practice. However, it is not this board that regulates or set requirements in those specific areas.

For questions on Medicare and Medicaid contact the [Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services](#). For questions regarding private insurance, contact those companies directly for information on their reimbursement policies.

Question: Does the board regulate practices or facilities?

No. The board does not license facilities nor regulate your practice nor the business aspects of your practice. For questions pertaining to state licensed substance use disorder facilities contact the [Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services](#). The board regulates you as an individual under your scope of practice (see below).

License Status, Complaints, and Board Disciplinary Action Questions

Question: How do I find out if someone is licensed and/or if their license has been disciplined?

You can look up licensees using our [online lookup](#) system. The lookup will show the current license status. If a licensee has been disciplined a copy of that final order(s) will be included with their record for public access.

Question: How do I file a complaint for potential unlicensed practice or unprofessional conduct by a licensee?

Information on how to file a complaint and the complaint process itself can be found on the department's [compliant webpage](#).

Question: How do I request an official license verification of my license?

Submit your request using our online [license verification request](#). You can have the verification sent to an e-mail address and/or physical mailing address.

Question: How do I obtain a list/ mailing list of licensees under this board?

You can request a downloadable mailing list of licensees through our [online portal](#). The list contains mailing addresses and e-mail addresses. It does not contain phone numbers.