

Professional Licensing Agency  
402 West Washington Street  
Room W072  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204



Michael R. Pence  
Governor of Indiana  
Nicholas W. Rhoad  
PLA Executive Director

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE LICENSING BOARD  
LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER (LCSW)  
BY ENDORSEMENT  
INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS**

*Before completing and submitting your application to our office, please read all materials and information included.*

**CONTENTS OF APPLICATION PACKET**

Applicants must download the following documents from the Board's Website at: [www.pla.in.gov](http://www.pla.in.gov):

1. Application for Licensure As A Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
2. Information and Instruction Sheet
3. Criminal Background Check Information
4. Verification of Licensure
4. Statutes and Administrative Rules which pertain to the Behavioral Health and Human Service Licensing Board

**IPLA ADDRESS/TELEPHONE NUMBER/FAX/EMAIL/WEBSITE**

Indiana Professional Licensing Agency  
402 West Washington Street, Room W072  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
Staff Phone: (317) 234-2054  
FAX # (317) 233-4236  
Staff Email: [pla8@pla.IN.gov](mailto:pla8@pla.IN.gov)  
Website: [www.pla.IN.gov](http://www.pla.IN.gov)

**CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIRED**

An individual applying for a clinical social work license shall submit to a national criminal history background check at the cost of the individual. Please see the step-by-step directions on how to complete the fingerprinting process in order to process your criminal background check. <http://www.in.gov/pla/3241.htm>.

**Criminal background checks must be obtained after you apply for your clinical social work license with the Board and prior to the issuance of a license.**

**THE FAIR INFORMATION PRACTICE ACT**

In compliance with Ind. Code 4-1-6, this agency is notifying you that you must provide the requested information or your application will not be processed. You have the right to challenge, correct, or explain information maintained by this agency. The information you provide will become public record. Your examination scores and grade transcripts are confidential except in circumstances where their release is required by law, in which case you will be notified.

**MANDATORY DISCLOSURE OF U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER**

Your social security number is being requested by this state agency in accordance with Ind. Code 4-1-8-1 and Ind. Code 25-1-5-11(a). Disclosure is mandatory, and this record cannot be processed without it.

Failure to disclose your U.S. social security number will result in the denial of your application. Application fees are not refundable.

## **LICENSE BY ENDORSEMENT**

“Endorsement” is a term used to describe the process of granting a license to an applicant who possesses a license or certification to practice that profession in another state or country. Indiana social work licensure law requires all applicants who are applying for licensure as a social worker by exemption from examination must meet all of the requirements listed in the instructions.

Ind. Code 25-23.6-5-15 states:

Sec. 14. An individual who applies for a license under this article may be exempted by the board from the examination requirement under this chapter if the individual:

- (1) is licensed or certified to practice as a social worker or clinical social worker in another state and has passed an examination substantially equivalent to the level for which the individual is requesting licensure;
- (2) has engaged in the practice of social work or the practice of clinical social work for not less than three (3) of the previous five (5) years;
- (3) has passed a licensing examination substantially equivalent to the licensing examination under this article;
- (4) has passed an examination pertaining to the social work and clinical social work laws and rules of this state; and
- (5) has not committed any act or is not under investigation for any act that constitutes a violation of this article; and is otherwise qualified under section 1 or 2 of this chapter and section 3 of this chapter and pays an additional fee.

If any applicant qualifies for licensure in Indiana by endorsement, he or she is only exempted from the national examination requirement itself.

Licensure, certification or registration in another state does not guarantee licensure in Indiana.

## **SOCIAL WORK LICENSE (LSW) REQUIREMENT**

If you graduate after July 1, 2009, you will be required to obtain a social work license (LSW) before you begin the supervision and experience requirement necessary for licensure as a clinical social worker. Applicants seeking licensure as a clinical social worker will need two (2) years post-degree full time work experience and supervision prior to applying for licensure as a clinical social worker (LCSW).

## **MASTER SOCIAL WORK DEGREE PRIOR TO JULY 1, 1997**

If you began taking classes to complete your MSW degree prior to July 1, 1997 please contact our office for licensure information.

## **TRANSCRIPTS, EXAMINATION SCORE REPORTS, VERIFICATION OF SUPERVISION, AND VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT/EXPERIENCE MUST BE SENT DIRECTLY FROM EACH ENTITY**

The Board will not be able to accept any transcripts, examination score reports, verification of supervision, and verification of employment/experience directly from the applicant. All transcripts, examination score reports, verification of supervision and verification of employment/experience must be sent directly from those entities.

## **EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT**

The Board has adopted the Association of Social Work Board’s (ASWB) Clinical Level examination to obtain a social work licensure. You may use your current licensure/certification as a clinical social worker in another state to exempt yourself from taking the examination, provided you took an ASWB examination in another state at the clinical level **or higher**.

**INDIANA DOES NOT ACCEPT THE BACHELORS LEVEL EXAMINATION.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you did not take an examination to receive licensure/certification in the another state at the same level or higher level, you will be required to take the ASWB Clinical Examination before you will be licensed as a social worker in the State of Indiana. If you have taken the ASWB examination, you will only be required to take our jurisprudence (law) examination.

**All questions and requests for information about the ASWB Masters Level examination should be directed to:**

Association of Social Work Board (ASWB)  
400 Southridge Parkway, Suite B  
Culpeper, Virginia 22701  
Candidate Services: (888) 579.3926  
General Information: (800) 225.6880  
Website: <https://www.aswb.org/>

**JURISPRUDENCE EXAMINATION**

All endorsement applicants for clinical social work licensure are required to pass a jurisprudence examination. No applicant is exempt from this requirement.

After the approval of your application by the Board, you will be notified by email that you are eligible to take the jurisprudence examination. Upon notification from the applicant that they are ready to take the jurisprudence examination, the examination and instructions will be emailed to you. You will have fourteen (14) days from the date the email is sent to you with the Jurisprudence Examination and Instructions in order to complete the examination and return the required information to our office.

All applicants will be examined on the statutes and rules of Indiana for the Behavioral Health and Human Services Licensing Board. This is a 30 question true-false and multiple-choice examination. Passing criteria is 75%. Statutes and Administrative Rules are available to download at [www.pla.IN.gov](http://www.pla.IN.gov).

**ABANDON APPLICATIONS**

If an applicant does not submit all requirements within one (1) year after the date on which the application is filed, the application for licensure is abandoned without any action of the Board. An application submitted subsequent to an abandoned application shall be treated as a new application.

**ISSUANCE OF LICENSE**

Upon issuance of your license by the Board, you will be sent an email notifying you that your license has been issued. There will be instructions on how to purchase a blue license card to be mailed to you or how to download a free license card for immediate printing.

Ind. Code 25-23.6-4-5 requires that an individual who is licensed as a clinical social worker shall:

- (1) Display the license or a clear copy of the license at each location where the social worker or clinical social worker regularly practices; and
- (2) Includes the words "licensed social worker" or the letters "LSW" on all promotional material s, including business cards, brochures, stationary, advertisements, and signs that name the individual.

Therefore, you must either download the free license card or purchase a blue license card to post. IPLA staff cannot print license cards to be mailed or for walk-ins to our office.

This service is available on our website at [www.in.gov/pla/license.htm](http://www.in.gov/pla/license.htm).

**LICENSE EXPIRATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Clinical Social Workers licensed in the State of Indiana are required to obtain at least forty (40) hours of continuing education, with at least twenty (20) hours of Category I Continuing Education with two (2) hours of Category I Ethics Continuing Education, in order to renew their license. A clinical social worker who has been licensed less than twenty-four (24) months will need twenty (20) hours of continuing education with one (1) hour of Category I Ethics Continuing Education to renew their license. A social worker who has been licensed less than twelve (12) months does not need continuing education in order to renew their license.

Detailed information regarding the continuing education requirement is available at the Board's website at [www.pla.IN.gov](http://www.pla.IN.gov). Or you may contact our office by calling (317) 234-2054 or by email at [pla8@pla.IN.gov](mailto:pla8@pla.IN.gov).

**APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT  
CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER (LCSW)  
INSTRUCTIONS**

**All applicants must submit an application and supporting documentation to:**

Indiana Professional Licensing Agency  
Attn: Behavioral Health and Human Services Licensing Board  
402 West Washington Street, Room W072  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

**AFFIDAVIT**

If you answer “yes” to any of the seven (7) questions on the application, the applicant must explain fully in a signed and notarized affidavit, meaning an explanation or statement of facts and or events, including all related details. Describe the event including location, date and disposition. If you have a malpractice action, provide name(s) of plaintiff(s). Letters from attorneys or insurance companies are not accepted in lieu of your statement; however, they may accompany your affidavit.

If the applicant has been ***arrested; entered into a prosecutorial diversion or deferment agreement; convicted; pled guilty to or pled nolo contendere to any offense, misdemeanor, or felony in any state***, except for minor violation of traffic law resulting in fines, and arrests or convictions that have been expunged by a court, the applicant shall submit a notarized statement detailing all criminal offenses, excluding minor traffic violations. The notarized statement must include the following information:

- (1) The date(s), location(s), court, and cause number.
- (2) The offense, misdemeanor or felony of which the applicant was arrested for, entered into a prosecutorial diversion or deferment agreement; convicted, pled guilty to or pled nolo contendere to.
- (3) The penalty imposed.

**Also, included with your notarized statement, you will need to provide copies of any and all court documentation regarding each offense listed.**

**CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIRED**

All applicants applying for a clinical social worker license shall submit to a national criminal history background check at the cost of the individual. Please see the step-by-step directions on how to complete the fingerprinting process in order to process your criminal background check on the Board’s website at <http://www.in.gov/pla/3241.htm>.

**A criminal background check completed prior to the submission of your application for licensure will not be considered valid. If an application is not received by IPLA before scheduling a criminal background check, the applicant will be required to submit to another check resulting in additional fees.**

**FEE INFORMATION**

Applicants must submit a **fifty dollar (\$50.00)** application fee, made payable to the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency. Checks or Money orders are acceptable. **All fees are non-refundable and nontransferable.**

**PHOTOGRAPH**

Applicants must submit one (1) photograph, approximately 2 x 3 inches, head and shoulders view of the applicant only, black and white or color, of professional quality. No “Polaroid” type photographs, laminated photographs, laminated identification cards or group photographs will be accepted.

**EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants must possess at least a Master's degree in Social Work (MSW) from an institution of higher education that has been accredited or approved for candidacy by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Applicants must submit an official transcript, **sent directly to the Board from the college or university**, from which you obtained the degree, showing that all requirements for graduation have been met and the date the degree was conferred. Indiana law requires that your Master's degree be clinically oriented, with specific clinical content areas covered.

**MSW Clinical Coursework Form** – This form must be completed and submitted with your application. Please list the course titles in the areas indicated below, of the graduate courses, exactly as they appear on your transcript that in your opinion, meet the requirements. If the title of the course that you applying towards these requirement does not clearly reflect these content areas, you should also submit additional supporting documentation, such as course catalog descriptions or course syllabi to accompany the MSW Clinical Coursework form.

**NOTE: Transcripts must be original, official transcripts sent directly to the Board from the college or university. Copies of transcripts, transcripts issued to applicants, or incomplete (not yet showing your degree has been granted) transcripts are not acceptable. Degrees in related fields are not accepted.**

### **CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

MSW applicants must submit proof of two (2) years of experience in the practice of clinical social work in counseling of clients in a clinical setting. Both years must have been obtained after receiving your MSW degree. **The experience must be post-baccalaureate, paid, full-time and supervised to qualify as experience.** Part-time experience will be considered by the Board. (Note: One thousand five hundred hours (1,500) equals one (1) year of experience.) **Under no circumstances can this experience requirement be met in less than twenty-four (24) months.**

**Verification of Employment/Experience Form.** Your employer must fill out the bottom section of this form, have the form notarized, and submit it directly to the Board. This form may be duplicated if you completed the required two (2) years of experience with more than one employer. To qualify as experience you must have been providing clinical social worker services, including assessment and evaluation of clients, in which at least fifty percent (50%) of this time consisted of providing services directly to clients.

### **According to 839 IAC 1-3-2:**

Sec. 2. (a) An applicant for licensure as a social worker or clinical social worker shall pass an examination required by the board.

(b) As used in IC 25-23.6-5-1 and IC 25-23.6-5-3.5, "experience" means full-time paid experience of at least one thousand five hundred (1,500) hours per year. Part-time experience will be considered if the applicant can verify a total of four thousand five hundred (4,500) hours, three thousand (3,000) hours of which must take place after receiving the graduate degree.

(c) As used in IC 25-23.6-5-1 and IC 25-23.6-5-3.5, supervision must be face-to-face contact between the supervisor and supervisee for the purpose of assisting the supervisee in the process of learning the skills of social work or clinical social work practice for a minimum of four (4) hours per month.

(d) Experience, as that term is used in IC 25-23.6-5-1 and IC 25-23.6-5-3.5, shall be earned as an employee in one (1) of the following settings:

- (1) Social service agencies.
- (2) Schools.
- (3) Institutions of higher education.
- (4) Hospitals.
- (5) Private practice.
- (6) Mental health centers.
- (7) Correctional institutions.
- (8) Home health agencies.
- (9) Long term health care facilities.
- (10) Employee assistance programs.
- (11) Occupational social services.

## **CLINICAL SUPERVISION**

MSW applicants must submit proof of at least four (4) hours of face to face supervision per each month of experience, provided by a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW). If you began this supervised clinical experience requirement before November 1, 2003, then the experience can be gained under the supervision of a licensed physician who has training in psychiatric medicine, a licensed psychologist, a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT) or a licensed mental health counselor (LMHC). Any supervised clinical experience completed after November 1, 2003 must be gained under the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW).

**Verification of Supervision Form.** Your supervisor must fill out the bottom section of this form, have the form notarized, and submit it directly to the Board. This form may be duplicated if you completed the required two (2) years of supervision under more than one supervisor. Supervision must have been face to face for a minimum of four (4) hours per month during the required two (2) years of experience.

## **VERIFICATION OF EXAMINATION**

Applicants must contact the appropriate examination reporting service (for National examinations) or the State Licensing Board (for State constructed examinations) and request that an official score report be sent to the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency. The examination that you took to gain licensure in another state must be substantially equivalent to the examination required for that level of licensure in Indiana.

The Board has adopted the Association of Social Work Board's (ASWB) Clinical Level examination to obtain a social work license. Indiana requires the "Clinical" level examination for obtaining a clinical social work license (LCSW). **INDIANA DOES NOT ACCEPT THE BACHELORS LEVEL EXAMINATION.**

## **ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE PRACTICE OF CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK**

Endorsement applicants must have been actively engaged in the practice of social work or clinical social work for not less than three (3) out of the previous five (5) years. You must submit a letter to the Board to this effect and include it with your application materials.

## **VERIFICATION OF LICENSURE**

Applicants must provide a "Verification of Veterinary State Licensure" form from each state in which you currently are, or have ever been, licensed, certified or registered in any regulated health profession or occupation. This information must be **sent directly to the Board by the state** that issued the license.

If a state examination was administered, please have the state board attach the examination subjects and scores to the verification of licensure form. The information must be sent by the state or province that issued the license.

The top portion of this form should be completed by the applicant and sent to the appropriate state licensing board for their submission to the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency. The form may be duplicated if necessary. Other jurisdictions may charge a fee to verify licensure. You may wish to contact the state boards prior to your request for verification.

## **NAME CHANGE**

An official affidavit indicating any legal name change or a notarized copy of a marriage certificate, divorce decree, social security card or court papers is acceptable if your name differs from that on any of your documents.

## **EXAMINATION CANDIDATES FOR LCSW**

Indiana requires the "Clinical" level examination for obtaining a clinical social work license (LCSW). The examination is only offered in a computer format through the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) and its contracted examination service. The examination is offered six (6) days a week at various locations and times.

Your application for the licensure examination must be approved by the Behavioral Health and Human Services Licensing Board prior to registration with the examination service. One approval is granted, information will be emailed to you

explaining the registration and scheduling process for the examination. It is your responsibility to register for and schedule your examination. Please register for the correct level of examination.

An applicant who has been approved by the Board to take the examination must take the examination within one (1) year from the date of the initial Board approval. If the applicant does not take the examination within one (1) year from the date of the initial Board approval, the approval will be invalid and the applicant must submit a new application and all required documentation must be resubmitted.

After completion of the Examination, the testing center will provide individuals with a form that indicates whether the candidate has passed or failed the examination. The results are forwarded to the Board within two weeks.

If you are unsuccessful on the examination, you will be emailed a letter denying your application and provided repeat examination material. You must first re-apply to the Board and again be approved to re-take the examination before you re-register for with the ASWVB. Additionally there is a mandated ninety (90) day waiting period between examination attempts.

**For more information on study guides and examination materials, please go to ASWB's website at [www.aswb.org](http://www.aswb.org).**

### **TESTING ACCOMMODATION REQUEST**

If you have a disability, which may require some special accommodations in taking the examination, please request a Testing Accommodation Request Form from the Board by calling (317) 234-2054. If you are hearing or speech impaired, you may utilize the Indiana Relay System by calling 1-800-743-3333. If an accommodation is not requested prior to Board approval to take the examination, the Board cannot guarantee the availability of the accommodation on-site.

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### **LCSW BY ENDORSEMENT APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

**If you are applying for licensure as a clinical social worker (LCSW) by endorsement, you must complete and submit the following forms.**

- Completed application form
- One (1) passport quality photograph
- \$50 Application/Issuance Fee (additional \$25.00 for temporary permit)
- Notarized affidavit explaining any "yes" answer on the application
- Criminal History Background Check
- Official Transcript(s) sent directly from the college or university
- Verification of Supervision For LCSW Licensure Applicants Form
- Verification of Employment/Experience for LCSW Licensure Applicants Form (3000 hours)
- MSW Clinical Coursework Form
- Official Score Report (National Examination or State Constructed)
- Letter – Actively engaged in the practice of social work 3 out of previous 5 years
- Out of State License Verification(s)
- Name Change Documentation if applicable



**MSW SOCIAL WORKER (LCSW)  
TEMPORARY PERMIT INFORMATION  
INSTRUCTIONS**

The Board may issue a temporary permit to practice as a clinical social worker to an applicant who submits the following:

1. A completed application for licensure as a clinical social worker including all supporting documentation.
2. An additional fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the temporary permit.
3. Submit proof of a valid license/certificate to practice from another state. Applicants will be issued their temporary license until verification of your license from your state has been received.

The temporary permit expires the earlier of:

1. The date the individual holding the permit is issued.
2. The date the Board disapproves the individual's application for licensure. (Disapproval of applications includes failing the required examination.)
3. One hundred and eighty (180) days after the initial permit is issued.

The Board may renew a temporary permit if the individual holding the permit was scheduled to take the examination and the individual did not take the examination and shows good cause for not taking the examination. "Good cause" is defined in the Board's rules as follows: As used in Ind. Code § 25-23.6-5-11, "good cause" means any reason approved by the board following written notice to the board from the applicant within thirty (30) days of the date the applicant was scheduled to take the examination. A renewed permit expires on the date the individual holding the permit received the results from the next examination given after the permit was issued.

**NOTE: Although approved applicants have one (1) year to take the examination, from the time of their approval by the Board, the temporary permit will expire after one hundred and eighty (180) days. Applicants who are issued a temporary permit are encouraged to take the examination within the first one hundred and eighty (180) days.**

## CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK INSTRUCTIONS

**Please wait for the Email notice.** Do not submit to a criminal background check until you receive an email notifying you that the board has received your application. A criminal background check (CBC) completed prior to the submission of an application for licensure will not be considered valid. An application is not considered “received” until it is manually entered into the IPLA licensing system by board staff. An email is sent out notifying you that the application is in our system and you are eligible for the CBC. If an application is not received before scheduling a CBC, the applicant will be required to submit to another check resulting in additional fees. As stated, you will receive an email from your board notifying you that you are eligible for the CBC.

**Fingerprint rejections may lead to delay.** If your fingerprints are rejected two (2) times by the FBI, you will be required to submit a written verification to complete your criminal background check. This written verification process can take up to six (6) weeks or longer to complete once the written verification form is received. Fingerprint rejections occur for different reasons including the prolonged use of hand sanitizer and the wearing of latex gloves. IPLA does not conduct or administer the criminal background checks and cannot assist you with expediting the process.

**Applicants who reside out of state, or are physically unable to go to a location to be fingerprinted may use MorphoTrust Card Scan Processing Program. To view step-by-step instructions, please go to <http://www.i1enrollment.com/state/forms/in/53110e81122f7.pdf>.**

**Follow the simple steps outlined below to complete the fingerprinting process:**

1. Once you receive the email from the board notifying you that your application has been received, go to <http://www.identogo.com> and choose Indiana.
2. If you do not have access to the internet, you may call MorphoTrust toll-free at (877) 472-6917 to schedule an appointment. If you call, you will be asked for demographic and personal information instead of completing these steps yourself.
3. Click on Indiana.
4. Click Online Scheduling and choose the language you wish to use for scheduling (English or Spanish).
5. Enter your first and last name and click “go”.
6. Choose your Agency Name Professional Licensing Agency and click “go”.
7. Choose the correct Applicant Category for your license type and click “go”.
8. Select the location where you want to be fingerprinted. You may choose a region of the state, by clicking on the map, or entering a zip code to view a list of locations in a specific area. Press “go”.
9. Click on the words “Click to Schedule” across from the location you want, under the day you wish to be fingerprinted. If you want a date further in the future, click the “Next Week>>” link to display more dates. Once you select the location/date combination, select the time for your appointment and click “go”.
10. Complete the demographic information page. Required fields are indicated by a red asterisk (\*). When complete, click “Send Information”.
11. Confirm the information by following the on screen directions to make any changes necessary. Once you review and verify the data is correct, click “Send Information”.
12. Complete your payment process and click “Send Payment Information”.
13. Print your confirmation page. If you provided an email address, you will receive an email confirmation as well.
14. Bring one (1) of the following with you to your fingerprinting appointment:
  - valid driver license;

- valid state issued identification card;
- valid passport;
- student identification card with picture and date of birth (DOB);
- work identification card with picture and DOB; or
- valid alien identification card with picture and DOB.

If you do not have the above identification, you will need **both** a valid birth certificate and a social security card.

15. Arrive at the facility at your appointed date and time.
16. The enrollment officer at the site will check your ID, verify your information, verify or collect payment, capture your fingerprints, and submit your data. This normally takes less than five minutes.
17. You will receive a signed receipt at the end of your fingerprinting session, which can be provided to your agency for proof of fingerprinting, if needed.
18. All results will be processed and delivered to the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency. MorphoTrust is never in possession of criminal record data results.