

Board of Professional Counselors & Therapists

2026 Online Renewal Notice

Please read carefully--important deadlines and requirements follow!

Renewal Portal & Key Dates

The online renewal portal for all licensees and certificate holders with licenses expiring **January 31, 2026**, will be open from **November 1, 2025 through January 31, 2026**.

- Access the online portal by clicking the “**License Renewal Portal**” link, available on both the center and right-hand side of the Board’s homepage.
- **Deadline:** All renewals must be submitted online no later than **11:59 PM on January 31, 2026**.

Continuing Education (CE) Requirements

Be sure you’ve completed your required CE hours within the renewal window:

February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2026.

All CEUs must fall within this period to count toward renewal.

Criminal History Records Check (CHRC)

Per §17-501.1, Annotated Code of Maryland, licensees must complete a **background check** if six (6) or more years have passed since their last report.

- A full CHRC includes both **State and FBI reports**.
- To confirm your last CHRC date, visit the Board’s website under “**License Verification**.”
- **Maryland residents:** Instructions and forms can be found here: [CHRC Instructions PDF](#).
- **Out-of-state applicants:** Contact the Board at **410-764-4732** or **mdh.bopct@maryland.gov** to request a fingerprint packet.
- Once your background check is completed, notify the Board **within 3 days** so that your record can be updated.

Renewal Fees

- **Online renewal fee:** \$301.00 (Visa or MasterCard only).
- **Missed the deadline?** After January 31, 2026, you must submit a paper **reinstatement application** with a **\$501.00 fee** (check or money order only).

Implicit Bias Training Requirement

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 30, 2021, Maryland law requires all healthcare practitioners to attest to the completion of an **approved implicit bias training program** as part of their renewal application.

- Training must be completed through an **MHHD-approved course**.
- This requirement is **one-time only**—you do not need to repeat it in future renewals.
- Please note: Implicit bias training does **not** count toward CE hours.
- Approved course listings are available here: [Implicit Bias Training Resources](#).

Paperless Licensing

As of **July 1, 2019**, the Board no longer issues paper licenses.

- Renewal verification is always available online under “**License Verification**.”

Need Help?

For questions, contact the Board at **(410) 764-4732** or **mdh.bocpt@maryland.gov**.