

The 2026 Renewal Portal is Open!

Don't wait until October 31st at midnight to renew!

Are there any new requirements for 2026 renewal?

- Yes, all health occupations license holders must attest to a one-time only completion of a Structural Racism course
- This is new addition to the prior Implicit Bias requirement per [HB 782](#)
- For more information and training resources, click this link to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (MHHD): [MHHD Implicit Bias & Structural Racism for Health Professionals](#)
- When you complete your online renewal application, you will check the box at the end of the application to attest to the one-time completion of the new Structural Racism and the prior Implicit Bias.

Don't Forget the Required CEUs!

- Anti-Oppressive: Cat. I - 3 CEUs
- Ethics: Cat. I or II - 3 CEUs
- Supervision: Cat. I or II - 3 CEUS (for Board Approved Supervisors only)

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Board Meetings!

Please click the link for upcoming meetings and information on public attendance:

[BSWE Board Meetings](#)

New Supervision Forms

Please note, supervision contracts completed before June 1, 2026 DO NOT need to be redone on the new form.

The Board understands that contracts are signed at the start of supervision. Many supervisees are still receiving supervision under contracts signed prior to June 1, 2026.

We will accept contracts dated prior to June 1, 2026 on the old form. Thank you.

August 3, 2026: ASWB Exam Changes

Click link for more information

[2026 ASWB Social Work Licensing Exams: Information Sheet](#)

Spotlight on Practice: LMSW Independent Status

The LMSW Professional and Independent Practice—The Why and How

submitted by Gail Martin, MSW

Here's a curious fact:

Of the almost 5900 individuals currently licensed to practice as LMSWs in Maryland, less than 8% have applied for "Independent Practice" status. Why has an advanced license designation that requires nothing more than completing an application (no fee, no test to pass) not been more widely utilized? If you are curious, read on.

What does it mean to "practice" social work?

Having a BSWE-granted license in Maryland is the only way you can legally present yourself as a social worker or practice social work; this is called "title protection." The "practice" of social work is based on the specialized skills and training you use—not your employer's job title—so it is possible to be practicing social work when you were hired as say, a caseworker, an outreach worker, or a program administrator. That said, employers cannot label a position "social worker" unless the person hired is licensed as a social worker.

Maryland law lists thirteen activities involved in social work practice at the master's level, such as assessment, intervention, counseling, evaluation, education, and advocacy, as well as the development, implementation, and administration of policies and programs. The law also lists what LMSWs may not do, such as diagnosis and/or treatment of emotional disorders and psychotherapy, except when supervised by an LCSW-C. You can find the full list [here](#).

What do I have to do while practicing keeping practicing social work?

Just three things:

- Practice ethically within your scope of practice
- Maintain your license by completing the required continuing education and renewing it on time
- Be supervised by a BSWE-approved social work supervisor

These requirements are not optional. You (not your employer) are responsible for ensuring they are in place. If your employer does not provide supervision—or provides a supervisor who is not both a social worker and BSWE-approved—you are not practicing legally, and your license could be sanctioned or even revoked.

If you are providing clinical services (e.g. diagnosis and/or treatment of emotional disorders; psychotherapy) or plan to pursue an advanced clinical license—the LCSW-C—your supervisor must be a BSWE-approved LCSW-C supervisor; otherwise, your supervisor can be an approved LMSW.

Do I have to be supervised forever?

By law, you need to be supervised for the rest of your career or until you are qualified to practice independently. Maryland law allows eligible LMSWs to apply to practice without direct BSWE-approved supervision after gaining enough supervised experience. This is called “independent practice” status. However, **even Independent Practice status does not allow you to provide clinical services—those would still need to be supervised by an LCSW-C**. Finally, even with Independent Practice status, your employer may still require supervision, but it wouldn't have to be by a social worker.

What do I have to do?

Meet the requirements, complete the application, and submit it to the BSWE. **There are no additional exams and fees, and you can apply for it at any point in a license cycle**. “Required supervised experience” depends on whether you received your LMSW license before or after January 1, 2021. Full information and the application are on the BSWE website [here](#).

Are there any other advantages?

Independent practice status may make you more employable because employers would not need to provide supervision. It is also one of the requirements to become a BSWE-approved supervisor so that you could supervise both other LMSWs as well as LBSWs.



REMINDER

Renewal period is a busy time for Board staff. Please be patient as we work to return your emails and phone calls. Please don't leave the same message with multiple staff members - this will only slow down response times.

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