

If you cannot find the answer to your question(s) regarding the Montana Board of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists on this FAQ we encourage you to review the board's website at www.slpaud.mt.gov or contact our customer service unit at dlibsbhelp@mt.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): General FAQ
Montana Board of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists
(FAQ updated 02/22/2023)

License Requirements, Applying for a License, and Telepractice/Telehealth

Question 1:

What professions does this board regulate?

Response 1:

Presently the board licenses speech-language pathologists and audiologists. Speech-language pathology assistants and audiology assistants are not currently licensed in the state of Montana though the board is working to implement statutes that create licenses for those professions. See the FAQ posted to the board website at <https://boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/speech-language-pathologists/> on [HB 210](#) and assistant licensure for more information on assistant licensure and the timeline as to when people might be able to begin applying for that license.

Question 2:

How can I apply for a license?

Response 2:

If you want to apply for a license we recommend you use the [online application](#) (www.ebiz.mt.gov/pol) as that is the fastest, most efficient way to apply for a license.

Question 3:

I have reviewed the licensing requirements, but I am not sure if I would qualify for a license. If I send you my [unofficial transcript, facts about a license I hold in another state, etc.], could you review the information and let me know if I would qualify and should apply for a license?

Response 3:

Neither staff nor the board "preapprove" application materials or give legal advice. It is up to you to review the licensing requirements and make your own determination regarding whether or not you would like to apply for a license. The only way staff will review your specific information is if you apply for a license and paid the application fee. Unless you pay the fee, you have not submitted an application. If you do decide to apply we recommend you [apply online](#) as it is the most efficient method. Once you apply and pay the fee processing staff will begin reviewing your information.

Question 4:

I have had [criminal conviction(s) in the past/am currently on probation/was disciplined by another state licensing board, etc.]. Could you review my legal history to let me know if I would qualify and should apply for a license?

Response 4:

See Response #3. Having a criminal history 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.

Applications that qualify as complete and "routine" can be issued by staff. Applications that are "nonroutine" must be evaluated by the board at a board meeting. The board's rules defining what qualifies as nonroutine are [ARM 24.222.405](#) and [24.222.407](#).

Question 5:

I am currently licensed as a [speech-language pathologist/limited speech-language pathologist/audiologist] under the Montana Board Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists. Am I allowed to conduct telepractice in order to provide services to clients located in Montana?

Response 5:

Yes. Telepractice is a method of delivery of services and not a specific type of license or practice. All laws pertaining to telepractice can be found in:

- [37-15-314, MCA](#)
- [37-15-315, MCA](#); and
- [ARM Title 24, chapter 222, subchapter 9](#). Definitions used in that subchapter can be found in [ARM 24.222.301](#).

Question 6:

I am currently licensed as a [speech-language pathologist/limited speech-language pathologist/audiologist] under the Montana Board Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists and am going to be conducting telepractice for the first time. Does the board have any training requirements or recommend any particular types of training, so I have more information on how to practice telehealth while complying with all of the laws under this board? Also, I heard that the board requires four hours of board-approved training prior to engaging in telepractice?

Response 6:

Staff and the board cannot give legal advice so we cannot recommend nor endorse any particular trainings or protocols/best practices. The board does not require that licensees get board approved-training prior to engaging in telepractice. The board stopped requiring the four hours of training in 2017.

You might try contacting your state and/or national professional association(s) to see if they have any recommendations regarding training courses (e.g. [ASHA](#), [MSHA](#), [AAA](#), [ADA](#), etc.). As a licensee you are still held not only to the board's regulations, but also all the other statutes and rules

including unprofessional conduct, privacy, etc. regardless of the method you are using to deliver those services.

Question 7:

I am currently licensed as a [speech-language pathologist/limited speech-language pathologist/audiologist] under the Montana Board Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists. I [am providing/will be providing] telehealth/telepractice services to clients located in Montana. Can I bill insurance for those services?

Response 7:

Laws pertaining to billing, including private insurance and Medicare and Medicaid, are outside this board's jurisdiction and regulatory authority. As a licensee you are expected to comply with other state and federal laws that pertain to your scope of practice. However, it is not this board that regulates those specific areas. You could try contacting the [Office of the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance](#) and the [Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services](#) for more information. You could also try contacting your state and/or national professional association(s) to see if they have any recommendations regarding resources.

Question 8:

Can I conduct telepractice in Montana if I am licensed in another state/jurisdiction as a [speech-language pathologist/limited speech-language pathologist/audiologist] but do not have a license in Montana?

Response 8:

Telepractice is a method of delivery of services and not a specific type of license or practice. In order to practice one of the professions licensed under this board you must be licensed in the state of Montana (e.g., where the services are occurring) or be exempt from licensure in Montana. See [37-15-103, MCA](#), to view the statutory exemptions from licensure for different license types.

Note that laws concerning telepractice vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction so you should also check with the regulatory entity in the jurisdiction where you are licensed with regard to its laws.

Miscellaneous Topics

Question 9:

I have tried e-mailing staff and/or calling staff but I have not heard back regarding my question yet. Should I keep calling and/or resending my e-mail?

Response 9:

If you e-mailed or called and left a message rest assured that staff have received your question. We will get back to you as soon as possible. Leaving multiple messages and sending multiple e-mails can actually delay staff responses times overall due to duplication of effort. Unless otherwise directed, the best e-mail to use is dlibsdlhelp@mt.gov. That goes to our Customer Service unit, and they will ensure that the appropriate staff member receives the question if they are not able to

answer it themselves. If you have not already done so we encourage you to visit our website at www.slpaud.mt.gov which may have the answer to your question.

Question 10:

What are the board's laws for registering my business, setting up a business license, etc.?

Response 10:

The board does not license businesses/facilities/practices. It only licenses *people*. If there are specific laws pertaining to your question they are outside this board's jurisdiction and regulatory authority. You could try contacting the [Secretary of State's Office](#) to see if it has more information on laws in this area.

Question 11:

I have questions about how to bill insurance/what services I am allowed to bill/who can bill for what services. What are the board's laws in this area?

Response 11:

Laws pertaining to billing, including private insurance and Medicare and Medicaid, are outside this board's jurisdiction and regulatory authority. As a licensee you are expected to comply with other state and federal laws that pertain to your scope of practice. However, it is not this board that regulates those specific areas. You could try contacting the [Office of the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance](#) and the [Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services Addictive and Mental Disorders Division](#) for more information in these areas.

Question 12:

Where can I find a copy of all the board's laws?

Response 12:

Links to the official, online versions of the board's statutes, administrative rules, and notices of proposed rulemaking can be found on the website at www.slpaud.mt.gov under the regulation's menu.

Question 13:

Can the board/department give me legal advice/interpretation of its statutes and rules?

Response 13:

The board and its staff cannot offer advice, interpretation, or legal determinations. Doing so would be providing you legal advice/counsel. It is the responsibility of licensees and members of the public to review the relevant statutes and rules to determine whether a specific practice is legal and/or what licenses are required to operate. If legal advice is needed, you may consult your own attorney.

Question 14:

How do I obtain a list/mailling list of licensees under this board?

Response 14:

You can purchase a list of licensees from the licensee download service on our website at <https://ebiz.mt.gov/POL/home.aspx>, under "Licensee Information – Purchase Licensee Mailing List". Once you select all the criteria for the list you will be asked to pay the \$25 fee, by credit card to complete your purchase. Note that we do not give out phone numbers or e-mail addresses for any of our licensees, as this is PII.

For further questions and assistance contact customer service staff at dlibsdhhelp@mt.gov.

Question 15:

What is the best way to submit a question to staff or the board?

Response 15:

First, we encourage you to visit the board's website (www.slpaud.mt.gov) to see if the information you require is already posted. If you cannot find the information on the website or have a comment for staff or the board, you can e-mail it to dlibsdhhelp@mt.gov or contact Customer Service staff at 406-841-2300. E-mail is usually the most efficient way to contact department staff and will also allow you to have your response in writing so you can reference it later.

If you have a question regarding an application, you have already submitted for review you should also contact staff at dlibsdhhelp@mt.gov. If you have already submitted your application by paying the fee you should wait for staff to contact you.