



IDFPR

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

<https://idfpr.illinois.gov>

JB PRITZKER
Governor

MARIO TRETO, JR.
Secretary

CECILIA ABUNDIS
Director

Mental Health Workforce Restoration Fee Waiver FAQs

Q. Why is IDFPR waiving license restoration fees for mental health workers?

A. On June 10, 2022, Governor Pritzker signed Senate Bill 3617, omnibus legislation aimed at addressing the shortage of mental health professionals in Illinois and increasing access to high-quality mental health services across the State.

Q. How does Senate Bill 3617 assist the mental health workforce in getting a license?

A. The legislation suspends certain reinstatement requirements to those wishing to re-enter the mental health workforce, such as continuing education credit completion, passing additional examinations, and fee payments. Former license holders must have never been disciplined in this state, or any other jurisdiction, for the entire period of licensure to have their licenses restored. Mental health professionals out of practice for less than five years may restore their license with IDFPR only once without providing more information to the Department.

Q. What are the mental health professions eligible for the restoration fee waiver?

- Clinical Psychologists – restoration fee waiver currently available until January 1, 2027.
- Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (“LCPC”) – restoration fee waiver currently available until January 1, 2028.
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers (“LCSW”) – restoration fee waiver currently available until January 1, 2028.

Q. I work in the mental health workforce whose profession is eligible for the restoration fee waiver. What criteria must I meet?

A. To receive the one-time restoration fee waiver:

- your license must have been inactive or expired for five years or less (for Clinical Professional Counselors and Clinical Social Workers) or less than five years (for Clinical Psychologists).

- you cannot have had disciplinary action in Illinois or any other state during the entire period of licensure.

Proof of fitness and certification of active practice in another jurisdiction are NOT required to apply for restoration under SB36317.

Q. Will my fees be waived if I have been temporarily reinstated under COVID-19 and would like to apply for full reinstatement?

A. No. The fee for a restoration application will not be waived, except for Physician Assistants pursuant to PA 102-0699.

Q. How do I obtain a restoration application?

A. You can request a restoration packet by contacting IDFPR's professional licensing hotline at 1-800-560-6420 or by emailing fpr.lmu@illinois.gov. Please note, restorations CANNOT be completed on IDFPR's online portal.

Q. What happens if I submit a restoration application with a check or money order?

A. If this occurs, IDFPR will return the check to the applicant/licensee with a letter explaining the fee waiver. IDFPR will process the application received as usual.

If you qualify for a fee waiver, please do not send a payment. If you think that you need to send a payment and wish to use a money order, please contact the Department at (888) 473-4858 for clarification and further directions. Depending on where you purchase a money order, IDFPR cannot guarantee you will be able to receive a refund. No fees are required if your license or application is part of the fee waiver.

Q. What happens if I send a money order made out to IDFPR and I am unable to receive a refund?

A. IDFPR will deposit the money order to your name to apply to a future fee.