

MICHIGAN DENTAL THERAPIST LICENSING GUIDE

OVERVIEW:

The dental therapist license type allows a licensee to engage in the practice of dental therapy.

NOTE: The content contained below is a general overview of licensing requirements. Links to access the Public Health Code and Administrative Rules for this profession can be found at the end of this guide.

LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

(Listed below are the minimum requirements needed to obtain a dentist license.)

APPLICATION AND FEES

- ☐ Online Application For a Dental Therapist License - Complete all fields, answer all questions, and upload any supporting documentation. Online application can be completed by visiting www.michigan.gov/miplus.
- ☐ Application Fee (Must be paid by Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or American Express credit or debit card):
 - Dental Therapist – By Endorsement – \$96.90
 - Dental Therapist – By Exam – \$96.90
 - Dental Therapist – Relicensure – \$116.90

THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO ALL APPLICANTS (EXCEPT RENEWAL)

- ☐ Criminal Background Check – Once the online application is completed and submitted you will be emailed an Application Confirmation letter containing instructions to complete the Criminal Background Check (except those applicants seeking relicensure, if the license expired within the last three years).
- ☐ Good Moral Character Questions – Documentation will be required if you answer “yes” to either question to show at the current time you have the ability to, and are likely to, serve the public in a fair, honest and open manner, that you are rehabilitated, or that the substance of the former offense is not reasonably related to the occupation or profession for which you are seeking a license.
- ☐ Social Security Number – An individual applying for licensure is required to provide his or her social security number at the time of application. If exempt under law from obtaining a SSN or do not have a SSN, the SSN affidavit form will be required to be uploaded at the time the application is submitted.
- ☐ English Language Proficiency – An individual applying for licensure must demonstrate a working knowledge of the English language. This can be established if either the applicant’s required health professional educational program was taught in English, a transcript establishes the applicant earned not less than 60 college level credits from an English-speaking graduate or undergraduate school, or that the applicant obtained a passing score on an approved English proficiency exam as established by the department under [R 338.7002b\(2\)](#) of the Public Health Code – General Rules.

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- ❑ Verification of Licensure – Verification of licensure must be sent directly to our office by the licensing agency of any state or province of Canada in which you hold or ever held a license as a dental therapist. Verification includes, but is not limited to, showing proof that the applicant's license is in good standing and, if applicable, the record of any disciplinary action taken or pending against the applicant. Verification can be emailed to bpldata@michigan.gov or mailed to the Bureau of Professional Licensing, PO Box 30670, Lansing, MI 48909.
- ❑ Human Trafficking – Individuals seeking licensure must have completed training in identifying victims of human trafficking that meets the standards in Administrative Rule 338.11271 prior to being issued a license. The training must only be completed one time.
- ❑ Implicit Bias Training – Individuals seeking licensure must have completed at least 2 hours of implicit bias training within the five years immediately preceding issuance of the license.
- ❑ CPR Certification – Submit proof of current certification in basic life support (BLS) or advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) for healthcare providers with a hands-on component from an agency or organization that grants certification pursuant to standards equivalent to those established by the American Heart Association (AHA), earned within the 2-year period before receiving the license. **Please note, examination applicants are required to submit proof beginning 6 months after October 2, 2023.**

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION (These are in addition to the requirements stated above that apply to ALL Applicants)

- ❑ Arrange for official transcripts to be sent directly to this office confirming graduation from a CODA-accredited dental therapy program. Transcripts can be emailed to bpldata@michigan.gov or mailed to the Bureau of Professional Licensing, PO Box 30670, Lansing, MI 48909.
- ❑ Applicants who have not completed a CODA-accredited dental therapy program must arrange for official transcripts to be sent directly to this office confirming graduation from a non-CODA accredited dental therapy program. An original, official translation must also be included if the transcript is not in English. Documents can be emailed to bpldata@michigan.gov or mailed to the Bureau of Professional Licensing, PO Box 30670, Lansing, MI 48909. Your dental therapy program will be subject to a review by the Michigan Board of Dentistry to determine if the program substantially conforms to the dental therapy education program CODA standards at the time you graduated.
- ❑ Take and pass all parts, written and clinical, of the American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc (ADEX) examination that is conducted by the CDCA-WREB-CITA, a successor organization, or by another regional testing agency, or an examination that is substantially equivalent to the ADEX examination as determined by the Michigan Board of Dentistry, with a converted passing score of not less than 75 on each component of the examination. To take the examination, contact the CDCA-WREB-CITA by visiting their website at www.cdcaexams.org.
- ❑ Arrange for a Certification of Dental Therapy Clinical Practice Hours form to be submitted to this office directly from your educational institution showing completion of 500 hours of clinical practice, including practice hours in extractions and restorations, under the direct supervision of a dentist.

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ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT (These are in addition to the requirements stated above that apply to ALL Applicants)

- ☐ Must have held a license as a dental therapist that is active and in good standing in another state for 1 year before filing an application in this state.
- ☐ Arrange for official transcripts to be sent directly to this office confirming graduation from a CODA-accredited dental therapy program. Transcripts can be emailed to bpldata@michigan.gov or mailed to the Bureau of Professional Licensing, PO Box 30670, Lansing, MI 48909.
- ☐ Applicants who have not completed a CODA-accredited dental therapy program must arrange for official transcripts to be sent directly to this office confirming graduation from a non-CODA accredited dental therapy program. An original, official translation must also be included if the transcript is not in English. Documents can be emailed to bpldata@michigan.gov or mailed to the Bureau of Professional Licensing, PO Box 30670, Lansing, MI 48909. Your dental therapy program will be subject to a review by the Michigan Board of Dentistry to determine if the program substantially conforms to the dental therapy education program CODA standards at the time you graduated.
- ☐ Take and pass all parts, written and clinical, of the American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc (ADEX) examination that is conducted by the CDCA-WREB-CITA, a successor organization, or by another regional testing agency, or an examination that is substantially equivalent to the ADEX examination as determined by the Michigan Board of Dentistry, with a converted passing score of not less than 75 on each component of the examination. To take the examination, contact the CDCA-WREB-CITA by visiting their website at www.cdcaexams.org.
- ☐ Arrange for a letter to be submitted to this office directly from your educational institution showing completion of 500 hours of clinical practice, including practice hours in extractions and restorations, under the direct supervision of a dentist. The letter must include the name, state, and license number of the supervising dentist.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THOSE APPLYING FOR RELICENSURE (These are in addition to the requirements stated above that apply to ALL Applicants)

- ☐ Online application can be completed by visiting www.michigan.gov/miplus, select **MiPLUS Login**, select **"Modification"** next to your license number and then select **"Relicensure."**

All applicants for relicensure must complete the following:

- ☐ Submit copies of certificates showing proof of having earned 35 hours of board-approved continuing education earned within the 2-year period immediately preceding the date of your application for relicensure. The continuing education must include the following:
 - At least 2 hours in pain and symptom management.
 - 1 hour in dental ethics and jurisprudence with inclusion of delegation of duties to allied dental personnel, which may be completed in 1 or more courses.

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- 1 hour in infection control, which must include sterilization of hand pieces, personal protective equipment, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) infection control guidelines.
- Submit proof of having completed a one-time training in opioids and other controlled substances awareness as required in R 338.3135.

Applicants for relicensure whose license has lapsed for more than 3 years, but less than 5 years, at the time of application AND have NOT held a valid and unrestricted dental therapist license in another state within the 3 years immediately preceding the application for relicensure, must complete the following:

- Re-take and pass all parts, written and clinical, of the American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc (ADEX) examination that is conducted by the CDCA-WREB-CITA, a successor organization, or by another regional testing agency with a converted passing score of not less than 75, within the 2-year period immediately preceding the application for relicensure. Information about taking the examination can be found at www.cdcaexams.org.

Applicants for relicensure whose license has lapsed for 5 years or more at the time of application AND have NOT held a valid and unrestricted dental therapist license in another state within the 3 years immediately preceding the application for relicensure, must complete the following:

- Arrange for official transcripts to be sent directly to this office confirming graduation from a CODA-accredited or non-CODA accredited dental therapy program showing the degree earned and the date conferred. Applicants who have not completed a CODA-accredited dental therapy program, your dental therapy program will be subject to a review by the Michigan Board of Dentistry to determine if the program substantially conforms to the dental therapy education program CODA standards at the time you graduated.
- Provide proof of having passed all parts, written and clinical, of the American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc (ADEX) examination that is conducted by the CDCA-WREB-CITA, a successor organization, or by another regional testing agency with a converted score of not less than 75 on each component, within the 2-year period immediately preceding your application for relicensure. To take the examination, contact the CDCA-WREB-CITA by visiting their website at www.cdcaexams.org.

RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

- Online Application For a Dental Therapist Renewal – Can be completed by visiting www.michigan.gov/miplus.
- Renewal Application Fee (Must be paid by Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or American Express credit or debit card):

Dental Therapist Renewal Application Fee: \$81.60
- Renewal Cycle: 2 years
- Good Moral Character Questions – Documentation will be required if you answer “yes” to either question to show at the current time you have the ability to, and are likely to, serve the public in a fair, honest and open manner, that you are rehabilitated, or that the substance of the former offense is not reasonably related to

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the occupation or profession for which you are seeking license renewal.

- ☐ Disciplinary Question – Documentation will be required if you answer “yes” to having sanctions imposed against you by a similar licensure, registration, certification, or disciplinary board of another state or country you have not previously reported to the department.
- ☐ Human Trafficking – Licensees seeking renewal must have completed training in identifying victims of human trafficking that meets the standards in Administrative Rule 338.11271 prior to renewing their license. The training must only be completed one time.
- ☐ Implicit Bias Training – Licensees seeking renewal must have completed a minimum of 1 hour of implicit bias training for each year of the applicant’s license cycle.
- ☐ Accept Renewal Attestation - By accepting the renewal attestation you as the licensee are certifying that you have met the continuing education requirements during the 2-year period immediately preceding the application for renewal.
- ☐ Possess current certification in basic or advanced cardiac life support for health care providers with a hands-on component from an agency or organization that grants certification pursuant to standards substantially equivalent to the standards adopted in Rule 338.11705(4).
- ☐ 35 hours of continuing education as outlined in Rule 338.11703 approved by the board earned as follows:
 - 2 hours in pain and symptom management.
 - 1 hour in dental ethics and jurisprudence that includes the delegation of duties to allied dental personnel, which may be completed in 1 or more courses.
 - 1 hour in infection control, which must include sterilization of hand pieces, personal protective equipment, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s infection control guidelines.
 - A minimum of 12 hours in programs directly related to clinical issues.
 - A minimum of 12 hours must be from attending synchronous, live courses or programs.
 - No more than 18 hours should be completed asynchronously, noninteractive.
- ☐ Additional information regarding continuing education can be found by accessing the Administrative Rules for Dentistry at: www.michigan.gov/healthlicense and click on the dentistry link.

HELPFUL RESOURCES AND FORMS

- ☐ By visiting www.michigan.gov/healthlicense and clicking on the dentistry link you can access the following helpful resources and forms.

Resources:

- [Michigan Public Health Code](#)
- [Administrative Rules for Dentistry](#)
- ☐ Track continuing education using CE Broker - The Bureau of Professional Licensing (BPL) has partnered with CE Broker to help licensed professionals keep track of their continuing education (CE) credits. Additional information can be found on our [website](#).