

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
STATE BOARD OF NURSING  
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**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR RN or PN LICENSURE  
BY ENDORSEMENT WITH TEMPORARY PRACTICE PERMIT (TPP)**

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**1. QUESTION: How do I know if I am eligible for licensure by endorsement and what documentation must I submit?**

**ANSWER:** To be eligible for a license by endorsement, the Board must receive evidence that the applicant:

- Graduated from an approved nursing program of the same type as the license being sought.
- Passed the NCLEX.
- Holds the same type of license sought in this Commonwealth.
- Does not have a legal impediment due to a criminal conviction or reciprocal discipline – See *Question #8 below and application instructions on [www.pals.pa.gov](http://www.pals.pa.gov) for information about Criminal History Record Checks.*

**2. QUESTION: How do I know if I am eligible for a TPP and what documentation must I submit?**

**ANSWER:** To be eligible for a TPP, the Board must receive evidence that the applicant:

- Holds a **current** license of the same type being sought in this Commonwealth from another state, territory, possession of the US or Canada.
- Completed a nursing program conducted in English or satisfied the Board's English proficiency requirements – For more information, go to [www.dos.pa.gov/nurse](http://www.dos.pa.gov/nurse).
- Does not have a legal impediment due to a criminal conviction or reciprocal discipline – See *Question #8 below and application instructions on [www.pals.pa.gov](http://www.pals.pa.gov) for information about Criminal History Record Checks.*

**3. QUESTION: Is there any advantage to applying for a TPP in addition to a license by endorsement?**

**ANSWER: Yes.**

- The processing time for a TPP is generally less than 10 business days once the Board *receives* the required documentation.
- TPP holders may practice for up to one year while completing the additional requirements for licensure (passing the acceptable licensure exam, NCLEX – RN or NCLEX – PN, if this was not already completed, requesting official transcripts, etc.).

Note that the TPP will expire prior to the one year if any of the following occur:

- The Board has made a determination on the application for licensure by endorsement
- OR**
- The applicant fails the licensure exam.

In limited circumstances, the Board may grant a TPP extension. A separate application must be filed. For more information and the limited circumstances under which an extension may be granted, go to the TPP Extension application at [www.dos.pa.gov/nurse](http://www.dos.pa.gov/nurse).

**4. QUESTION: Will I be eligible for a TPP if my education was not conducted in English?**

**ANSWER:** If your nursing education program was not conducted in English, you must provide the Board with evidence of English proficiency by achieving a passing score on a Board-approved exam *prior* to being issued a TPP. A list of Board-approved English Proficiency Examinations is on the Board website at [www.dos.pa.gov/nurse](http://www.dos.pa.gov/nurse).

**5. QUESTION: Will I be eligible for a TPP or a license by endorsement if I did not pass the NCLEX?**

**ANSWER:** Applicants who meet the requirements in Question #2 will be able to obtain a TPP; however, a license will not be issued until the applicant passes the NCLEX.

**6. QUESTION: What are the most common reasons the processing of a TPP is delayed?**

**ANSWER:** The applicant:

- Fails to provide a CHRC from the state where the applicant resides and either a CHRC for all states where the applicant worked, lived or trained within the last ten years or an FBI CHRC.
- Submits incorrect information.
- Has a pending or resolved criminal matter or reciprocal disciplinary action requiring additional legal review. (See Question #8.)
- Fails to provide evidence of current licensure.

**7. QUESTION: How will I know if there is a problem with my application?**

**ANSWER:** You will receive an email from the Board indicating what is needed.

**8. QUESTION: If I answer “YES” to one of the legal questions, will I be eligible to get a TPP or a license by endorsement?**

**ANSWER:** In the case of a “Yes” answer to any of the legal questions, all documents that are required for the evaluation of both the TPP and permanent license must be received before the application can be evaluated. The Board reviews each application on a case-by-case basis and considers the nature of the offense, when it was committed and any rehabilitation since the offense was committed.

**9. QUESTION: I applied online and a Checklist item is marked “Not Received” or “Pending Review.” Is there anything more I need to do?**

**ANSWER:** If anything further is needed, you will be notified by the Board via email. You also should review the application instructions to make sure that you completed all requirements. The processing time for a licensure application may be up to 70 business days from the date the application is received. Applicants may check the status of an online application by logging into their PALS account. Once a Checklist requirement is met, the Checklist item will be changed to “Complete.”

**10. QUESTION: What happens if all the information is available to issue my permanent license and TPP at the same time?**

**ANSWER:** Although both the license and the TPP will be issued simultaneously, the TPP will immediately become null and void since a licensee cannot hold a TPP and a license at the same time. All fees are non-refundable.