

Frequently Asked Questions

Tribal Behavioral Health Attestation

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What is a Behavioral Health Agency (BHA) license through tribal attestation?

Tribal BHAs applying for licensure and certification may attest that their agency [meets the state minimum standards](#). The Department of Health (department) doesn't assert regulatory jurisdiction over a BHA license issued under a tribal attestation. Once the department accepts the tribal attestation, a behavioral health agency license will be issued to the undersigned tribe and include the tribe on the [current list of licensed behavioral health agencies \(PDF\)](#).

Is an attestation equivalent to a regular BHA license?

Yes. BHA tribal attestations are recognized by third-party insurance and the courts.

What is the process for obtaining a BHA license from DOH through a tribal attestation?

1. Download and complete the [Tribal Attestation Behavioral Health Agency License Application Packet](#).
2. Download and complete the [Washington State Department of Health Tribal Attestation for Behavioral Health Agencies: For Substance Use Disorder Services, Mental Health Services, And Licensure](#).
3. Mail completed materials (tribal BHA license application packet and tribal attestation form) and administrative processing fee of \$261 to:

Department of Health
P.O. Box 1099
Olympia, WA 98507-1099

4. When DOH receives your application materials, the Tribal Relations Director forwards the attestation to the Secretary of Health for review and signature. The Tribal Relations Director notifies the licensing team when the attestation is signed. That team then issues the license back to the tribal applicant.

Does DOH conduct inspections of BHA facilities licensed through tribal attestation?

No. DOH does not conduct inspections or investigations of BHA facilities licensed through tribal attestation.

When can the facility expect to receive its license?

The DOH credentialing team mails the license within 30-45 days from when the application is received.

How can services be added, or updates made, to an existing tribal BHA attestation?

Services can be added to an attestation by submitting an updated attestation form to include the current and added services. It's also helpful to include a brief cover letter that describes the changes. No fee is required when adding services under tribal attestation.

Does the tribe need a separate attestation for each BHA location?

The tribe can choose to either submit a single attestation form or an attestation form for each behavioral health agency location. A separate tribal application is needed for each location to

input the agency data into the licensing database and print the license for each location.

If choosing to have a single attestation, the additional locations will not show up in the Behavioral Health Agency (BHA) Directory (directory) because the data in the directory is connected to the address on the application. With this option there are no additional fees for each BHA location.

If choosing a BHA tribal attestation for each location, they will all show up in the directory. With this option, there is a \$261 fee for each BHA tribal attestation.

How often does a tribal BHA attestation need to be renewed?

BHA tribal attestations are renewed every three years with a fee of \$261. See next question for renewal information.

How are tribal BHA attestations renewed?

Submit a BHA tribal attestation form, abbreviated BHA license application, and fee of \$261. Include a cover letter with the BHA tribal attestation credential number along with a statement that the tribe is renewing the attestation.

How can I check on the status of a tribal BHA attestation?

You can check the status of an attestation on the DOH Facility Search webpage. This page will show if the attestation is “active,” “expired,” or “pending.”

To get specific details about where the attestation is within the approval process or information about an expired attestation, you can contact the Credentialing Unit at (360) 236-4985 or hsgafc@doh.wa.gov.

How can we switch our regular BHA license to a tribal BHA attestation?

A tribe that currently holds a regular BHA license, can switch it to a BHA tribal attestation by submitting the application packet as described above under the process for obtaining a BHA license under attestation. Include a cover letter describing the change along with a reference to your current BHA number. Once the attestation is in place, the existing license will need to be closed. This can be done by submitting an amended BHA application to close the location.

It's recommended to contact the Credentialing Unit when switching to an attestation as additional guidance may be needed. The Credentialing Unit can be contacted at (360) 236-4985 or hsgafc@doh.wa.gov.

When is opioid treatment program (OTP) certification required?

OTP certification is only required if you plan to provide methadone. Other medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder, such as buprenorphine, can be prescribed under a prescriber credential and do not require OTP certification.

Are there additional requirements for opioid treatment program (OTP) certification?

Yes. There are other state and federal requirements that apply to all OTPs. Requirements include obtaining:

- A [drug other controlled substance registration](#) from the Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission.
- Approval from the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).
 - Questions about DEA requirements – seattle.diversion@dea.gov.
- Approval from the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#).
- Accreditation from a [federally recognized accrediting organization](#). Note that “accreditation” is a federal requirement and different than “attestation.”

In addition, DOH is required by [RCW 71.24.590](#)(h) to provide public notice to all appropriate media outlets in the community in which the facility is proposed to be located that states the applicant is proposing a facility in that community.

Who can I call if I have questions?

Questions about the BHA tribal attestation process:

Candice Wilson
DOH Tribal Relations Director
(564) 233-1340
Candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov

Questions about the status of an attestation or renewal:

DOH Credentialing Unit
(360) 236-4985
hsqafc@doh.wa.gov

Questions about OTP licensing:

Michelle Weatherly
Facilities Program Manager
(360) 236-2992
michelle.weatherly@doh.wa.gov

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email doh.information@doh.wa.gov