

Client name Mindy J. Jorgensen
Form Montana Licensing Reform Task Force
Matter Mindy J. Jorgensen - Rules
Sent July 30, 2026 at 12:38 PM
Due
Submitted July 30, 2026 at 12:38 PM

Mindy J. Jorgensen

Date of birth

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Montana Licensing Reform Task Force

This Task Force was created pursuant to Executive Order 1-2026 on January 29, 2026.

Purpose of the Licensing Reform Task Force

The Task Force shall provide the Governor with recommendations and strategies for the State of Montana to reform the professional occupational licensing system for the purposes of:

- identifying and removing burdens and barriers faced by licensees that are not necessary to protect the public; and
- improving access to and availability of professional services for citizens across Montana, including rural communities.

In developing recommendations and strategies, the Task Force shall seek input from Montana citizens, legislators, Montana associations whose members are licensed occupational professionals, professional licensing boards, relevant state agencies, advisory groups and researchers focused on occupational licensing, and other appropriate stakeholders as determined by the Task Force.

Public Record

Please note that all information received through this form is public record.

Which committee would you like to receive your comment?

Full Task Force
Health Care Subcommittee

We want to hear from you!

We would like to receive any comments you would like the Task Force, or one of its subcommittees, to review. In addition, we are specifically looking for feedback for:

1. Specific topics a committee or the task force should consider, and
2. Specific people or organizations you think the task force should hear from.

Do you have a general comment or a specific person or topic for the Task Force to hear from?

Specific person or topic

What are your comments?

I am a licensed clinical professional counselor and am licensed through the Board of Behavioral Health in Montana.

I am concerned about the proposal to combine the Board of Psychology and the Board of Behavioral Health. There are two completely separate disciplines in theory and practice and have different ethical codes and obligations. By combining these boards, it would be making professional expectations for licensure more murky and less specific to the work that is actually being done in the field.

I would encourage the committee to continue to keep these boards separate to better serve the people of our state and more specifically to better serve our licensed professionals.

Thank you.

Client name Margaret Kirlin
Form Montana Licensing Reform Task Force
Matter Margaret Kirlin - Rules
Sent July 31, 2026 at 7:31 AM
Due
Submitted July 31, 2026 at 7:31 AM

Margaret Kirlin

Date of birth

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Specific person or topic

What are your comments?

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to consolidate the Board of Psychologists with the Board of Behavioral Health. I completed my internship and postdoctoral residency at Montana State University, and became fully licensed as a psychologist in Montana in 2014. During my years working in the state, I have provided healthcare in several different settings and have come to understand the needs of Montana residents when it comes to high-quality and accessible mental health care, which is an ongoing challenge. I also understand the desire to reduce red tape and excessive bureaucracy.

I am concerned that the merging of the Board of Psychologists with the Board of Behavioral Health will negatively impact the public in a few ways. Psychologists have a different level and type of training, a different ethical code, and different laws that govern our practice than other mental health professions. If a member of the public brings a complaint against a psychologist, it is in this person's best interest that their complaint be investigated by a board that understands the specific laws and ethical standards that may have been violated. If the boards are combined, the vast majority of the combined board will not be psychologists and will be making these decisions without fully knowing or understanding the standards that should be followed by the professional in question. Likewise, decisions regarding licensing requirements and the granting of licenses would be negatively impacted if made by individuals without a full understanding of the competencies specific to the practice of psychology, which could result in the granting of psychologist licenses to unqualified professionals or the dilution of licensing standards. This is not about protecting professional "turf," this is about upholding the highest standards for the profession of psychology and the care that we psychologists provide to residents of Montana.

Access to mental health care in Montana is important and worthy of consideration. However, this should not come at the cost of high standards for the practice of psychology and I believe that a combined board is not well equipped to define and uphold these high standards. A combined board would be almost entirely compromised of individuals who are not psychologists and not knowledgeable about the training, scope of practice, ethical code, and laws governing psychology.
