

Why is Licensing Lactation Consultants Important in Kentucky?



- **International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLCs) are health care practitioners** – IBCLCs provide clinical lactation care. IBCLCs have college level health education, at least 95 hours of lactation specific education, and many hours of supervised clinical practice.
- **Protects employers and referring physicians** – Relieves referring physicians and employers from liability.
- **Protects the public** – Lactation Consultant licensure will be housed under the Kentucky Board of Nursing and will help the public identify and access qualified professionals.
- **Recognizes a scope of practice** - Licensure confirms a legal scope of practice for the IBCLC professional providing clinical services in the state.
- **Only addresses IBCLCs** - Licensing in Kentucky applies only to IBCLCs and does not hinder the work of other licensed health care providers or perinatal health workers.
- **Improves access to care** – Licensure creates opportunities for hospitals and physician offices to hire Licensed Lactation Consultants which will fulfill the intent of the 2024 Kentucky Omnibus law.



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