



Fact Sheet

What's Does a PSW/PA Pin Mean?

Many PSWs and PAs proudly wear a PSW/PA pin. To many, it is a symbol that they have achieved a standard. But what does the PSW/PA pin really mean?

In Ontario, the titles *Personal Support Worker* and *Personal Attendant* are not protected—they can be used by any person. Anyone can sell—or buy—a PSW/PA pin. What matters is who issues the pin and how that organization decides who may receive one.

In 2002, OCSA introduced a PSW pin and in 2009 they have introduced the PA pin. They were designed to be a recognizable symbol that the wearer had indeed met the provincial requirements for the Personal Support Worker or Personal Attendant certificate.

As you know if you have an OCSA PSW/PA pin, a person who wants to purchase one must first prove that she or he has graduated from a recognized PSW or PA program. Without that proof, the person cannot buy the OCSA pin.

Over the years, community support agencies and facilities alike have come to recognize the OCSA PSW/PA pin as a real and valid symbol of achievement. While it's true that a person wearing a pin issued by another agency may also be a PSW or PA, you know that a person wearing an OCSA PSW pin has met the provincial requirements and certainly is a PSW and a person wearing an OCSA PA pin has met the requirements and certainly is a PA.

So, what's in pin? If it's the OCSA PSW pin and OCSA PA pin—a great deal.

To request a pin, contact:

Ayanna Goddard

416-256-3010 ext 237 or toll-free at 1-800-267-6272 ext 237

Ayanna@capacitybuilders.ca

For more information on personal support workers and PSNO, visit our website:

www.psno.ca