



Board of Behavioral Sciences

# **STATUTES AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE PRACTICES OF**

PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELING  
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY  
EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY  
CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK

**JANUARY 2024**

**STEVE SODERGREN**  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY  
EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY  
CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK**



**ISSUED BY:**

**BOARD OF  
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

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**January 2024**

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## **Note to Reader**

*This publication is a condensed version of the statutes and regulations of the professions regulated by the Board of Behavioral Sciences. However, it does not incorporate all sections of law contained within any of the respective codes. To access a complete and current listing of the California Codes, please visit the following websites:*

**Reference sources:**

- [California Statutes](#)
- [California Code of Regulations](#)

*While every effort has been made to ensure that the book is current and accurate, readers are advised that the applicable **statutes** and regulations are subject to revision. Should any difference or discrepancy occur, duly enacted statutes or regulations shall take precedence over the information contained herein.*

## NEW / AMENDED LAWS

**The following statutes and regulations have been amended:**

*(All sections are in the Business & Professions Code unless otherwise noted)*

<b>NEW / AMENDED LAWS</b>	
<b>Section Number</b>	<b>Business and Professions Code Change</b>
§27	Technical, nonsubstantive changes.
§27.5	Provides a method to keep name changes confidential on the Board's online license verification system in circumstances where the name was changed to match gender identity, or due to certain circumstances of domestic violence.
§115.10	Provides a registration to practice for military members and spouses who are licensed in other states and relocate due to military orders.
§115.4	Provides expedited licensure to active military who are enrolled in the U.S. Department of Defense SkillBridge program.
§4980	Makes technical, clarifying amendments.
§4980.11	Provides a 30-day temporary practice allowance to qualifying licensees of another state or U.S. jurisdiction.
§4980.30	Makes technical, clarifying amendments.
§4989.14	Makes a clarifying amendment.
§4990.13	Clarifies that the Board's internet website can be used for purposes of license and registration verification.
Chapter 14 Article 1 Heading	Adds a "General Provisions" header.
§4991.2	Makes a technical, clarifying amendment.
§4996.16.1	Provides a 30-day temporary practice allowance to qualifying licensees of another state or U.S. jurisdiction.
§4999.23	Provides a 30-day temporary practice allowance to qualifying licensees of another state or U.S. jurisdiction.
Health & Safety Code §123110	Makes a nonsubstantive technical amendment.
Welfare & Institutions Code §15630	Makes changes to the mandated reporting requirements for elder or dependent adult abuse.
Family Code §6924	Makes the requirements for a minor to consent to mental health treatment for Medi-Cal recipients equal to the minor mental health consent requirements for non Medi-Cal recipients.

***THIS BOOKLET DOES NOT CONTAIN CHANGES MADE AFTER  
January 1, 2024.***

**Please refer to the “[Law Changes](#)” section of the Board’s website for  
any changes made after this date.**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE OF CALIFORNIA

<b>CHAPTER 13. LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>ARTICLE 1. REGULATION</b> .....	<b>15</b>
§ 4980. NECESSITY OF LICENSE.....	15
§ 4980.01. CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER LAWS; NONAPPLICATION TO CERTAIN PROFESSIONALS AND EMPLOYEES; REQUIRED NOTICE TO CLIENTS .....	16
§ 4980.02. PRACTICE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY; APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES AND METHODS.....	17
§ 4980.03. DEFINITIONS .....	17
§ 4980.04. LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST ACT .....	19
§ 4980.05. EXEMPT SETTINGS .....	19
§ 4980.06. NONEXEMPT SETTINGS .....	19
§ 4980.08. LICENSE TITLE NAME CHANGE .....	20
§ 4980.09. REGISTRANT TITLE NAME CHANGE.....	20
§ 4980.10. ENGAGING IN PRACTICE .....	21
§ 4980.11. TEMPORARY PRACTICE ALLOWANCE: LICENSEES IN ANOTHER STATE OR UNITED STATES JURISDICTION .....	21
§ 4980.30. NECESSITY OF LICENSE .....	22
§ 4980.31. DISPLAY OF LICENSE.....	22
§ 4980.32. REQUIRED NOTICE TO CLIENTS.....	22
§ 4980.34. LEGISLATIVE INTENT.....	22
§ 4980.35. OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE COMPLETE AND ACCURATE APPLICATION; DUTIES OF BOARD .....	23
§ 4980.36. QUALIFYING DEGREE PROGRAM FOR LICENSURE OR REGISTRATION; BEGINNING GRADUATE STUDY AFTER AUGUST 1, 2012 OR COMPLETING GRADUATE STUDY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2018.....	24
§ 4980.37. QUALIFYING DEGREE PROGRAM FOR LICENSURE OR REGISTRATION; BEGAN GRADUATE STUDY BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2012 AND COMPLETED GRADUATE STUDY BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2018.....	28
§ 4980.38. NOTIFICATION TO STUDENTS OF DESIGN OF DEGREE PROGRAM; CERTIFICATION OF FULFILLMENT OF REQUIREMENTS.....	30
§ 4980.39. ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK: AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE .....	30
§ 4980.395. REQUIRED TRAINING OR COURSEWORK: PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES VIA TELEHEALTH .....	31
§ 4980.396. REQUIRED COURSEWORK OR SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: SUICIDE RISK ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION.....	31
§ 4980.397. REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS.....	32
§ 4980.398. EXAMINATION RESTRUCTURE TRANSITION SCENARIOS .....	32
§ 4980.399. CALIFORNIA LAW AND ETHICS: EXAMINATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION .....	33
§ 4980.40. QUALIFICATIONS .....	33
§ 4980.41. ELIGIBILITY TO SIT FOR LICENSING EXAMINATIONS; COURSEWORK OR TRAINING.....	33
§ 4980.42. TRAINEES' SERVICES .....	35
§ 4980.43. SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: ASSOCIATES OR TRAINEES .....	36
§ 4980.43.1. SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES .....	37
§ 4980.43.2. DIRECT SUPERVISOR CONTACT; INOPERATIVE JANUARY 1, 2026 .....	38
§ 4980.43.2. DIRECT SUPERVISOR CONTACT; OPERATIVE JANUARY 1, 2026.....	39
§ 4980.43.3. SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: ACCEPTABLE SETTINGS; ACCEPTABLE SUPERVISION PRACTICES .....	40
§ 4980.43.4. SUPERVISEES: LOCATION OF SERVICES; MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SUPERVISEES; OVERSIGHT AGREEMENT .....	42
§ 4980.43.5. AUDITS OF SUPERVISORS.....	42
§ 4980.44. ASSOCIATE NOTICE TO CLIENT OR PATIENT; ADVERTISEMENTS .....	42
§ 4980.46. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES .....	43
§ 4980.48. TRAINEES; NOTICE TO CLIENTS OF UNLICENSED STATUS; ADVERTISEMENTS .....	43
§ 4980.49. CLIENT RECORDS: RETENTION.....	43
§ 4980.50. EXAMINATION; ISSUANCE OF LICENSE; EXAMINATION RECORD RETENTION; SEVEN YEAR LIMITATION	

ON CLINICAL EXAMINATION.....	44
§ 4980.54. CONTINUING EDUCATION.....	45
§ 4980.55. DISCLOSURE OF COUNSELOR'S QUALIFICATIONS.....	46
§ 4980.57. CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR SPOUSAL OR PARTNER ABUSE.....	46
§ 4980.60. RULES AND REGULATIONS.....	46
§ 4980.70. ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.....	47
§ 4980.72. OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS: LICENSURE BY CREDENTIAL.....	47
§ 4980.74. OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS: LICENSURE BY EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE.....	48
§ 4980.76. DEGREE OBTAINED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.....	48
§ 4980.78. LICENSURE BY EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT EDUCATION.....	48
§ 4980.81. LICENSURE BY EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK.....	50
<b>ARTICLE 2. DENIAL, SUSPENSION, AND REVOCATION .....</b>	<b>53</b>
§ 4982. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.....	53
§ 4982.05. ENFORCEMENT STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.....	55
UNCODIFIED LAW RELATING TO SECTION 4982.05.....	56
§ 4982.1. MENTAL ILLNESS OR CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY; GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL TO LICENSE OR REGISTER.....	56
§ 4982.15. PLACING OF LICENSE OR REGISTRATION ON PROBATION; CIRCUMSTANCES.....	56
§ 4982.25. DENIAL OF APPLICATION OR SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE OR REGISTRATION; GROUNDS.....	57
§ 4982.26. DECISION CONTAINING FINDING THAT LICENSEE OR REGISTRANT ENGAGED IN SEXUAL CONTACT WITH PATIENT OR FORMER PATIENT; ORDER OF REVOCATION.....	57
§ 4982.3. CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS.....	57
<b>ARTICLE 3. PENALTIES.....</b>	<b>57</b>
§ 4983. VIOLATION; MISDEMEANOR; PUNISHMENT.....	57
§ 4983.1. INJUNCTION.....	57
<b>ARTICLE 4. REVENUE.....</b>	<b>58</b>
§ 4984. EXPIRATION OF LICENSES; RENEWAL OF UNEXPIRED LICENSES.....	58
§ 4984.01. ASSOCIATE REGISTRATION; DURATION; RENEWAL.....	58
§ 4984.1. RENEWAL OF EXPIRED LICENSES.....	59
§ 4984.2. SUSPENDED LICENSE; RENEWAL.....	59
§ 4984.3. REVOKED LICENSE; REINSTATEMENT.....	59
§ 4984.4. TIME LIMIT FOR RENEWAL AFTER EXPIRATION; NEW LICENSE.....	59
§ 4984.41. ISSUANCE OF A RETIRED LICENSE – MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST.....	59
§ 4984.5. BOARD REPORT AND PAYMENT OF REVENUE.....	60
§ 4984.7. FEE SCHEDULE.....	60
§ 4984.72. FAILED CLINICAL EXAMINATION; REEXAMINATION; NEW APPLICATION REQUIREMENT.....	62
§ 4984.75. ADDITIONAL LICENSE RENEWAL FEE; MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER EDUCATION FUND.....	62
§ 4984.8. INACTIVE LICENSE.....	62
§ 4984.9. LICENSEE OR REGISTRANT NAME CHANGE.....	63
<b>ARTICLE 6. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST CORPORATIONS.....</b>	<b>63</b>
§ 4987.5. DEFINITION.....	63
§ 4987.6. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.....	63
§ 4987.7. NAME.....	63
§ 4987.8. DIRECTORS, SHAREHOLDERS AND OFFICERS; NECESSITY OF LICENSE.....	63
§ 4988. INCOME FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES NOT TO ACCRUE TO DISQUALIFIED SHAREHOLDERS.....	64
§ 4988.1. CORPORATE UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.....	64
§ 4988.2. RULES AND REGULATIONS.....	64
<b>ARTICLE 7. REVIEW.....</b>	<b>64</b>
§ 4989. POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARD; DATE OF REVIEW.....	64
<b>CHAPTER 13.5. LICENSED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS.....</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>ARTICLE 1. GENERAL.....</b>	<b>65</b>

§ 4989.10. EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST PRACTICE ACT .....	65
§ 4989.12. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CHAPTER .....	65
§ 4989.13. ENGAGING IN PRACTICE .....	65
§ 4989.14. SCOPE OF PRACTICE .....	65
§ 4989.16. LICENSING EXCEPTIONS .....	66
§ 4989.17. REQUIRED NOTICE TO CLIENTS .....	66
§ 4989.18. RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT .....	67
<b>ARTICLE 2. LICENSURE .....</b>	<b>67</b>
§ 4989.20. LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS .....	67
§ 4989.22. EXAMINATION .....	68
§ 4989.23. REQUIRED COURSEWORK OR SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: SUICIDE RISK ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION .....	68
§ 4989.23.1. REQUIRED TRAINING OR COURSEWORK: PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES VIA TELEHEALTH .....	69
§ 4989.24. CONVICTION INVOLVING SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN .....	69
§ 4989.26. GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL TO ISSUE LICENSE; MENTAL ILLNESS OR CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY .....	70
§ 4989.28. DENIAL OF APPLICATION FOR UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT .....	70
<b>ARTICLE 3. RENEWAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION .....</b>	<b>70</b>
§ 4989.30. EXPIRATION OF LICENSE .....	70
§ 4989.32. RENEWAL OF UNEXPIRED LICENSE .....	70
§ 4989.34. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS .....	70
§ 4989.36. RENEWAL OF EXPIRED LICENSE .....	71
§ 4989.38. SUSPENDED LICENSE; RENEWAL .....	71
§ 4989.40. REVOKED LICENSE; REINSTATEMENT .....	71
§ 4989.42. TIME LIMIT FOR RENEWAL AFTER EXPIRATION; NEW LICENSE .....	72
§ 4989.44. INACTIVE LICENSE .....	72
§ 4989.45. ISSUANCE OF A RETIRED LICENSE – LICENSED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST .....	72
<b>ARTICLE 4. REGULATION .....</b>	<b>73</b>
§ 4989.46. NAME CHANGE REQUIREMENTS .....	73
§ 4989.47. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES .....	73
§ 4989.48. DISPLAY OF LICENSE .....	74
§ 4989.49. ADVERTISING .....	74
§ 4989.50. NECESSITY OF LICENSE; UNAUTHORIZED REPRESENTATION AS A LICENSEE .....	74
§ 4989.51. CLIENT RECORDS: RETENTION .....	74
§ 4989.52. COMPENSATION IN RELATION TO PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING SERVICES .....	74
<b>ARTICLE 5. ENFORCEMENT .....</b>	<b>74</b>
§ 4989.54. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT .....	74
§ 4989.56. REVOCATION OF LICENSE; USE OF DRUGS IN PRACTICE .....	77
§ 4989.58. REVOCATION OF LICENSE DUE TO SEXUAL CONTACT WITH A CLIENT .....	77
§ 4989.60. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES PENDING REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSE .....	78
§ 4989.62. CONDUCT OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS .....	78
§ 4989.64. ISSUANCE OF INJUNCTION OR OTHER ORDER TO RESTRAIN CONDUCT .....	78
§ 4989.66. VIOLATION OF CHAPTER; MISDEMEANOR .....	78
<b>ARTICLE 6. REVENUE .....</b>	<b>78</b>
§ 4989.68. FEE SCHEDULE .....	78
§ 4989.70. REPORTING REVENUE TO CONTROLLER; DEPOSIT TO STATE TREASURY .....	79
<b>CHAPTER 13.7. BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES .....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>ARTICLE 1. ADMINISTRATION .....</b>	<b>80</b>
§ 4990. BOARD MEMBERS .....	80



§ 4990.02. DEFINITION OF “BOARD” .....	81
§ 4990.04. EXECUTIVE OFFICER .....	81
§ 4990.06. EMPLOYEES .....	81
§ 4990.07. ELECTRONIC MAIL ADDRESS .....	81
§ 4990.08. RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS, APPLICANTS AND LICENSEES .....	82
§ 4990.09. INTERNET PUBLICATION OF FINAL DETERMINATION; TIME LIMIT .....	82
§ 4990.10. RESEARCH, STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	82
§ 4990.12. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CHAPTERS; POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARD AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER .....	82
§ 4990.13. LICENSE AND REGISTRATION VERIFICATION .....	82
§ 4990.14. BOARD SEAL .....	82
§ 4990.16. PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC .....	82
§ 4990.18. LEGISLATIVE INTENT; BOARD RESOURCES .....	83
§ 4990.20. RULES AND REGULATIONS; ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND CORPORATE INSURANCE .....	83
§ 4990.22. BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES FUND; REVENUE; SURPLUSES .....	83
§ 4990.24. REVIEW OF POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARD .....	84
§ 4990.26. BOARD NAME .....	84
<b>ARTICLE 2. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS .....</b>	<b>84</b>
§ 4990.28. GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL TO ISSUE LICENSE OR REGISTRATION; MENTAL ILLNESS OR CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY .....	84
§ 4990.30. PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT OR MODIFICATION OF PENALTY .....	84
§ 4990.31. PETITION REQUEST; DENIAL WITHOUT HEARING .....	86
§ 4990.32. ENFORCEMENT STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS .....	86
§ 4990.33. DISCIPLINARY ACTION: LICENSE STATUS CHANGE .....	87
§ 4990.34. PLACING LICENSE OR REGISTRATION ON PROBATION; MONITORING PROGRAM .....	87
§ 4990.36. TRAINING OR EXAMINATION AFTER PROBATION OR SUSPENSION .....	88
§ 4990.38. DISCIPLINARY ACTION; GROUNDS FOR DENIAL, SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION .....	88
§ 4990.40. REVOCATION OF LICENSE OR REGISTRATION DUE TO SEXUAL CONTACT WITH A PATIENT .....	88
§ 4990.42. CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS .....	88
<b>CHAPTER 14. SOCIAL WORKERS .....</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS .....</b>	<b>89</b>
§ 4991. CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER PRACTICE ACT .....	89
§ 4991.1. ENGAGING IN PRACTICE .....	89
§ 4991.2. DEFINITIONS .....	89
<b>ARTICLE 2. APPLICATION OF CHAPTER .....</b>	<b>89</b>
§ 4992. LICENSE APPLICATION; FEES .....	89
§ 4992.05. REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS .....	90
§ 4992.07. EXAMINATION RESTRUCTURE TRANSITION SCENARIOS .....	90
§ 4992.09. CALIFORNIA LAW AND ETHICS: EXAMINATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION .....	90
§ 4992.1. ELIGIBILITY FOR EXAMINATION; EXAMINATION RECORD RETENTION; SEVEN YEAR LIMITATION ON CLINICAL EXAMINATION .....	91
§ 4992.2. ADVERTISING .....	91
§ 4992.3. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT .....	92
§ 4992.33. DECISION CONTAINING FINDING THAT LICENSEE OR REGISTRANT ENGAGED IN SEXUAL CONTACT WITH PATIENT OR FORMER PATIENT; ORDER OF REVOCATION .....	94
§ 4992.35. GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL TO LICENSE OR REGISTER; MENTAL ILLNESS OR CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY .....	94
§ 4992.36. DISCIPLINARY ACTION; GROUNDS FOR APPLICATION DENIAL OR LICENSE OR REGISTRATION SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION .....	95
§ 4992.4. CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS .....	95
§ 4992.5. TIME AND PLACE OF EXAMINATIONS .....	95
§ 4992.7. FALSE STATEMENTS OR IMPERSONATION IN CONNECTION WITH APPLICATION OR EXAMINATION; MISDEMEANOR .....	95
§ 4992.8. LICENSEE OR REGISTRANT NAME CHANGE .....	95

§ 4992.10. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES .....	96
§ 4993. CLIENT RECORDS: RETENTION.....	96
<b>ARTICLE 4. LICENSURE .....</b>	<b>96</b>
§ 4996. NECESSITY OF LICENSE; UNAUTHORIZED REPRESENTATION AS LICENSEE; MISDEMEANOR.....	96
§ 4996.1. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE .....	96
§ 4996.2. QUALIFICATIONS OF LICENSEES .....	97
§ 4996.3. FEE SCHEDULE .....	97
§ 4996.4. FEE FOR REEXAMINATION .....	99
§ 4996.5. SCOPE, FORM AND CONTENT OF LICENSE.....	99
§ 4996.6. DURATION OF LICENSE; RENEWAL; EXPIRED LICENSE.....	99
§ 4996.61. SUSPENDED LICENSE; RENEWAL.....	100
§ 4996.62. REVOKED LICENSE; REINSTATEMENT .....	100
§ 4996.65. ADDITIONAL LICENSE RENEWAL FEE; MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER EDUCATION FUND.....	100
§ 4996.7. DISPLAY OF LICENSE .....	100
§ 4996.75. REQUIRED NOTICE TO CLIENTS.....	100
§ 4996.8. DISPLAY OF CURRENT RENEWAL RECEIPT.....	101
§ 4996.9. CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK AND PSYCHOTHERAPY DEFINED.....	101
§ 4996.10. APPLICATION OF ARTICLE ONLY TO CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS.....	101
§ 4996.11. SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE; GROUNDS; CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS.....	101
§ 4996.12. VIOLATIONS; PENALTIES .....	101
§ 4996.13. OTHER PROFESSIONAL GROUPS; WORK OF PSYCHOSOCIAL NATURE; IMPERMISSIBLE REPRESENTATIONS .....	102
§ 4996.14. EMPLOYEES OF CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS; ACTIVITIES OF PSYCHOSOCIAL NATURE; REQUIRED NOTICE TO CLIENTS .....	102
§ 4996.14.1. EXEMPT SETTINGS.....	103
§ 4996.14.2. NONEXEMPT SETTINGS.....	103
§ 4996.15. PERFORMANCE OF PSYCHOSOCIAL WORK BY PERSONS IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS; SOCIAL WORK INTERN.....	104
§ 4996.16. PERSONS FROM OUT-OF-STATE; CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN THIS STATE.....	104
§ 4996.16.1. TEMPORARY PRACTICE ALLOWANCE: LICENSEES IN ANOTHER STATE OR UNITED STATES JURISDICTION .....	104
§ 4996.17.1. OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS: LICENSURE BY CREDENTIAL .....	105
§ 4996.17.2. OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS: LICENSURE BY EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE .....	106
§ 4996.18. ASSOCIATE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER; REGISTRATION; SUPERVISION .....	108
§ 4996.19. LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS' CORPORATION; APPLICATION OF ARTICLE.....	110
§ 4996.20. ASSOCIATE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER: ACCEPTABLE SUPERVISORS AND SUPERVISION DEFINITION .....	110
§ 4996.21. AUDITS OF SUPERVISORS.....	111
§ 4996.22. CONTINUING EDUCATION.....	111
§ 4996.23. SUPERVISED POST-MASTER'S EXPERIENCE.....	113
§ 4996.23.1 DIRECT SUPERVISOR CONTACT; INOPERATIVE JANUARY 1, 2026 .....	114
§ 4996.23.1 DIRECT SUPERVISOR CONTACT; OPERATIVE JANUARY 1, 2026.....	115
§ 4996.23.2. SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: ACCEPTABLE SETTINGS; ACCEPTABLE SUPERVISION PRACTICES ....	116
§ 4996.23.3. SUPERVISEES: LOCATION OF SERVICES; MAXIMUM NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS; OVERSIGHT AGREEMENT .....	117
§ 4996.25. ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK.....	118
§ 4996.26. ADDITIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS; AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE; ELDER AND DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE AND NEGLECT .....	118
§ 4996.27. REQUIRED COURSEWORK OR SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: SUICIDE RISK ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION .....	119
§ 4996.27.1. REQUIRED TRAINING OR COURSEWORK: PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES VIA TELEHEALTH .....	120
§ 4996.28. ASSOCIATE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER; REGISTRATION EXPIRATION; RENEWAL.....	120
§ 4997. INACTIVE LICENSE .....	121
§ 4997.1. ISSUANCE OF A RETIRED LICENSE – LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER .....	121
<b>ARTICLE 5. CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS CORPORATIONS.....</b>	<b>122</b>
§ 4998. DEFINITION; RIGHT TO PRACTICE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK; BOARD AS GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY .....	122

§ 4998.1. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT .....	122
§ 4998.2. NAME .....	123
§ 4998.3. DIRECTORS, SHAREHOLDERS AND OFFICERS; LICENSE .....	123
§ 4998.4. INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDER WHO IS DISQUALIFIED PERSON .....	123
§ 4998.5. CORPORATE UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT .....	123
<b>CHAPTER 16 LICENSED PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELORS .....</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>ARTICLE 1. ADMINISTRATION .....</b>	<b>124</b>
§ 4999.10. LICENSED PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR .....	124
§ 4999.11. LEGISLATIVE INTENT .....	124
§ 4999.12. DEFINITIONS .....	124
§ 4999.12.5. REGISTRANT TITLE NAME CHANGE .....	126
§ 4999.13. ENGAGING IN PRACTICE .....	127
§ 4999.14. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION; DUTIES OF THE BOARD .....	127
<b>ARTICLE 2. SCOPE OF PRACTICE .....</b>	<b>127</b>
§ 4999.20. SCOPE OF PRACTICE .....	127
§ 4999.22. CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER LAWS; NONAPPLICATION TO CERTAIN PROFESSIONALS AND EMPLOYEES; REQUIRED NOTICE TO CLIENTS .....	128
§ 4999.23. TEMPORARY PRACTICE ALLOWANCE: LICENSEES IN ANOTHER STATE OR UNITED STATES JURISDICTION .....	129
§ 4999.25. EXEMPT SETTINGS .....	130
§ 4999.26. NONEXEMPT SETTINGS .....	130
§ 4999.27. TRAINEE SERVICES .....	131
<b>ARTICLE 3. LICENSURE .....</b>	<b>131</b>
§ 4999.30. NECESSITY OF LICENSE .....	131
§ 4999.32. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE OR REGISTRATION; GRADUATE COURSEWORK BEGUN BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2012 AND COMPLETED BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2018 .....	131
§ 4999.33. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE OR REGISTRATION; GRADUATE COURSEWORK BEGINNING AFTER AUGUST 1, 2012 OR COMPLETED AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2018 .....	134
§ 4999.36. TRAINEE ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES; APPLICANT AND SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES .....	138
§ 4999.40. DEGREE GRANTING PROGRAMS; NOTIFICATION OF QUALIFICATION TO STUDENTS; EQUIVALENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING GAINED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES .....	139
§ 4999.42. ASSOCIATE REGISTRATION; QUALIFICATION .....	139
§ 4999.46. SUPERVISED POST-MASTER'S EXPERIENCE .....	140
§ 4999.46.1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASSOCIATES .....	141
§ 4999.46.2. DIRECT SUPERVISOR CONTACT; INOPERATIVE JANUARY 1, 2026 .....	141
§ 4999.46.2. DIRECT SUPERVISOR CONTACT; OPERATIVE JANUARY 1, 2026 .....	142
§ 4999.46.3. SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: ACCEPTABLE SETTINGS; ACCEPTABLE SUPERVISION PRACTICES .....	143
§ 4999.46.4. SUPERVISEES: LOCATION OF SERVICES; MAXIMUM NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS; OVERSIGHT AGREEMENT .....	145
§ 4999.46.5. AUDITS OF SUPERVISORS .....	145
§ 4999.48. RULES AND REGULATIONS .....	146
§ 4999.50. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE; REQUIREMENTS .....	146
§ 4999.51. CRIMINAL OFFENDER RECORD INFORMATION; REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE AND REGISTRATION .....	146
§ 4999.52. EXAMINATION; BOARD DETERMINATION; EXAMINATION ADMISSION DENIAL .....	147
§ 4999.53. REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS .....	148
§ 4999.55. CALIFORNIA LAW AND ETHICS: EXAMINATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION .....	148
§ 4999.60. OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS: LICENSURE BY CREDENTIAL .....	149
§ 4999.61. OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS: LICENSURE BY EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE .....	150
§ 4999.62. LICENSURE BY EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT EDUCATION .....	150
§ 4999.64. REEXAMINATION .....	153
§ 4999.66. REQUIRED COURSEWORK OR SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: SUICIDE RISK ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION .....	153
§ 4999.67. REQUIRED TRAINING OR COURSEWORK: PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES VIA TELEHEALTH .....	154

<b>ARTICLE 4. PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>154</b>
§ 4999.70. DISPLAY OF LICENSE .....	154
§ 4999.71. REQUIRED NOTICE TO CLIENTS .....	155
§ 4999.72. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME .....	155
§ 4999.74. COUNSELING RELATIONSHIP AND PROCESS; DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT .....	155
§ 4999.75. CLIENT RECORDS: RETENTION .....	155
§ 4999.76. CONTINUING EDUCATION .....	155
<b>ARTICLE 5. ENFORCEMENT .....</b>	<b>156</b>
§ 4999.80. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS; BOARD DUTIES .....	156
§ 4999.82. ENGAGING IN THE PRACTICE; UNLAWFUL ACTS; LICENSURE REQUIREMENT .....	157
§ 4999.84. PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION .....	157
§ 4999.86. VIOLATIONS OF CHAPTER PROVISIONS; MISDEMEANOR .....	157
§ 4999.88. ISSUANCE OF AN INJUNCTION TO RESTRAIN CONDUCT .....	157
§ 4999.90. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT .....	158
§ 4999.91. DENIAL OF APPLICATION OR SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE OR REGISTRATION; GROUNDS .....	160
<b>ARTICLE 6. REVENUE .....</b>	<b>161</b>
§ 4999.100. EXPIRATION OF ASSOCIATE REGISTRATION; RENEWAL .....	161
§ 4999.102. EXPIRATION OF LICENSURE; RENEWAL OF UNEXPIRED LICENSE .....	161
§ 4999.104. RENEWAL OF EXPIRED LICENSE; TIME LIMIT; REQUIREMENTS .....	162
§ 4999.106. EXPIRED LICENSE; APPLICATION FOR NEW LICENSE .....	162
§ 4999.108. SUSPENDED LICENSE; RENEWAL .....	162
§ 4999.110. REVOKED LICENSE; REINSTATEMENT .....	162
§ 4999.112. INACTIVE LICENSE STATUS .....	162
§ 4999.113. ISSUANCE OF A RETIRED LICENSE – LICENSED PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR .....	163
§ 4999.114. REVENUE; BOARD REPORT TO CONTROLLER .....	164
§ 4999.116. BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES FUND; APPROPRIATIONS; SURPLUSES .....	164
§ 4999.118. LICENSEE OR REGISTRANT NAME CHANGE; BOARD NOTIFICATION .....	164
§ 4999.120. FEE SCHEDULE .....	165
§ 4999.121. ADDITIONAL LICENSE RENEWAL FEE; MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER EDUCATION FUND .....	166
<b>ARTICLE 7. PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR CORPORATIONS .....</b>	<b>166</b>
§ 4999.123. DEFINITIONS .....	166
§ 4999.124. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT .....	166
§ 4999.125. NAME .....	166
§ 4999.126. DIRECTORS, SHAREHOLDERS, AND OFFICERS; NECESSITY OF LICENSE .....	166
§ 4999.127. INCOME FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES NOT TO ACCRUE TO DISQUALIFIED SHAREHOLDERS .....	167
§ 4999.128. CORPORATE UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT .....	167
§ 4999.129. RULES AND REGULATIONS .....	167
<b>ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS .....</b>	<b>168</b>
§ 1800. DECLARATORY DECISIONS .....	168
§ 1802. DEFINITIONS .....	168
§ 1803. DELEGATION OF CERTAIN FUNCTIONS .....	168
§ 1804. FILING OF ADDRESSES .....	168
§ 1805. APPLICATIONS .....	169
§ 1805.01. DEFINITIONS .....	169
§ 1805.05. REEXAMINATION .....	169
§ 1805.08. EXAMINATION RESCORING .....	169
§ 1805.1. APPLICATION PROCESSING TIMES .....	170
§ 1805.2. ADDITIONAL EXAMINATION TIME: ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE .....	170
§ 1806. ABANDONMENT OF APPLICATION .....	171
§ 1807. HUMAN SEXUALITY TRAINING .....	171
§ 1807.2. CHILD ABUSE ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING TRAINING REQUIREMENTS .....	172
§ 1807.3. ALCOHOLISM AND OTHER CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE DEPENDENCY TRAINING .....	172

§ 1810.5. ACCEPTABLE TRAINING PROVIDERS.....	172
§ 1811. ADVERTISING.....	173
§ 1812. SUBSTANTIAL RELATIONSHIP CRITERIA.....	174
§ 1813. CRITERIA FOR REHABILITATION - DENIAL OF LICENSURE.....	175
§ 1814. CRITERIA FOR REHABILITATION - SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS.....	176
§ 1815. FINGERPRINT SUBMISSION.....	177
§ 1815.5. STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR TELEHEALTH.....	178
§ 1815.8. DOCUMENTATION OF SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: DECEASED OR INCAPACITATED SUPERVISOR.....	179
§ 1816. RENEWAL FEES.....	180
§ 1816.1. INITIAL LICENSE AND REGISTRATION FEES.....	180
§ 1816.2. EXAMINATION FEES.....	181
§ 1816.4. FEES FOR APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE.....	181
<b>ARTICLE 3. LICENSED PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELORS.....</b>	<b>182</b>
§ 1820. SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.....	182
§ 1820.3. PLACEMENT BY TEMPORARY STAFFING AGENCIES.....	184
§ 1821. REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPERVISORS.....	185
§ 1821.1. SUBSTITUTE SUPERVISORS.....	187
§ 1821.2. SUPERVISION OF EXPERIENCE GAINED OUTSIDE OF CALIFORNIA.....	187
§ 1821.3. SUPERVISOR TRAINING AND COURSEWORK.....	188
§ 1822.50. EXAMINATIONS.....	190
§ 1822.51. ELIGIBILITY FOR LAW AND ETHICS EXAMINATION.....	190
§ 1822.52. TIME FRAMES - LAW & ETHICS EXAMINATION.....	190
§ 1823. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.....	191
<b>ARTICLE 4. LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS.....</b>	<b>193</b>
§ 1829.1. REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS.....	193
§ 1829.2. ELIGIBILITY FOR LAW AND ETHICS EXAMINATION.....	193
§ 1829.3. TIME FRAMES - LAW & ETHICS EXAMINATION.....	193
§ 1833. SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.....	194
§ 1833.05. PLACEMENT BY TEMPORARY STAFFING AGENCIES.....	197
§ 1833.1. REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPERVISORS.....	197
§ 1833.1.5. SUBSTITUTE SUPERVISORS.....	199
§ 1833.2. SUPERVISION OF EXPERIENCE GAINED OUTSIDE OF CALIFORNIA.....	200
§ 1834. SUPERVISOR TRAINING AND COURSEWORK.....	200
§ 1845. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.....	202
§ 1846. ASSOCIATE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS.....	204
<b>ARTICLE 4.5. PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS.....</b>	<b>205</b>
§ 1850.6. NAME OF CORPORATION.....	205
§ 1850.7. SHARES: OWNERSHIP AND TRANSFER.....	205
<b>ARTICLE 5. LICENSED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS.....</b>	<b>206</b>
§ 1854. APPROVED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.....	206
§ 1856. EXPERIENCE EQUIVALENT TO THREE (3) YEARS FULL-TIME EXPERIENCE AS CREDENTIALLED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST.....	206
§ 1858. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.....	206
<b>ARTICLE 6. LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS.....</b>	<b>208</b>
§ 1869. SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.....	208
§ 1869.3. PLACEMENT BY TEMPORARY STAFFING AGENCIES.....	210
§ 1870. REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPERVISORS.....	211
§ 1870.3. SUBSTITUTE SUPERVISORS.....	213
§ 1870.5. SUPERVISION OF EXPERIENCE GAINED OUTSIDE OF CALIFORNIA.....	213
§ 1871. SUPERVISOR TRAINING AND COURSEWORK.....	214
§ 1877.1. REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS.....	216
§ 1877.2. ELIGIBILITY FOR LAW AND ETHICS EXAMINATION.....	216
§ 1877.3. TIME FRAMES - LAW & ETHICS EXAMINATION.....	216

§ 1880. UNLICENSED ASSISTANTS.....	217
§ 1881. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.....	217
<b>ARTICLE 7. CITATIONS AND FINES .....</b>	<b>219</b>
§ 1886. AUTHORITY TO ISSUE CITATIONS AND FINES.....	219
§ 1886.10. CITATIONS FOR UNLICENSED PRACTICE.....	220
§ 1886.20. CITATION FORMAT.....	220
§ 1886.30. CITATION FACTORS.....	220
§ 1886.40. AMOUNT OF FINES.....	221
§ 1886.50. EXCEPTIONS.....	221
§ 1886.60. COMPLIANCE WITH CITATION/ORDER OF ABATEMENT.....	222
§ 1886.70. CONTESTED CITATIONS AND REQUEST FOR A HEARING OR INFORMAL CITATION CONFERENCE.....	222
§ 1886.80. DISCONNECTION OF TELEPHONE SERVICE.....	223
<b>ARTICLE 8. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS, LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS, LICENSED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS, AND LICENSED PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELORS.....</b>	<b>223</b>
§ 1887. DEFINITIONS.....	223
§ 1887.1. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS AND LICENSE RENEWAL.....	224
§ 1887.2. TEMPORARY WAIVERS OF AND EXEMPTIONS FROM CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.....	224
§ 1887.3. CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND CREDIT FOR SPECIFIED ACTIVITIES.....	225
§ 1887.4.0. CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE CONTENT.....	227
§ 1887.4.1. BOARD-RECOGNIZED APPROVAL AGENCIES.....	227
§ 1887.4.2. APPROVAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.....	228
§ 1887.4.3. ACCEPTABLE CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.....	229
§ 1887.5. HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT.....	230
§ 1887.11.0. RECORDS OF COURSE COMPLETION.....	230
§ 1887.12. LICENSEE AND PROVIDER COURSE RECORDS.....	230
<b>ARTICLE 9. DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES.....</b>	<b>232</b>
§ 1888. UNIFORM STANDARDS RELATED TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES.....	232
§ 1888.1. REQUIRED ACTIONS AGAINST REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS.....	232
<b>MISCELLANEOUS CALIFORNIA CODE SECTIONS.....</b>	<b>234</b>
<b>BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE .....</b>	<b>234</b>
§ 25. TRAINING IN HUMAN SEXUALITY.....	234
§ 27. PUBLIC INFORMATION.....	234
§ 27.5. CONFIDENTIALITY OF FORMER NAME; ALLOWABLE CIRCUMSTANCES.....	236
§ 28. TRAINING FOR CHILD, ELDER AND DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING; LICENSING PREREQUISITES.....	237
§ 29. CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY AND EARLY INTERVENTION TRAINING; CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.....	239
§ 32. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; AIDS TRAINING IN CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIED LICENSES.....	239
§ 114. REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSE: ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY.....	240
§ 114.3. WAIVER OF RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS: ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY.....	240
§ 114.5. MILITARY SERVICE; INQUIRY ON APPLICATIONS.....	241
§ 115.10. RELOCATION DUE TO MILITARY ORDERS: MILITARY MEMBERS AND SPOUSES: REGISTRATION TO PRACTICE.....	241
§ 115.4. EXPEDITED LICENSURE: SERVICE IN THE MILITARY.....	243
§ 115.5. EXPEDITED LICENSURE AND FEE WAIVER: SPOUSES OF ACTIVE MILITARY MEMBERS.....	243
§ 115.6. TEMPORARY LICENSE: SPOUSES OF ACTIVE MILITARY MEMBERS.....	244
§ 118. APPLICATION WITHDRAWAL OR LICENSE STATUS CHANGE: DENIAL OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION.....	246
§ 125.3. INVESTIGATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT COSTS; PAYMENT BY LICENSEE.....	246
§ 125.6. REFUSAL TO PERFORM LICENSED ACTIVITIES; DISCRIMINATION OR RESTRICTION IN PERFORMANCE.....	247
§ 125.9. ISSUANCE OF CITATIONS; FINES AND ORDERS OF ABATEMENT.....	248

§ 129. HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS; CHILD CUSTODY EVALUATIONS .....	249
§135.4 EXPEDITED LICENSURE: ASYLUM OR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA .....	250
§ 143.5. CIVIL DISPUTE SETTLEMENTS; PROHIBITED PROVISIONS .....	250
§ 144.5. BOARD RECEIPT OF CERTIFIED RECORDS FOR INVESTIGATION .....	251
§ 315.2. CEASE PRACTICE ORDERS; POSITIVE TEST FOR PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE .....	251
§ 315.4. CEASE PRACTICE ORDERS; BOARD AUTHORITY .....	251
§ 337. INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE FOR VICTIMS OF PSYCHOTHERAPIST - CLIENT SEXUAL BEHAVIOR AND SEXUAL CONTACT; CONTENTS .....	251
§ 464. ESTABLISHMENT OF A RETIRED LICENSE; INVESTIGATION OF PERSONS WITH LICENSES THAT ARE INACTIVE OR RESTRICTED .....	252
§ 480. GROUNDS FOR DENIAL OF LICENSURE .....	253
§ 480.5. APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE: INCARCERATION .....	256
§ 485. PROCEDURE BY BOARD UPON DENIAL OF APPLICATION FOR LICENSE .....	256
§ 490. BOARD DISCIPLINARY ACTION; GROUNDS FOR LICENSE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION .....	256
§ 651. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION CONTAINING FALSE, FRAUDULENT, MISLEADING, OR DECEPTIVE STATEMENT, CLAIM, OR IMAGE; ADVERTISEMENTS; PENALTY .....	257
§ 683. REPORTING NAME AND LICENSE NUMBER OF LICENSEE PROHIBITED FROM PRACTICING .....	261
§ 719. TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS: OUT-OF-STATE LICENSEES .....	262
§ 726. SEXUAL ABUSE, MISCONDUCT, OR RELATIONS WITH A PATIENT .....	262
§ 727. EVIDENCE .....	262
§ 728. PRIOR SEXUAL BEHAVIOR OR SEXUAL CONTACT BETWEEN PSYCHOTHERAPIST AND CLIENT; PSYCHOTHERAPIST OR EMPLOYER PROVIDING AND DISCUSSING BROCHURE; FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SECTION; DEFINITIONS .....	262
§ 729. SEXUAL EXPLOITATION BY PHYSICIANS, SURGEONS, PSYCHOTHERAPISTS, OR ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE COUNSELORS .....	264
§ 820. EXAMINATION; REPORT .....	265
§ 865. DEFINITION OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION CHANGE EFFORTS .....	265
§ 865.1. SEXUAL ORIENTATION CHANGE EFFORTS: PROHIBITIONS .....	266
§ 865.2. SEXUAL ORIENTATION CHANGE EFFORTS: DISCIPLINARY ACTION .....	266
§ 2290.5. TELEHEALTH; CONSENT REQUIREMENTS; EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE ON HEALTH PRACTITIONER .....	266
<b>CALIFORNIA CORPORATIONS CODE .....</b>	<b>268</b>
<b>CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE .....</b>	<b>269</b>
§ 11166. CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING; DUTY; TIME .....	269
<b>CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE .....</b>	<b>274</b>
§ 122318. EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOGS: REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS .....	274
§ 122319. EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOGS: CIVIL PENALTIES .....	275
§ 122319.5. EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOG: EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL; DEFINITIONS .....	275
§ 123110. INSPECTION AND COPYING; VERIFICATION OF IDENTITY; RETENTION AND QUALITY OF RECORDS; LIABILITY FOR DISCLOSURE; VIOLATIONS; PENALTIES .....	275
§ 124260. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR MINORS .....	278
<b>CALIFORNIA WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE .....</b>	<b>280</b>
§ 14029.8. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR MINORS; MEDI-CAL .....	280
§ 15630. ELDER AND DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE REPORTING .....	280
<b>CALIFORNIA FAMILY CODE .....</b>	<b>286</b>
§ 6924. MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT OF MINORS; INOPERATIVE JULY 1, 2024 .....	286
§ 6924. MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT OF MINORS; OPERATIVE JULY 1, 2024 .....	287
INDEX .....	289

## BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE OF CALIFORNIA

### CHAPTER 13. LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

*Note to the reader: This Chapter contains the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Practice Act. It should be reviewed in conjunction with the regulation section of this book. However, the materials shown here do not encompass all laws applicable to the profession. You can utilize the following links as a resource for searching all statutes and regulations related to the profession.*

- [California Statutes](#)
- [California Code of Regulations](#)

#### ARTICLE 1. REGULATION

##### § 4980. NECESSITY OF LICENSE

- (a) (1) Many California families and many individual Californians are experiencing difficulty and distress and are in need of wise, competent, caring, compassionate, and effective counseling in order to enable them to improve and maintain healthy family relationships.
- (2) Healthy individuals and healthy families and healthy relationships are inherently beneficial and crucial to a healthy society and are our most precious and valuable natural resource. Licensed marriage and family therapists provide a crucial support for the well-being of the people and the State of California.
- (b) A person shall not engage in the practice of marriage and family therapy, as defined by Section 4980.02, unless the person holds a valid license as a marriage and family therapist pursuant to this chapter.
- (c) Except as provided in subdivision (d), a person shall not do either of the following without a license obtained pursuant to this chapter.
- (1) Advertise that the person performs the services of a marriage, family, child, domestic, or marital consultant.
- (2) Use the titles listed in paragraph (1) or any similar titles, including the letters "L.M.F.T.," "M.F.T.," or "M.F.C.C.," or another name, word, initial, or symbol in connection with or following the person's name to imply that the person performs the services suggested by those titles.
- (d) (1) A person licensed under Article 4 (commencing with Section 4996) of Chapter 14 or under Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 2900) may engage in the practice of marriage and family therapy and advertise that the person practices marriage and family therapy.
- (2) A person described in paragraph (1) shall not advertise that the person holds the marriage and family therapist's license, including by using the letters "L.M.F.T.," "M.F.T.," or "M.F.C.C.," or another name, word, initial, or symbol in connection with or following the person's name to imply licensure as a marriage and family therapist, unless the person is licensed pursuant to this chapter.



**§ 4980.01. CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER LAWS; NONAPPLICATION TO CERTAIN PROFESSIONALS AND EMPLOYEES; REQUIRED NOTICE TO CLIENTS**

- (a) This chapter shall not be construed to constrict, limit, or withdraw the Medical Practice Act, the Social Work Licensing Law, the Nursing Practice Act, the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor Act, or the Psychology Licensing Law.
- (b) This chapter shall not apply to any priest, rabbi, or minister of the gospel of any religious denomination when performing counseling services as part of their pastoral or professional duties, or to any person who is admitted to practice law in the state, or a physician and surgeon who provides counseling services as part of their professional practice.
- (c) This chapter shall not apply to an unlicensed or unregistered employee or volunteer working in a governmental entity, a school, a college, a university, or an institution that is both nonprofit and charitable if both of the following apply:
  - (1) The work of the employee or volunteer is performed under the oversight and direction of the entity.
  - (2) (A) On and after July 1, 2020, the employee or volunteer provides a client, prior to initiating psychotherapy services or as soon as practicably possible thereafter, a notice written in at least 12-point type that is in substantially the following form:

**NOTICE TO CLIENTS**

The (Name of office or unit) of the (Name of agency) receives and responds to complaints regarding the practice of psychotherapy by any unlicensed or unregistered practitioner providing services at (Name of agency). To file a complaint, contact (Telephone number, email address, internet website, or mailing address of agency).

The Board of Behavioral Sciences receives and responds to complaints regarding services provided by individuals licensed and registered by the board. If you have a complaint and are unsure if your practitioner is licensed or registered, please contact the Board of Behavioral Sciences at 916-574-7830 for assistance or utilize the board's online license verification feature by visiting [www.bbs.ca.gov](http://www.bbs.ca.gov).

- (B) The delivery of the notice described in subparagraph (A) to the client shall be documented.
- (d) A marriage and family therapist licensed under this chapter is a licentiate for purposes of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 805, and thus is a health care provider subject to the provisions of Section 2290.5 pursuant to subdivision (b) of that section.
- (e) Notwithstanding subdivisions (b) and (c), all persons registered as associates or licensed under this chapter shall not be exempt from this chapter or the jurisdiction of the board.

## **§ 4980.02. PRACTICE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY; APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES AND METHODS**

- (a) For the purposes of this chapter, the practice of marriage and family therapy shall mean the application of psychotherapeutic and family systems theories, principles, and methods in the delivery of services to individuals, couples, or groups in order to assess, evaluate, and treat relational issues, emotional disorders, behavioral problems, mental illness, alcohol and substance use, and to modify intrapersonal and interpersonal behaviors.
- (b) The application of marriage and family therapy principles and methods includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
  - (1) Assessment, evaluation, and prognosis.
  - (2) Treatment, planning, and evaluation.
  - (3) Individual, relationship, family, or group therapeutic interventions.
  - (4) Relational therapy.
  - (5) Psychotherapy.
  - (6) Client education.
  - (7) Clinical case management.
  - (8) Consultation.
  - (9) Supervision.
  - (10) Use, application, and integration of the coursework and training required by Sections 4980.36, 4980.37, and 4980.41, as applicable.
- (c) The amendments to this section made by the act adding this subdivision do not constitute a change in, but are declaratory of, existing law. It is the intent of the Legislature that these amendments shall not be construed to expand or constrict the existing scope of practice of a person licensed pursuant to this chapter.

## **§ 4980.03. DEFINITIONS**

- (a) "Board," as used in this chapter, means the Board of Behavioral Sciences.
- (b) "Associate," as used in this chapter, means an unlicensed person who has earned a master's or doctoral degree qualifying the person for licensure and is registered with the board as an associate.
- (c) "Trainee," as used in this chapter, means an unlicensed person who is currently enrolled in a master's or doctoral degree program, as specified in Sections 4980.36 and 4980.37, that is designed to qualify the person for licensure under this chapter, and who has completed no less than 12 semester units or 18 quarter units of coursework in any qualifying degree program.

- (d) "Applicant for licensure," as used in this chapter, means an unlicensed person who has completed the required education and required hours of supervised experience for licensure.
- (e) "Advertise," as used in this chapter, includes, but is not limited to, any public communication, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 651, the issuance of any card, sign, or device to any person, or the causing, permitting, or allowing of any sign or marking on, or in, any building or structure, or in any newspaper or magazine or in any directory, or any printed matter whatsoever, with or without any limiting qualification. Signs within religious buildings or notices in church bulletins mailed to a congregation are not advertising within the meaning of this chapter.
- (f) "Experience," as used in this chapter, means experience in interpersonal relationships, psychotherapy, marriage and family therapy, direct clinical counseling, and nonclinical practice that satisfies the requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist.
- (g) "Supervisor," as used in this chapter, means an individual who meets all of the following requirements:
- (1) Has held an active license for at least two years within the five-year period immediately preceding any supervision as any of the following:
    - (A) A licensed professional clinical counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist, psychologist licensed pursuant to Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 2900), licensed clinical social worker, licensed educational psychologist, or equivalent out-of-state license. A licensed educational psychologist may only supervise the provision of educationally related mental health services that are consistent with the scope of practice of an educational psychologist, as specified in Section 4989.14.
    - (B) A physician and surgeon who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology or an out-of-state licensed physician and surgeon who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.
  - (2) For at least two years within the five-year period immediately preceding any supervision, has practiced psychotherapy, provided psychological counseling pursuant to paragraph (5) of subdivision (a) of Section 4989.14, or provided direct clinical supervision of psychotherapy performed by marriage and family therapist trainees, associate marriage and family therapists, associate professional clinical counselors, or associate clinical social workers. Supervision of psychotherapy performed by a social work intern or a professional clinical counselor trainee shall be accepted if the supervision provided is substantially equivalent to the supervision required for registrants.
  - (3) Has received training in supervision as specified in this chapter and by regulation.
  - (4) Has not provided therapeutic services to the supervisee.
  - (5) Has and maintains a current and active license that is not under suspension or probation as one of the following:
    - (A) A marriage and family therapist, professional clinical counselor, clinical social worker, or licensed educational psychologist, issued by the board.
    - (B) A psychologist licensed pursuant to Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 2900).
    - (C) A physician and surgeon who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

- (6) Is not a spouse, domestic partner, or relative of the supervisee.
- (7) Does not currently have or previously had a personal, professional, or business relationship with the supervisee that undermines the authority or effectiveness of the supervision.
- (h) “Client centered advocacy,” as used in this chapter, includes, but is not limited to, researching, identifying, and accessing resources, or other activities, related to obtaining or providing services and supports for clients or groups of clients receiving psychotherapy or counseling services.
- (i) “Accredited,” as used in this chapter, means a school, college, or university accredited by either the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education or a regional or national institutional accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States Department of Education.
- (j) “Approved,” as used in this chapter, means a school, college, or university that possessed unconditional approval by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education at the time of the applicant’s graduation from the school, college, or university.

#### **§ 4980.04. LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST ACT**

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Act.

#### **§ 4980.05. EXEMPT SETTINGS**

The settings described in Section 4980.01 are exempt settings and do not fall under the jurisdiction of this chapter or the board except as specified in Section 4980.01, and with the following exceptions:

- (a) Any individual working or volunteering in an exempt setting who is licensed or registered under this chapter shall fall under the jurisdiction of the board and is not exempt from this chapter.
- (b) An entity that is licensed or certified by a government regulatory agency to provide health care services shall not be considered an exempt setting unless it directly meets the criteria described in Section 4980.01.

#### **§ 4980.06. NONEXEMPT SETTINGS**

(a) For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

- (1) “Nonexempt setting” means any type of setting that does not qualify as an exempt setting, as specified in Section 4980.01.
- (2) “Private practice” means a type of nonexempt setting that meets all of the following:
  - (A) The practice is owned by a health professional who is licensed under this division either independently or jointly with one or more other health professionals who are licensed under this division.
  - (B) The practice provides clinical mental health services, including psychotherapy, to clients.
  - (C) One or more licensed health professionals are responsible for the practice and for the services provided and set conditions of client payment or reimbursement for the provision of services.

- (3) "Professional corporation" means a type of nonexempt setting and private practice that has been formed pursuant to Part 4 (commencing with Section 13400) of Division 3 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code.
- (b) An active license or registration number shall be required to engage in the practice of marriage and family therapy, as defined in Section 4980.02, in nonexempt settings at all times with the following exceptions:
- (1) A trainee may engage in the practice of marriage and family therapy in a nonexempt setting that is not a private practice or a professional corporation while they are gaining supervised experience that meets the requirements of this chapter under the jurisdiction and supervision of their school as specified in Section 4980.42.
  - (2) An applicant for registration as an associate may engage in the practice of marriage and family therapy in a nonexempt setting that is not a private practice or a professional corporation before the registration number is issued if they are in compliance with subdivision (b) of Section 4980.43 and are gaining supervised experience that meets the requirements of this chapter.

#### **§ 4980.08. LICENSE TITLE NAME CHANGE**

- (a) The title "licensed marriage, family and child counselor" or "marriage, family and child counselor" is hereby renamed "licensed marriage and family therapist" or "marriage and family therapist," respectively. Any reference in any statute or regulation to a "licensed marriage, family and child counselor" or "marriage, family and child counselor" shall be deemed a reference to a "licensed marriage and family therapist" or "marriage and family therapist".
- (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to expand or constrict the scope of practice of a person licensed pursuant to this chapter.
- (c) This section shall become operative July 1, 1999.

#### **§ 4980.09. REGISTRANT TITLE NAME CHANGE**

- (a) (1) The title "marriage and family therapist intern" or "marriage and family therapist registered intern" is hereby renamed "associate marriage and family therapist" or "registered associate marriage and family therapist," respectively. Any reference in statute or regulation to a "marriage and family therapist intern" or "marriage and family therapist registered intern" shall be deemed a reference to an "associate marriage and family therapist" or "registered associate marriage and family therapist."
- (2) Any reference in this chapter to the term "intern" means "associate." Any reference in statute or regulation to the abbreviation "MFTI" means an "AMFT."
- (b) This section shall not be construed to expand or constrict the scope of practice of a person licensed or registered pursuant to this chapter.

## **§ 4980.10. ENGAGING IN PRACTICE**

A person engages in the practice of marriage and family therapy when he or she performs or offers to perform or holds himself or herself out as able to perform this service for remuneration in any form, including donations.

## **§ 4980.11. TEMPORARY PRACTICE ALLOWANCE: LICENSEES IN ANOTHER STATE OR UNITED STATES JURISDICTION**

- (a) Notwithstanding Section 4980, a person who holds a license in another jurisdiction of the United States as a marriage and family therapist may provide marriage and family therapy services in this state for a period not to exceed 30 consecutive days in any calendar year, if all of the following conditions are met:
- (1) The license from another jurisdiction is at the highest level for independent clinical practice in the jurisdiction in which the license was granted.
  - (2) The license from another jurisdiction is current, active, and unrestricted.
  - (3) The client is located in California during the time the person seeks to provide care in California.
  - (4) The client is a current client of the person and has an established, ongoing client-provider relationship with the person at the time the client became located in California.
  - (5) The person informs the client of the limited timeframe of the services and that the person is not licensed in California.
  - (6) The person provides the client with the Board of Behavioral Sciences' internet website address.
  - (7) The person informs the client of the jurisdiction in which the person is licensed and the type of license held and provides the client with the person's license number.
- (b) A person who intends to provide marriage and family therapy services pursuant to this section shall provide the board with all of the following information before providing services:
- (1) The name under which the person is licensed in another jurisdiction, the person's mailing address, the person's phone number, the person's social security number or individual taxpayer identification number, and the person's electronic mailing address, if the person has an electronic mailing address.
  - (2) The jurisdiction in which the person is licensed, the type of license held, and the license number.
  - (3) The date on which the person will begin providing marriage and family therapy services to the person's client in California.
- (c) A person who provides services pursuant to this section is deemed to have agreed to practicing under the jurisdiction of the board and to be bound by the laws of this state.
- (d) This section does not apply to any person licensed by the board whose license has been suspended or revoked.
- (e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.

### **§ 4980.30. NECESSITY OF LICENSE**

Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, a person shall not practice, or advertise the performance of, marriage and family therapy services unless the person has applied to the board for a license, paid the license fee required by this chapter, and obtained a license from the board.

### **§ 4980.31. DISPLAY OF LICENSE**

A licensee shall display his or her license in a conspicuous place in the licensee's primary place of practice.

### **§ 4980.32. REQUIRED NOTICE TO CLIENTS**

(a) On and after July 1, 2020, a licensee or registrant shall provide a client with a notice written in at least 12-point type prior to initiating psychotherapy services, or as soon as practicably possible thereafter, that reads as follows:

#### NOTICE TO CLIENTS

The Board of Behavioral Sciences receives and responds to complaints regarding services provided within the scope of practice of marriage and family therapists. You may contact the board online at [www.bbs.ca.gov](http://www.bbs.ca.gov), or by calling (916) 574-7830.

(b) Delivery of the notice required by this section to the client shall be documented.

### **§ 4980.34. LEGISLATIVE INTENT**

It is the intent of the Legislature that the board employ its resources for each and all of the following functions:

- (a) The licensing of marriage and family therapists, clinical social workers, professional clinical counselors, and educational psychologists.
- (b) The development and administration of licensing examinations and examination procedures, as specified, consistent with prevailing standards for the validation and use of licensing and certification tests. Examinations shall measure knowledge and abilities demonstrably important to the safe, effective practice of the profession.
- (c) Enforcement of laws designed to protect the public from incompetent, unethical, or unprofessional practitioners.
- (d) Consumer education.

**§ 4980.35. OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE COMPLETE AND ACCURATE APPLICATION; DUTIES OF BOARD**

- (a) The Legislature acknowledges that the basic obligation to provide a complete and accurate application for a marriage and family therapist license lies with the applicant. At the same time, the Legislature recognizes that an effort should be made by the board to ensure that persons who enter degree programs and supervisorial training settings that meet the requirements of this chapter are enabled to discern the requirements for licensing and to take the examination when they have completed their educational and experience requirements.
- (b) In order that the board, the educational institutions, and the supervisors who monitor the education and experience of applicants may develop greater cooperation, the board shall do all of the following:
  - (1) Apply a portion of its limited resources specifically to the task of communicating information about its activities, the requirements and qualifications for licensure, and the practice of marriage and family therapy to the relevant educational institutions, supervisors, professional associations, applicants, trainees, associates, and the consuming public.
  - (2) Develop policies and procedures to assist educational institutions in meeting the curricula requirements of Sections 4980.36 and 4980.37 and any regulations adopted pursuant to those sections, so that those educational institutions may better provide assurance to their students that the curriculum offered to fulfill the educational requirements for licensure will meet those requirements at the time of the student's application for licensure.
  - (3) Notify applicants in the application procedure when applications are incomplete, inaccurate, or deficient, and inform applicants of any remediation, reconsideration, or appeal procedures that may be applicable.
  - (4) Undertake, or cause to be undertaken, further comprehensive review, in consultation with educational institutions, professional associations, supervisors, associates, and trainees, of the supervision of associates and trainees, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following, and shall propose regulations regarding the supervision of associates and trainees that may include, but not be limited to, the following:
    - (A) Supervisor qualifications.
    - (B) Continuing education requirements of supervisors.
    - (C) Registration or licensing of supervisors, or both.
    - (D) Responsibilities of supervisors in general.
    - (E) The board's authority in cases of noncompliance or negligence by supervisors.
    - (F) The associate's and trainee's need for guidance in selecting well-balanced and high-quality professional training opportunities within his or her community.
    - (G) The role of the supervisor in advising and encouraging his or her associate or trainee regarding the necessity or value and appropriateness of the associate or trainee engaging in personal



psychotherapy, so as to enable the associate or trainee to become a more competent marriage and family therapist.

**§ 4980.36. QUALIFYING DEGREE PROGRAM FOR LICENSURE OR REGISTRATION;  
BEGINNING GRADUATE STUDY AFTER AUGUST 1, 2012 OR COMPLETING GRADUATE  
STUDY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2018**

(a) This section shall apply to the following:

- (1) Applicants for licensure or registration who begin graduate study before August 1, 2012, and do not complete that study on or before December 31, 2018.
- (2) Applicants for licensure or registration who begin graduate study before August 1, 2012, and who graduate from a degree program that meets the requirements of this section.
- (3) Applicants for licensure or registration who begin graduate study on or after August 1, 2012.

(b) To qualify for a license or registration, applicants shall possess a doctoral or master's degree meeting the requirements of this section in marriage, family, and child counseling, marriage and family therapy, couple and family therapy, psychology, clinical psychology, counseling psychology, or either counseling or clinical mental health counseling with an emphasis in either marriage, family, and child counseling or marriage and family therapy. The degree shall be obtained from a school, college, or university approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, or accredited by either the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, or a regional or national institutional accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States Department of Education. The board has the authority to make the final determination as to whether a degree meets all requirements, including, but not limited to, course requirements, regardless of accreditation or approval.

(c) A doctoral or master's degree program that qualifies for licensure or registration shall be a single, integrated program that does the following:

(1) Integrate all of the following throughout its curriculum:

- (A) Marriage and family therapy principles.
- (B) The principles of mental health recovery-oriented care and methods of service delivery in recovery-oriented practice environments, among others.
- (C) An understanding of various cultures and the social and psychological implications of socioeconomic position, and an understanding of how poverty and social stress impact an individual's mental health and recovery.

(2) Allow for innovation and individuality in the education of marriage and family therapists.

(3) Encourage students to develop the personal qualities that are intimately related to effective practice, including, but not limited to, integrity, sensitivity, flexibility, insight, compassion, and personal presence.

(4) Permit an emphasis or specialization that may address any one or more of the unique and complex array of human problems, symptoms, and needs of Californians served by marriage and family therapists.

- (5) Provide students with the opportunity to meet with various consumers and family members of consumers of mental health services to enhance understanding of their experience of mental illness, treatment, and recovery.
- (d) The degree described in subdivision (b) shall contain no less than 60 semester or 90 quarter units of instruction that includes, but is not limited to, the following requirements:
- (1) Both of the following:
- (A) No less than 12 semester or 18 quarter units of coursework in theories, principles, and methods of a variety of psychotherapeutic orientations directly related to marriage and family therapy and marital and family systems approaches to treatment and how these theories can be applied therapeutically with individuals, couples, families, adults, including elder adults, children, adolescents, and groups to improve, restore, or maintain healthy relationships.
- (B) Practicum that involves direct client contact, as follows:
- (i) A minimum of six semester or nine quarter units of practicum in a supervised clinical placement that provides supervised fieldwork experience.
- (ii) A minimum of 150 hours of face-to-face experience counseling individuals, couples, families, or groups.
- (iii) A student must be enrolled in a practicum course while counseling clients, except as specified in subdivision (c) of Section 4980.42.
- (iv) The practicum shall provide training in all of the following areas:
- (I) Applied use of theory and psychotherapeutic techniques.
- (II) Assessment, diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment planning.
- (III) Treatment of individuals and premarital, couple, family, and child relationships, including trauma and abuse, dysfunctions, healthy functioning, health promotion, illness prevention, and working with families.
- (IV) Professional writing, including documentation of services, treatment plans, and progress notes.
- (V) How to connect people with resources that deliver the quality of services and support needed in the community.
- (v) Educational institutions are encouraged to design the practicum required by this subparagraph to include marriage and family therapy experience in low income and multicultural mental health settings.
- (vi) In addition to the 150 hours required in clause (ii), 75 hours of either of the following, or a combination thereof:
- (I) Client centered advocacy, as defined in Section 4980.03.
- (II) Face-to-face experience counseling individuals, couples, families, or groups.
- (2) Instruction in all of the following:

- (A) Diagnosis, assessment, prognosis, treatment planning, and treatment of mental disorders, including severe mental disorders, evidence-based practices, psychological testing, psychopharmacology, and promising mental health practices that are evaluated in peer-reviewed literature.
- (B) Developmental issues from infancy to old age, including instruction in all of the following areas:
  - (i) The effects of developmental issues on individuals, couples, and family relationships.
  - (ii) The psychological, psychotherapeutic, and health implications of developmental issues and their effects.
  - (iii) Aging and its biological, social, cognitive, and psychological aspects. This coursework shall include instruction on the assessment and reporting of, as well as treatment related to, elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect.
  - (iv) A variety of cultural understandings of human development.
  - (v) The understanding of human behavior within the social context of socioeconomic status and other contextual issues affecting social position.
  - (vi) The understanding of human behavior within the social context of a representative variety of the cultures found within California.
  - (vii) The understanding of the impact that personal and social insecurity, social stress, low educational levels, inadequate housing, and malnutrition have on human development.
- (C) The broad range of matters and life events that may arise within marriage and family relationships and within a variety of California cultures, including instruction in all of the following:
  - (i) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting as specified in Section 28, and any regulations promulgated thereunder.
  - (ii) Spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, intervention strategies, and same gender abuse dynamics.
  - (iii) Cultural factors relevant to abuse of partners and family members.
  - (iv) Childbirth, child rearing, parenting, and stepparenting.
  - (v) Marriage, divorce, and blended families.
  - (vi) Long-term care.
  - (vii) End-of-life and grief.
  - (viii) Poverty and deprivation.
  - (ix) Financial and social stress.
  - (x) Effects of trauma.
  - (xi) The psychological, psychotherapeutic, community, and health implications of the matters and life events described in clauses (i) to (x), inclusive.

- (D) Cultural competency and sensitivity, including a familiarity with the racial, cultural, linguistic, and ethnic backgrounds of persons living in California.
- (E) Multicultural development and cross-cultural interaction, including experiences of race, ethnicity, class, spirituality, sexual orientation, gender, and disability, and their incorporation into the psychotherapeutic process.
- (F) The effects of socioeconomic status on treatment and available resources.
- (G) Resilience, including the personal and community qualities that enable persons to cope with adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or other stresses.
- (H) Human sexuality, including the study of physiological, psychological, and social cultural variables associated with sexual behavior and gender identity, and the assessment and treatment of psychosexual dysfunction.
- (I) Substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders, and addiction, including, but not limited to, instruction in all of the following:
  - (i) The definition of substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders, and addiction. For purposes of this subparagraph, “co-occurring disorders” means a mental illness and substance abuse diagnosis occurring simultaneously in an individual.
  - (ii) Medical aspects of substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders.
  - (iii) The effects of psychoactive drug use.
  - (iv) Current theories of the etiology of substance abuse and addiction.
  - (v) The role of persons and systems that support or compound substance abuse and addiction.
  - (vi) Major approaches to identification, evaluation, and treatment of substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders, and addiction, including, but not limited to, best practices.
  - (vii) Legal aspects of substance abuse.
  - (viii) Populations at risk with regard to substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders.
  - (ix) Community resources offering screening, assessment, treatment, and follow up for the affected person and family.
  - (x) Recognition of substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders, and addiction, and appropriate referral.
  - (xi) The prevention of substance use disorders and addiction.
- (J) California law and professional ethics for marriage and family therapists, including instruction in all of the following areas of study:
  - (i) Contemporary professional ethics and statutory, regulatory, and decisional laws that delineate the scope of practice of marriage and family therapy.
  - (ii) The therapeutic, clinical, and practical considerations involved in the legal and ethical practice of marriage and family therapy, including, but not limited to, family law.

- (iii) The current legal patterns and trends in the mental health professions.
  - (iv) The psychotherapist-patient privilege, confidentiality, the patient dangerous to self or others, and the treatment of minors with and without parental consent.
  - (v) A recognition and exploration of the relationship between a practitioner's sense of self and human values and the practitioner's professional behavior and ethics.
  - (vi) The application of legal and ethical standards in different types of work settings.
  - (vii) Licensing law and licensing process.
- (e) The degree described in subdivision (b) shall, in addition to meeting the requirements of subdivision (d), include instruction in case management, systems of care for the severely mentally ill, public and private services and supports available for the severely mentally ill, community resources for persons with mental illness and for victims of abuse, disaster and trauma response, advocacy for the severely mentally ill, and collaborative treatment. This instruction may be provided either in credit level coursework or through extension programs offered by the degree-granting institution.
- (f) The changes made to law by this section are intended to improve the educational qualifications for licensure in order to better prepare future licentiates for practice, and are not intended to expand or restrict the scope of practice for marriage and family therapists.

**§ 4980.37. QUALIFYING DEGREE PROGRAM FOR LICENSURE OR REGISTRATION; BEGAN GRADUATE STUDY BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2012 AND COMPLETED GRADUATE STUDY BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2018**

- (a) This section shall apply to applicants for licensure or registration who began graduate study before August 1, 2012, and completed that study on or before December 31, 2018. Those applicants may alternatively qualify under paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 4980.36.
- (b) To qualify for a license or registration, applicants shall possess a doctoral or master's degree in marriage, family, and child counseling, marriage and family therapy, couple and family therapy, psychology, clinical psychology, counseling psychology, or either counseling or clinical mental health counseling with an emphasis in either marriage, family, and child counseling or marriage and family therapy. The degree shall be obtained from a school, college, or university accredited by a regional or national institutional accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States Department of Education or approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education. The board has the authority to make the final determination as to whether a degree meets all requirements, including, but not limited to, course requirements, regardless of accreditation or approval. In order to qualify for licensure pursuant to this section, a doctoral or master's degree program shall be a single, integrated program primarily designed to train marriage and family therapists and shall contain no less than 48 semester units or 72 quarter units of instruction. This instruction shall include no less than 12 semester units or 18 quarter units of coursework in the areas of marriage, family, and child counseling, and marital and family systems approaches to treatment. The coursework shall include all of the following areas:
- (1) The salient theories of a variety of psychotherapeutic orientations directly related to marriage and family therapy, and marital and family systems approaches to treatment.

- (2) Theories of marriage and family therapy and how they can be utilized in order to intervene therapeutically with couples, families, adults, children, and groups.
- (3) Developmental issues and life events from infancy to old age and their effect on individuals, couples, and family relationships. This may include coursework that focuses on specific family life events and the psychological, psychotherapeutic, and health implications that arise within couples and families, including, but not limited to, childbirth, child rearing, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, marriage, divorce, blended families, stepparenting, abuse and neglect of older and dependent adults, and geropsychology.
- (4) A variety of approaches to the treatment of children.

The board shall, by regulation, set forth the subjects of instruction required in this subdivision.

- (c) (1) In addition to the 12 semester or 18 quarter units of coursework specified in subdivision (b), the doctoral or master's degree program shall contain not less than six semester units or nine quarter units of supervised practicum in applied psychotherapeutic technique, assessments, diagnosis, prognosis, treatment planning, and treatment of premarital, couple, family, and child relationships, including dysfunctions, healthy functioning, health promotion, and illness prevention, in a supervised clinical placement that provides supervised fieldwork experience within the scope of practice of a marriage and family therapist.
  - (2) For applicants who enrolled in a degree program on or after January 1, 1995, the practicum shall include a minimum of 150 hours of face-to-face experience counseling individuals, couples, families, or groups.
  - (3) The practicum hours shall be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72 quarter unit requirement.
- (d) As an alternative to meeting the qualifications specified in subdivision (b), the board shall accept as equivalent degrees those master's or doctoral degrees granted by educational institutions whose degree program is approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.
- (e) In order to provide an integrated course of study and appropriate professional training, while allowing for innovation and individuality in the education of marriage and family therapists, a degree program that meets the educational qualifications for licensure or registration under this section shall do all of the following:
  - (1) Provide an integrated course of study that trains students generally in the diagnosis, assessment, prognosis, treatment planning, and treatment of mental disorders.
  - (2) Prepare students to be familiar with the broad range of matters that may arise within marriage and family relationships.
  - (3) Train students specifically in the application of marriage and family relationship counseling principles and methods.
  - (4) Encourage students to develop those personal qualities that are intimately related to the counseling situation such as integrity, sensitivity, flexibility, insight, compassion, and personal presence.
  - (5) Teach students a variety of effective psychotherapeutic techniques and modalities that may be utilized to improve, restore, or maintain healthy individual, couple, and family relationships.

- (6) Permit an emphasis or specialization that may address any one or more of the unique and complex array of human problems, symptoms, and needs of Californians served by marriage and family therapists.
- (7) Prepare students to be familiar with cross-cultural mores and values, including a familiarity with the wide range of racial and ethnic backgrounds common among California's population, including, but not limited to, Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, and Native Americans.
- (f) Educational institutions are encouraged to design the practicum required by this section to include marriage and family therapy experience in low income and multicultural mental health settings.

**§ 4980.38. NOTIFICATION TO STUDENTS OF DESIGN OF DEGREE PROGRAM;  
CERTIFICATION OF FULFILLMENT OF REQUIREMENTS**

- (a) Each educational institution preparing applicants to qualify for registration or licensure shall notify each of its students by means of its public documents or otherwise in writing that its degree program is designed to meet the requirements of Section 4980.36 or 4980.37, and shall certify to the board that it has so notified its students.
- (b) An applicant for registration or licensure shall submit to the board a certification by the applicant's educational institution that the institution's required curriculum for graduation and any associated coursework completed by the applicant does one of the following:
  - (1) Meets all of the requirements set forth in Section 4980.36.
  - (2) Meets all of the requirements set forth in Section 4980.37 and paragraphs (4) and (5) of subdivision (a) of Section 4980.41.

**§ 4980.39. ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK: AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE**

- (a) An applicant for licensure whose education qualifies him or her under Section 4980.37 shall complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum of 10 contact hours of coursework in aging and long-term care, which may include, but is not limited to, the biological, social, and psychological aspects of aging. On and after January 1, 2012, this coursework shall include instruction on the assessment and reporting of, as well as treatment related to, elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect.
- (b) Coursework taken in fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure pursuant to this chapter, or in a separate course of study, may, at the discretion of the board, fulfill the requirements of this section.
- (c) In order to satisfy the coursework requirement of this section, the applicant shall submit to the board a certification from the chief academic officer of the educational institution from which the applicant graduated stating that the coursework required by this section is included within the institution's required curriculum for graduation, or within the coursework, that was completed by the applicant.
- (d) The board shall not issue a license to the applicant until the applicant has met the requirements of this section.

**§ 4980.395. REQUIRED TRAINING OR COURSEWORK: PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES VIA TELEHEALTH**

- (a) On or after July 1, 2023, an applicant for licensure as a marriage and family therapist shall show, as part of the application, that they have completed a minimum of three hours of training or coursework in the provision of mental health services via telehealth, which shall include law and ethics related to telehealth. This requirement shall be met in one of the following ways:
- (1) Obtained as part of their qualifying graduate degree program. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the registrar or training director of the educational institution or program from which the applicant graduated stating that the coursework required by this section is included within the institution's curriculum required for graduation at the time the applicant graduated, or within the coursework that was completed by the applicant.
  - (2) Obtained by completing a continuing education course that meets the requirements of Section 4980.54. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a certification of completion.
- (b) As a one-time requirement, a licensee before the time of their first renewal after July 1, 2023, or an applicant for reactivation or reinstatement to an active license status on or after July 1, 2023, shall have completed a minimum of three hours of training or coursework in the provision of mental health services via telehealth, which shall include law and ethics related to telehealth, using one of the methods specified in subdivision (a).
- (c) Proof of compliance with subdivision (b) shall be certified under penalty of perjury that they are in compliance with this section and shall be retained for submission to the board upon request.

**§ 4980.396. REQUIRED COURSEWORK OR SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: SUICIDE RISK ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION**

- (a) On or after January 1, 2021, an applicant for licensure as a marriage and family therapist shall show, as part of the application, that they have completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention. This requirement shall be met in one of the following ways:
- (1) Obtained as part of their qualifying graduate degree program. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the registrar or training director of the educational institution or program from which the applicant graduated stating that the coursework required by this section is included within the institution's curriculum required for graduation at the time the applicant graduated, or within the coursework that was completed by the applicant.
  - (2) Obtained as part of their applied experience. Applied experience can be met in any of the following settings: practicum or associateship that meets the requirement of this chapter, formal postdoctoral placement that meets the requirements of Section 2911, or other qualifying supervised experience. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the director of training for the program or primary supervisor where the qualifying experience has occurred stating that the training required by this section is included within the applied experience.



(3) By taking a continuing education course that meets the requirements of Section 4980.54. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a certification of completion.

(b) As a one-time requirement, a licensee prior to the time of their first renewal after January 1, 2021, or an applicant for reactivation or reinstatement to an active license status on or after January 1, 2021, shall have completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention, using one of the methods specified in subdivision (a).

Proof of compliance with this section shall be certified under penalty of perjury that they are in compliance with this section and shall be retained for submission to the board upon request.

### **§ 4980.397. REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS**

(a) A registrant or an applicant for licensure as a marriage and family therapist shall pass the following two examinations as prescribed by the board:

(1) A California law and ethics examination.

(2) A clinical examination.

(b) Upon registration with the board, an associate marriage and family therapist shall, within the first year of registration, take an examination on California law and ethics.

(c) A registrant or an applicant for licensure may take the clinical examination only upon meeting all of the following requirements:

(1) Completion of all required supervised work experience.

(2) Completion of all education requirements.

(3) Passage of the California law and ethics examination.

### **§ 4980.398. EXAMINATION RESTRUCTURE TRANSITION SCENARIOS**

(a) Each applicant who had previously taken and passed the standard written examination but had not passed the clinical vignette examination shall also obtain a passing score on the clinical examination in order to be eligible for licensure.

(b) An applicant who had previously failed to obtain a passing score on the standard written examination shall obtain a passing score on the California law and ethics examination and the clinical examination.

(c) An applicant who had obtained eligibility for the standard written examination shall take the California law and ethics examination and the clinical examination.

(d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

### **§ 4980.399. CALIFORNIA LAW AND ETHICS: EXAMINATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION**

- (a) Except as provided in subdivision (a) of Section 4980.398, each applicant and registrant shall obtain a passing score on a board-administered California law and ethics examination in order to qualify for licensure.
- (b) A registrant shall participate in a board-administered California law and ethics examination before their registration renewal.
- (c) If an applicant fails the California law and ethics examination, they may retake the examination, upon payment of the required fees, without further application.
- (d) The board shall not issue a subsequent registration number unless the applicant has passed the California law and ethics examination.
- (e) A registrant shall complete a minimum of three hours of continuing education on the subject of California law and ethics during each renewal period to be eligible to renew their registration, regardless of whether they have passed the California law and ethics examination. The coursework shall be obtained from a board-accepted provider of continuing education, as specified in Section 4980.54.

### **§ 4980.40. QUALIFICATIONS**

An applicant for licensure shall satisfy all of the following qualifications:

- (a) Meet the educational requirements of Section 4980.36 or both Sections 4980.37 and 4980.41, as applicable.
- (b) Be at least 18 years of age.
- (c) Have at least two years of supervised experience as specified in this chapter and its corresponding regulations.
- (d) Successfully pass a California law and ethics examination and a clinical examination. An applicant who has successfully passed a previously administered written examination may be subsequently required to take and pass another written examination.
- (e) Not be subject to denial of licensure under Section 480. The board shall not issue a registration or license to any person who has been convicted of a crime in this or another state or in a territory of the United States that involves sexual abuse of children or who is required to register pursuant to Section 290 of the Penal Code or the equivalent in another state or territory, in accordance with Section 480.

### **§ 4980.41. ELIGIBILITY TO SIT FOR LICENSING EXAMINATIONS; COURSEWORK OR TRAINING**

- (a) An applicant for licensure whose education qualifies him or her under Section 4980.37 shall complete the following coursework or training in order to be eligible to sit for the licensing examinations as specified in subdivision (d) of Section 4980.40:

- (1) A two semester or three quarter unit course in California law and professional ethics for marriage and family therapists, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following areas of study:
  - (A) Contemporary professional ethics and statutory, regulatory, and decisional laws that delineate the profession's scope of practice.
  - (B) The therapeutic, clinical, and practical considerations involved in the legal and ethical practice of marriage and family therapy, including family law.
  - (C) The current legal patterns and trends in the mental health profession.
  - (D) The psychotherapist-patient privilege, confidentiality, the patient dangerous to self or others, and the treatment of minors with and without parental consent.
  - (E) A recognition and exploration of the relationship between a practitioner's sense of self and human values and his or her professional behavior and ethics.

This course may be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72 quarter unit requirements contained in Section 4980.37.

- (2) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting as specified in Section 28 and any regulations promulgated thereunder.
- (3) A minimum of 10 contact hours of training or coursework in human sexuality as specified in Section 25, and any regulations promulgated thereunder. When coursework in a master's or doctor's degree program is acquired to satisfy this requirement, it shall be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72 quarter unit requirement contained in Section 4980.37.
- (4) For persons who began graduate study on or after January 1, 1986, a master's or doctor's degree qualifying for licensure shall include specific instruction in alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency as specified by regulation. When coursework in a master's or doctor's degree program is acquired to satisfy this requirement, it shall be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72 quarter unit requirement contained in Section 4980.37. Coursework required under this paragraph may be satisfactory if taken either in fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure or in a separate course. The applicant may satisfy this requirement by successfully completing this coursework from a master's or doctoral degree program at an accredited or approved institution, as described in subdivision (b) of Section 4980.37, or from a board-accepted provider of continuing education, as described in Section 4980.54.
- (5) For persons who began graduate study during the period commencing on January 1, 1995, and ending on December 31, 2003, a master's or doctor's degree qualifying for licensure shall include coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention. For persons who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2004, a master's or doctor's degree qualifying for licensure shall include a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies, including knowledge of community resources, cultural factors, and same gender abuse dynamics. Coursework required under this paragraph may be satisfactory if taken either in fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure or in a separate course. The applicant may satisfy this requirement by successfully completing this coursework from a master's or doctoral degree program at an

accredited or approved institution, as described in subdivision (b) of Section 4980.37, or from a board-accepted provider of continuing education, as described in Section 4980.54.

(6) For persons who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2001, an applicant shall complete a minimum of a two semester or three quarter unit survey course in psychological testing. When coursework in a master's or doctor's degree program is acquired to satisfy this requirement, it may be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72 quarter unit requirement of Section 4980.37.

(7) For persons who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2001, an applicant shall complete a minimum of a two semester or three quarter unit survey course in psychopharmacology. When coursework in a master's or doctor's degree program is acquired to satisfy this requirement, it may be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72 quarter unit requirement of Section 4980.37.

(b) The requirements added by paragraphs (6) and (7) of subdivision (a) are intended to improve the educational qualifications for licensure in order to better prepare future licentiates for practice and are not intended in any way to expand or restrict the scope of practice for licensed marriage and family therapists.

#### **§ 4980.42. TRAINEES' SERVICES**

(a) Trainees performing services in any work setting specified in Section 4980.43.3 may perform those activities and services as a trainee, provided that the activities and services constitute part of the trainee's supervised course of study and that the person is designated by the title "trainee."

(b) Trainees subject to Section 4980.37 may gain hours of experience and counsel clients outside of the required practicum. This subdivision shall apply to hours of experience gained and client counseling provided on and after January 1, 2012.

(c) Trainees subject to Section 4980.36 may gain hours of experience outside of the required practicum but must be enrolled in a practicum course to counsel clients. Trainees subject to Section 4980.36 may counsel clients while not enrolled in a practicum course if the period of lapsed enrollment is less than 90 calendar days, and if that period is immediately preceded by enrollment in a practicum course and immediately followed by enrollment in a practicum course or completion of the degree program.

(d) All hours of experience gained pursuant to subdivisions (b) and (c) shall be subject to the other requirements of this chapter.

(e) All hours of experience gained as a trainee shall be coordinated between the school and the site where the hours are being accrued. The school shall approve each site and shall have a written agreement with each site that details each party's responsibilities, including the methods by which supervision shall be provided. The agreement shall provide for regular progress reports and evaluations of the student's performance at the site. If an applicant has gained hours of experience while enrolled in an institution other than the one that confers the qualifying degree, it shall be the applicant's responsibility to provide to the board satisfactory evidence that those hours of trainee experience were gained in compliance with this section.

### § 4980.43. SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: ASSOCIATES OR TRAINEES

- (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), all applicants shall have an active associate registration with the board in order to gain postdegree hours of supervised experience.
- (b) (1) Postdegree hours of experience gained before the issuance of an associate registration shall be credited toward licensure if all of the following apply:
  - (A) The registration applicant applies for the associate registration and the board receives the application within 90 days of the granting of the qualifying master's degree or doctoral degree.
  - (B) For applicants completing graduate study on or after January 1, 2020, the experience is obtained at a workplace that, prior to the registration applicant gaining supervised experience hours, requires completed Live Scan fingerprinting. The applicant shall provide the board with a copy of that completed State of California "Request for Live Scan Service" form with the application for licensure.
  - (C) The board subsequently grants the associate registration.
- (2) The applicant shall not be employed or volunteer in a private practice or a professional corporation until the applicant has been issued an associate registration by the board.
- (c) Supervised experience that is obtained for purposes of qualifying for licensure shall be related to the practice of marriage and family therapy and comply with the following:
  - (1) A minimum of 3,000 hours completed during a period of at least 104 weeks.
  - (2) A maximum of 40 hours in any seven consecutive days.
  - (3) A minimum of 1,700 hours obtained after the qualifying master's or doctoral degree was awarded.
  - (4) A maximum of 1,300 hours obtained prior to the award date of the qualifying master's or doctoral degree.
  - (5) A maximum of 750 hours of counseling and direct supervisor contact prior to the award date of the qualifying master's or doctoral degree.
  - (6) Hours of experience shall not be gained prior to completing either 12 semester units or 18 quarter units of graduate instruction.
  - (7) Hours of experience shall not have been gained more than six years prior to the date the application for licensure was received by the board, except that up to 500 hours of clinical experience gained in the supervised practicum required by subdivision (c) of Section 4980.37 and subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 4980.36 shall be exempt from this six-year requirement.
  - (8) A minimum of 1,750 hours of direct clinical counseling with individuals, groups, couples, or families, that includes not less than 500 total hours of experience in diagnosing and treating couples, families, and children.
  - (9) A maximum of 1,200 hours gained under the supervision of a licensed educational psychologist providing educationally related mental health services that are consistent with the scope of practice of an educational psychologist, as specified in Section 4989.14.

- (10) A maximum of 1,250 hours of nonclinical practice, consisting of direct supervisor contact, administering and evaluating psychological tests, writing clinical reports, writing progress or process notes, client-centered advocacy, and workshops, seminars, training sessions, or conferences directly related to marriage and family therapy that have been approved by the applicant's supervisor.
- (11) It is anticipated and encouraged that hours of experience will include working with elders and dependent adults who have physical or mental limitations that restrict their ability to carry out normal activities or protect their rights.

This subdivision shall only apply to hours gained on and after January 1, 2010.

- (d) An individual who submits an application for licensure between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2020, may alternatively qualify under the experience requirements of this section that were in place on January 1, 2015.

### **§ 4980.43.1. SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- (a) All trainees, associates, and applicants for licensure shall be under the supervision of a supervisor at all times.
- (b) As used in this chapter, the term "supervision" means responsibility for, and control of, the quality of mental health and related services provided by the supervisee. Consultation or peer discussion shall not be considered supervision and shall not qualify as supervised experience. Supervision includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
  - (1) Ensuring the extent, kind, and quality of counseling performed is consistent with the education, training, and experience of the supervisee.
  - (2) Monitoring and evaluating the supervisee's assessment, diagnosis, and treatment decisions and providing regular feedback.
  - (3) Monitoring and evaluating the supervisee's ability to provide services at the site or sites where he or she is practicing and to the particular clientele being served.
  - (4) Monitoring and addressing clinical dynamics, including, but not limited to, countertransference-, intrapsychic-, interpersonal-, or trauma-related issues that may affect the supervisory or practitioner-patient relationship.
  - (5) Ensuring the supervisee's compliance with laws and regulations governing the practice of marriage and family therapy.
  - (6) Reviewing the supervisee's progress notes, process notes, and other patient treatment records, as deemed appropriate by the supervisor.
  - (7) With the client's written consent, providing direct observation or review of audio or video recordings of the supervisee's counseling or therapy, as deemed appropriate by the supervisor.

**§ 4980.43.2. DIRECT SUPERVISOR CONTACT; INOPERATIVE JANUARY 1, 2026**

- (a) Except for experience gained by attending workshops, seminars, training sessions, or conferences, as described in paragraph (10) of subdivision (c) of Section 4980.43, direct supervisor contact shall occur as follows:
- (1) Supervision shall include at least one hour of direct supervisor contact in each week for which experience is credited in each work setting.
  - (2) A trainee shall receive an average of at least one hour of direct supervisor contact for every five hours of direct clinical counseling performed each week in each setting. For experience gained on or after January 1, 2009, no more than six hours of supervision, whether individual, triadic, or group, shall be credited during any single week.
  - (3) An associate gaining experience who performs more than 10 hours of direct clinical counseling in a week in any setting shall receive at least one additional hour of direct supervisor contact for that setting. For experience gained on or after January 1, 2009, no more than six hours of supervision, whether individual, triadic, or group, shall be credited during any single week.
  - (4) Of the 104 weeks of required supervision, 52 weeks shall be individual supervision, triadic supervision, or a combination of both.
- (b) (1) For purposes of this chapter, “one hour of direct supervisor contact” means any of the following:
- (A) Individual supervision, which means one hour of face-to-face contact between one supervisor and one supervisee.
  - (B) Triadic supervision, which means one hour of face-to-face contact between one supervisor and two supervisees.
  - (C) Group supervision, which means two hours of face-to-face contact between one supervisor and no more than eight supervisees. Segments of group supervision may be split into no less than one continuous hour. A supervisor shall ensure that the amount and degree of supervision is appropriate for each supervisee.
- (2) For purposes of this subdivision, “face-to-face contact” means in-person contact, contact via two-way, real-time videoconferencing, or some combination of these.
- (c) The supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with federal and state laws relating to confidentiality of patient health information.
- (d) (1) Within 60 days of the commencement of supervision, a supervisor shall conduct a meeting with the supervisee during which the supervisor shall assess the appropriateness of allowing the supervisee to receive supervision via two-way, real-time videoconferencing. This assessment of appropriateness shall include, but is not limited to, the abilities of the supervisee, the preferences of both the supervisee and supervisor, and the privacy of the locations of the supervisee and supervisor while supervision is conducted.

- (2) The supervisor shall document the results of the assessment made pursuant to paragraph (1), and shall not utilize supervision via two-way, real-time videoconferencing if their assessment finds it is not appropriate.
- (e) Direct supervisor contact shall occur within the same week as the hours claimed.
- (f) Alternative supervision may be arranged during a supervisor's vacation or sick leave if the alternative supervision meets the requirements of this chapter.
- (g) Notwithstanding any other law, once the required number of experience hours are gained, associates and applicants for licensure shall receive a minimum of one hour of direct supervisor contact per week for each practice setting in which direct clinical counseling is performed. Once the required number of experience hours are gained, further supervision for nonclinical practice, as defined in paragraph (10) of subdivision (c) of Section 4980.43, shall be at the supervisor's discretion.
- (h) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.

**§ 4980.43.2. DIRECT SUPERVISOR CONTACT; OPERATIVE JANUARY 1, 2026**

- (a) Except for experience gained by attending workshops, seminars, training sessions, or conferences, as described in paragraph (10) of subdivision (c) of Section 4980.43, direct supervisor contact shall occur as follows:
  - (1) Supervision shall include at least one hour of direct supervisor contact in each week for which experience is credited in each work setting.
  - (2) A trainee shall receive an average of at least one hour of direct supervisor contact for every five hours of direct clinical counseling performed each week in each setting. For experience gained on or after January 1, 2009, no more than six hours of supervision, whether individual, triadic, or group, shall be credited during any single week.
  - (3) An associate gaining experience who performs more than 10 hours of direct clinical counseling in a week in any setting shall receive at least one additional hour of direct supervisor contact for that setting. For experience gained on or after January 1, 2009, no more than six hours of supervision, whether individual, triadic, or group, shall be credited during any single week.
  - (4) Of the 104 weeks of required supervision, 52 weeks shall be individual supervision, triadic supervision, or a combination of both.
- (b) For purposes of this chapter, "one hour of direct supervisor contact" means any of the following:
  - (1) Individual supervision, which means one hour of face-to-face contact between one supervisor and one supervisee.
  - (2) Triadic supervision, which means one hour of face-to-face contact between one supervisor and two supervisees.
  - (3) Group supervision, which means two hours of face-to-face contact between one supervisor and no more than eight supervisees. Segments of group supervision may be split into no less than one continuous hour. A supervisor shall ensure that the amount and degree of supervision is appropriate for each supervisee.
- (c) Direct supervisor contact shall occur within the same week as the hours claimed.



- (d) Alternative supervision may be arranged during a supervisor's vacation or sick leave if the alternative supervision meets the requirements of this chapter.
- (e) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), a supervisee working in an exempt setting described in Section 4980.01 may obtain the required weekly direct supervisor contact via two-way, real-time videoconferencing. The supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with federal and state laws relating to confidentiality of patient health information.
- (f) Notwithstanding any other law, once the required number of experience hours are gained, associates and applicants for licensure shall receive a minimum of one hour of direct supervisor contact per week for each practice setting in which direct clinical counseling is performed. Once the required number of experience hours are gained, further supervision for nonclinical practice, as defined in paragraph (10) of subdivision (c) of Section 4980.43, shall be at the supervisor's discretion.
- (g) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2026.

### **§ 4980.43.3. SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: ACCEPTABLE SETTINGS; ACCEPTABLE SUPERVISION PRACTICES**

- (a) A trainee, associate, or applicant for licensure shall only perform mental health and related services as an employee or volunteer, and not as an independent contractor. The requirements of this chapter regarding hours of experience and supervision shall apply equally to employees and volunteers. A trainee, associate, or applicant for licensure shall not perform any services or gain any experience within the scope of practice of the profession, as defined in Section 4980.02, as an independent contractor. While an associate may be either a paid employee or a volunteer, employers are encouraged to provide fair remuneration.
  - (1) If employed, an associate shall provide the board, upon application for licensure, with copies of the W-2 tax forms for each year of experience claimed.
  - (2) If volunteering, an associate shall provide the board, upon application for licensure, with a letter from the associate's employer verifying the associate's status as a volunteer during the dates the experience was gained.
- (b) (1) A trainee shall not perform services in a private practice or a professional corporation. A trainee may be credited with supervised experience completed in a setting that meets all of the following:
  - (A) Is not a private practice or professional corporation.
  - (B) Lawfully and regularly provides mental health counseling or psychotherapy.
  - (C) Provides oversight to ensure that the trainee's work at the setting meets the experience and supervision requirements in this chapter and is within the scope of practice for the profession, as defined in Section 4980.02.
- (2) Only experience gained in the position for which the trainee volunteers or is employed shall qualify as supervised experience.
- (c) (1) An associate may be credited with supervised experience completed in any setting that meets both of the following:

- (A) Lawfully and regularly provides mental health counseling or psychotherapy.
  - (B) Provides oversight to ensure that the associate's work at the setting meets the experience and supervision requirements in this chapter and is within the scope of practice for the profession, as defined in Section 4980.02.
- (2) Only experience gained in the position for which the associate volunteers or is employed shall qualify as supervised experience.
- (3) An applicant for registration as an associate shall not be employed or volunteer in a private practice or professional corporation until the applicant has been issued an associate registration by the board.
- (d) Any experience obtained under the supervision of a spouse, relative, or domestic partner shall not be credited toward the required hours of supervised experience. Any experience obtained under the supervision of a supervisor with whom the applicant has had or currently has a personal, professional, or business relationship that undermines the authority or effectiveness of the supervision shall not be credited toward the required hours of supervised experience.
- (e) A trainee, associate, or applicant for licensure shall not receive any remuneration from patients or clients and shall only be paid by their employer, if an employee.
- (f) A trainee, associate, or applicant for licensure shall have no proprietary interest in their employer's business and shall not lease or rent space, pay for furnishings, equipment, or supplies, or in any other way pay for the obligations of their employer.
- (g) A trainee, associate, or applicant for licensure who provides voluntary services in any lawful work setting and who only receives reimbursement for expenses actually incurred shall be considered an employee. The board may audit an applicant for licensure who receives reimbursement for expenses and the applicant for licensure shall have the burden of demonstrating that the payment received was for reimbursement of expenses actually incurred.
- (h) A trainee, associate, or applicant for licensure who receives a stipend or educational loan repayment from a program designed to encourage demographically underrepresented groups to enter the profession or to improve recruitment and retention in underserved regions or settings shall be considered an employee. The board may audit an applicant who receives a stipend or educational loan repayment and the applicant shall have the burden of demonstrating that the payment received was for the specified purposes.
- (i) An associate or a trainee may provide services via telehealth that are in the scope of practice outlined in this chapter.
- (j) Each educational institution preparing applicants pursuant to this chapter shall consider requiring, and shall encourage, its students to undergo individual, marital, conjoint, family, or group counseling or psychotherapy, as appropriate. Each supervisor shall consider, advise, and encourage the supervisor's associates and trainees regarding the advisability of undertaking individual, marital, conjoint, family, or group counseling or psychotherapy, as appropriate. Insofar as it is deemed appropriate and is desired by the applicant, educational institutions and supervisors are encouraged to assist the applicant to locate counseling or psychotherapy at a reasonable cost.

#### **§ 4980.43.4. SUPERVISEES: LOCATION OF SERVICES; MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SUPERVISEES; OVERSIGHT AGREEMENT**

- (a) A trainee, associate, or applicant for licensure shall only perform mental health and related services at the places where their employer permits business to be conducted.
- (b) An associate who is employed by or is volunteering in a private practice or a professional corporation shall be supervised by an individual who is both of the following:
  - (1) Is employed by or contracted by the associate's employer or is an owner of the private practice or professional corporation.
  - (2) Either provides psychotherapeutic services to clients for the associate's employer, or meets both of the following:
    - (A) The supervisor and the associate's employer have a written contract providing the supervisor the same access to the associate's clinical records provided to employees of that employer.
    - (B) The associate's clients authorize the release of their clinical records to the supervisor.
- (c) Supervisors of supervisees in a nonexempt setting shall not serve as individual or triadic supervisors for more than six supervisees at any time. Supervisees may be registered as associate marriage and family therapists, associate professional clinical counselors, associate clinical social workers, or any combination of those registrations.
- (d) A written oversight agreement, as specified by the board by regulation, shall be executed between the supervisor and employer when the supervisor is not employed by the supervisee's employer or is a volunteer. The supervisor shall evaluate the site or sites where the supervisee will be gaining experience to determine that the site or sites comply with the requirements of this chapter.

#### **§ 4980.43.5. AUDITS OF SUPERVISORS**

The board may audit the records of any supervisor to verify the completion of the supervisor qualifications specified by this chapter and by regulation. A supervisor shall maintain records of completion of the required supervisor qualifications for seven years after termination of the supervision and shall make these records available to the board for auditing purposes upon request.

#### **§ 4980.44. ASSOCIATE NOTICE TO CLIENT OR PATIENT; ADVERTISEMENTS**

An associate marriage and family therapist employed under this chapter shall comply with the following requirements:

- (a) Inform each client or patient prior to performing any mental health and related services that the person is an unlicensed registered associate marriage and family therapist, provide the person's registration number and the name of the person's employer, and indicate whether the person is under the supervision of a licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed clinical social worker, licensed professional clinical counselor, psychologist licensed pursuant to Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 2900), licensed educational psychologist, or a licensed physician and surgeon certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

(b) (1) Any advertisement by or on behalf of a registered associate marriage and family therapist shall include, at a minimum, all of the following information:

(A) That the person is a registered associate marriage and family therapist.

(B) The associate's registration number.

(C) The name of the person's employer.

(D) That the person is supervised by a licensed person.

(2) The abbreviation "AMFT" shall not be used in an advertisement unless the title "registered associate marriage and family therapist" appears in the advertisement.

#### **§ 4980.46. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES**

Any licensed marriage and family therapist who owns a business using a fictitious business name shall not use any name that is false, misleading, or deceptive, and shall inform the patient, prior to the commencement of treatment, of the name and license designation of the owner or owners of the practice.

#### **§ 4980.48. TRAINEES; NOTICE TO CLIENTS OF UNLICENSED STATUS; ADVERTISEMENTS**

(a) A trainee shall, prior to performing any professional services, inform each client or patient that the trainee is an unlicensed marriage and family therapist trainee, provide the name of the trainee's employer, and indicate whether the trainee is under the supervision of a licensed marriage and family therapist, a licensed clinical social worker, a licensed professional clinical counselor, a licensed psychologist, a licensed physician certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, or a licensed educational psychologist.

(b) Any person that advertises services performed by a trainee shall include the trainee's name, the supervisor's license designation or abbreviation, and the supervisor's license number.

(c) Any advertisement by or on behalf of a marriage and family therapist trainee shall include, at a minimum, all of the following information:

(1) That the trainee is a marriage and family therapist trainee.

(2) The name of the trainee's employer.

(3) That the trainee is supervised by a licensed person.

#### **§ 4980.49. CLIENT RECORDS: RETENTION**

(a) A marriage and family therapist shall retain a client's or patient's health service records for a minimum of seven years from the date therapy is terminated. If the client or patient is a minor, the client's or patient's health service records shall be retained for a minimum of seven years from the date the client or the patient reaches 18 years of age. Health service records may be retained in either a written or an electronic format.

(b) This section shall apply only to the records of a client or patient whose therapy is terminated on or after January 1, 2015.

**§ 4980.50. EXAMINATION; ISSUANCE OF LICENSE; EXAMINATION RECORD RETENTION; SEVEN YEAR LIMITATION ON CLINICAL EXAMINATION**

- (a) Every applicant who meets the educational and experience requirements and applies for a license as a marriage and family therapist shall be examined by the board. The examinations shall be as set forth in subdivision (d) of Section 4980.40. The examinations shall be given at least twice a year at a time and place and under supervision as the board may determine. The board shall examine the candidate with regard to the candidate's knowledge and professional skills and judgment in the utilization of appropriate techniques and methods.
- (b) The board shall not deny any applicant who has submitted a complete application for examination, admission to the licensure examinations required by this section if the applicant meets the educational and experience requirements of this chapter, and has not committed any acts or engaged in any conduct that would constitute grounds to deny licensure.
- (c) The board shall not deny any applicant, whose application for licensure is complete, admission to the clinical examination, nor shall the board postpone or delay any applicant's clinical examination, solely upon the receipt by the board of a complaint alleging acts or conduct that would constitute grounds to deny licensure.
- (d) If an applicant for examination who has passed the California law and ethics examination is the subject of a complaint or is under board investigation for acts or conduct that, if proven to be true, would constitute grounds for the board to deny licensure, the board shall permit the applicant to take the clinical examination for licensure, but may notify the applicant that licensure will not be granted pending completion of the investigation.
- (e) Notwithstanding Section 135, the board may deny any applicant who has previously failed either the California law and ethics examination or the clinical examination permission to retake either examination pending completion of the investigation of any complaints against the applicant. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the board from denying an applicant admission to any examination or refusing to issue a license to any applicant when an accusation or statement of issues has been filed against the applicant pursuant to Sections 11503 and 11504 of the Government Code, respectively, or the applicant has been denied in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 485.
- (f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board may destroy all examination materials two years following the date of an examination.
- (g) An applicant for licensure shall not be eligible to participate in the clinical examination if the applicant fails to obtain a passing score on the clinical examination within seven years from their initial attempt, unless the applicant takes and obtains a passing score on the current version of the California law and ethics examination.
- (h) A passing score on the clinical examination shall be accepted by the board for a period of seven years from the date the examination was taken.

- (i) An applicant for licensure who has qualified pursuant to this chapter shall be issued a license as a marriage and family therapist in the form that the board deems appropriate.

#### **§ 4980.54. CONTINUING EDUCATION**

- (a) The Legislature recognizes that the education and experience requirements in this chapter constitute only minimal requirements to ensure that an applicant is prepared and qualified to take the licensure examinations as specified in subdivision (d) of Section 4980.40 and, if an applicant passes those examinations, to begin practice.
- (b) In order to continuously improve the competence of licensed and registered marriage and family therapists and as a model for all psychotherapeutic professions, the Legislature encourages all licensees and registrants to regularly engage in continuing education related to the profession or scope of practice as defined in this chapter.
- (c) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (e), the board shall not renew any license pursuant to this chapter unless the applicant certifies to the board, on a form prescribed by the board, that the applicant has completed not less than 36 hours of approved continuing education in or relevant to the field of marriage and family therapy in the preceding two years, as determined by the board.  
  
(2) The board shall not renew any registration pursuant to this chapter unless the registrant certifies under penalty of perjury to the board, and on a form prescribed by the board, that they have completed not less than three hours of continuing education on the subject of California law and ethics during the preceding year.
- (d) The board shall have the right to audit the records of any applicant to verify the completion of the continuing education requirement. Applicants shall maintain records of completion of required continuing education coursework for a minimum of two years and shall make these records available to the board for auditing purposes upon request.
- (e) The board may establish exceptions from the continuing education requirements of this section for good cause, as defined by the board.
- (f) The continuing education shall be obtained from one of the following sources:
  - (1) An accredited school or state-approved school that meets the requirements set forth in Section 4980.36 or 4980.37. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as requiring coursework to be offered as part of a regular degree program.
  - (2) Other continuing education providers, as specified by the board by regulation.
- (g) The board shall establish, by regulation, a procedure for identifying acceptable providers of continuing education courses, and all providers of continuing education, as described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (f), shall adhere to procedures established by the board. The board may revoke or deny the right of a provider to offer continuing education coursework pursuant to this section for failure to comply with this section or any regulation adopted pursuant to this section.
- (h) Training, education, and coursework by approved providers shall incorporate one or more of the following:
  - (1) Aspects of the discipline that are fundamental to the understanding or the practice of marriage and family therapy.

- (2) Aspects of the discipline of marriage and family therapy in which significant recent developments have occurred.
- (3) Aspects of other disciplines that enhance the understanding or the practice of marriage and family therapy.
- (i) A system of continuing education for licensed marriage and family therapists shall include courses directly related to the diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of the client population being served.
- (j) The continuing education requirements of this section shall comply fully with the guidelines for mandatory continuing education established by the Department of Consumer Affairs pursuant to Section 166.

#### **§ 4980.55. DISCLOSURE OF COUNSELOR'S QUALIFICATIONS**

As a model for all therapeutic professions, and to acknowledge respect and regard for the consuming public, all licensed marriage and family therapists are encouraged to provide to each client, at an appropriate time and within the context of the psychotherapeutic relationship, an accurate and informative statement of the therapist's experience, education, specialities, professional orientation, and any other information deemed appropriate by the licensee.

#### **§ 4980.57. CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR SPOUSAL OR PARTNER ABUSE**

- (a) The board shall require a licensee who began graduate study prior to January 1, 2004, to take a continuing education course during his or her first renewal period after the operative date of this section in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies, including community resources, cultural factors, and same gender abuse dynamics. On and after January 1, 2005, the course shall consist of not less than seven hours of training. Equivalent courses in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies taken prior to the operative date of this section or proof of equivalent teaching or practice experience may be submitted to the board and at its discretion, may be accepted in satisfaction of this requirement.
- (b) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education required under subdivision (c) of Section 4980.54.

#### **§ 4980.60. RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- (a) The board may adopt those rules and regulations as may be necessary to enable it to carry into effect the provisions of this chapter. The adoption, amendment, or repeal of those rules and regulations shall be made in accordance with Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.
- (b) The board may, by rules or regulations, adopt, amend, or repeal rules of advertising and professional conduct appropriate to the establishment and maintenance of a high standard of integrity in the profession, provided that the rules or regulations are not inconsistent with Section 4982. Every person who holds a license to practice marriage and family therapy shall be governed by the rules of professional conduct.

## **§ 4980.70. ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL**

Except as provided by Section 159.5, the board may employ whatever additional personnel is necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

## **§ 4980.72. OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS: LICENSURE BY CREDENTIAL**

The board may issue a license to a person who, at the time of submitting an application for a license pursuant to this chapter, holds a license in another jurisdiction of the United States as a marriage and family therapist at the highest level for independent clinical practice if all of the following requirements are met:

- (a) The applicant's license in the other jurisdiction has been current, active, and unrestricted in that jurisdiction for at least two years immediately before the date the application was received by the board. The applicant shall disclose to the board for review any past restrictions or disciplinary action on an out-of-state license, and the board shall consider these actions in determining whether to issue a license to the applicant.
- (b) The applicant's degree that qualified the person for the out-of-state license is a master's or doctoral degree that was obtained from an accredited or approved institution.
- (c) The applicant complies with the fingerprint requirements established by Section 144.
- (d) The applicant completes the coursework specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) from an accredited institution or an approved institution or from an acceptable provider of continuing education as specified in Section 4980.54. Undergraduate coursework shall not satisfy these requirements.
  - (1) A minimum of 12 hours of coursework in California law and professional ethics that includes, but is not limited to, instruction in advertising, scope of practice, scope of competence, treatment of minors, confidentiality, dangerous clients, psychotherapist-client privilege, recordkeeping, client access to records, state and federal laws relating to confidentiality of patient health information, dual relationships, child abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, online therapy, insurance reimbursement, civil liability, disciplinary actions and unprofessional conduct, ethics complaints and ethical standards, termination of therapy, standards of care, relevant family law, therapist disclosures to clients, the application of legal and ethical standards in different types of work settings, and licensing law and the licensing process.
  - (2) At least one semester unit, or 15 hours, of instruction that includes an understanding of various California cultures and the social and psychological implications of socioeconomic position.
- (e) The applicant obtains a minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting, as specified in Section 28, and any regulations promulgated pursuant to that section.
- (f) On or after January 1, 2021, the applicant shall show proof of completion of at least six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention using one of the methods specified in Section 4980.396.
- (g) The applicant passes the board-administered California law and ethics examination specified in subdivision (d) of Section 4980.40. The clinical examination specified in subdivision (d) of Section 4980.40 shall be waived for an applicant qualifying under this section.



- (h) This section was developed based on an examination of the licensure requirements for marriage and family therapists on a national level. This section shall not be construed to apply to any provisions under this division or Division 3 (commencing with Section 5000) other than this act.

#### **§ 4980.74. OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS: LICENSURE BY EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE**

- (a) This section applies to persons with education gained from an out-of-state school or experience gained outside of California who apply for licensure or registration and who do not qualify for a license under Section 4980.72.
- (b) The board shall accept education gained from an out-of-state school for purposes of satisfying licensure or registration requirements if the education is substantially equivalent, as defined in Section 4980.78, and the applicant complies with Section 4980.76, if applicable. The applicant's degree title need not be identical to that required by Section 4980.36 or 4980.37.
- (c) The board shall accept experience gained outside of California for purposes of satisfying licensure or registration requirements if the experience is substantially equivalent to the experience required by this chapter. If the applicant has fewer than 3,000 hours of qualifying supervised experience, the board shall accept as qualifying supervised experience the amount of time the applicant held an active license in good standing in another state or country as a marriage and family therapist at the highest level for independent clinical practice at a rate of 100 hours per month, up to a maximum of 1,200 hours.
- (d) An applicant who obtained a license or registration in another state or country may qualify for licensure with the board without taking the clinical examination specified in Section 4980.40 if both of the following conditions are met:
- (1) The applicant obtained a passing score on the clinical licensing examination set forth in regulation as accepted by the board.
  - (2) The applicant's license or registration in that state or country is active, in good standing at the time of the application, and is not revoked, suspended, surrendered, denied, or otherwise restricted or encumbered.

#### **§ 4980.76. DEGREE OBTAINED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES**

An applicant for licensure or registration with a degree obtained from an educational institution outside the United States shall provide the board with a comprehensive evaluation of the degree performed by a foreign credential evaluation service that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES), and shall provide any other documentation the board deems necessary.

#### **§ 4980.78. LICENSURE BY EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT EDUCATION**

- (a) This section applies to persons with education gained from an out-of-state school who apply for licensure or registration and who do not qualify for a license under Section 4980.72.

(b) For purposes of Section 4980.74, education is substantially equivalent if all of the following requirements are met:

- (1) The degree is obtained from an accredited institution or approved institution and consists of, at a minimum, the following:
  - (A) (i) For an applicant who obtained a degree within the timeline prescribed by subdivision (a) of Section 4980.36, the degree shall contain no less than 60 semester units or 90 quarter units of instruction.
    - (ii) Up to 12 semester units or 18 quarter units of instruction may be remediated, if missing from the degree. The remediation may occur while the applicant is registered as an associate.
  - (B) For an applicant who obtained a degree within the timeline prescribed by subdivision (a) of Section 4980.37, the degree shall contain no less than 48 semester units or 72 quarter units of instruction.
  - (C) (i) Six semester units or nine quarter units of supervised practicum, including, but not limited to, a minimum of 150 hours of face-to-face experience counseling individuals, couples, families, or groups, and an additional 75 hours of either face-to-face experience counseling individuals, couples, families, or groups or client centered advocacy, or a combination of face-to-face experience counseling individuals, couples, families, or groups and client centered advocacy.
    - (ii) An out-of-state applicant who holds a valid license in good standing in another state or country as a marriage and family therapist at the highest level for independent clinical practice is exempt from the practicum requirement specified in clause (i).
  - (D) Twelve semester units or 18 quarter units in the areas of marriage, family, and child counseling and marital and family systems approaches to treatment, as specified in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 4980.36.
- (2) The applicant shall complete coursework in California law and ethics as follows:
  - (A) An applicant who completed a course in law and professional ethics for marriage and family therapists as specified in paragraph (8) of subdivision (a) of Section 4980.81, that did not contain instruction in California law and ethics, shall complete a 12-hour course in California law and professional ethics. The content of the course shall include, but not be limited to, advertising, scope of practice, scope of competence, treatment of minors, confidentiality, dangerous patients, psychotherapist-patient privilege, recordkeeping, patient access to records, state and federal laws relating to confidentiality of patient health information, dual relationships, child abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, online therapy, insurance reimbursement, civil liability, disciplinary actions and unprofessional conduct, ethics complaints and ethical standards, termination of therapy, standards of care, relevant family law, therapist disclosures to patients, the application of legal and ethical standards in different types of work settings, and licensing law and licensing process. The coursework shall be from an accredited institution, an approved institution, or from a continuing education provider identified as acceptable by the board pursuant to Section 4980.54. This coursework shall be completed before registration as an associate.

- (B) An applicant who has not completed a course in law and professional ethics for marriage and family therapists as specified in paragraph (8) of subdivision (a) of Section 4980.81 shall complete this required coursework. The coursework shall contain content specific to California law and ethics. This coursework shall be completed before registration as an associate.
- (3) The applicant completes the educational requirements specified in Section 4980.81 not already completed in the applicant's education. The coursework shall be from an accredited institution, an approved institution, or from a continuing education provider that is identified as acceptable by the board pursuant to Section 4980.54. Undergraduate courses shall not satisfy this requirement.
- (4) The applicant completes the following coursework not already completed in the applicant's education from an accredited institution, an approved institution, or from a continuing education provider that is identified as acceptable by the board pursuant to Section 4980.54. Undergraduate courses shall not satisfy this requirement.
  - (A) At least three semester units, or 45 hours, of instruction regarding the principles of mental health recovery-oriented care and methods of service delivery in recovery-oriented practice environments, including structured meetings with various consumers and family members of consumers of mental health services to enhance understanding of their experience of mental illness, treatment, and recovery.
  - (B) At least one semester unit, or 15 hours, of instruction that includes an understanding of various California cultures and the social and psychological implications of socioeconomic position.
- (5) An applicant may complete any units and course content requirements required under paragraphs (3) and (4) not already completed in the applicant's education while registered as an associate, unless otherwise specified.
- (6) On and after January 1, 2021, an applicant for licensure shall show proof of completion of at least six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention using one of the methods specified in Section 4980.396.
- (7) The applicant's degree title need not be identical to that required by subdivision (b) of Section 4980.36.

**§ 4980.81. LICENSURE BY EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK**

This section applies to persons subject to Section 4980.78 who apply for licensure or registration.

- (a) For purposes of Section 4980.78, an applicant shall meet all of the following educational requirements:
  - (1) A minimum of two semester units of instruction in the diagnosis, assessment, prognosis, treatment planning, and treatment of mental disorders, including severe mental disorders, evidence-based practices, and promising mental health practices that are evaluated in peer-reviewed literature.

- (2) At least one semester unit or 15 hours of instruction in psychological testing and at least one semester unit or 15 hours of instruction in psychopharmacology.
- (3) (A) Developmental issues from infancy to old age, including demonstration of at least one semester unit, or 15 hours, of instruction that includes all of the following subjects:
- (i) The effects of developmental issues on individuals, couples, and family relationships.
  - (ii) The psychological, psychotherapeutic, and health implications of developmental issues and their effects.
  - (iii) The understanding of the impact that personal and social insecurity, social stress, low educational levels, inadequate housing, and malnutrition have on human development.
- (B) An applicant who is deficient in any of these subjects may remediate the coursework by completing three hours of instruction in each deficient subject.
- (4) (A) The broad range of matters and life events that may arise within marriage and family relationships and within a variety of California cultures, including instruction in all of the following:
- (i) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting as specified in Section 28 and any regulations promulgated under that section.
  - (ii) A minimum of 10 contact hours of coursework that includes all of the following:
    - (I) The assessment and reporting of, as well as treatment related to, elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect.
    - (II) Aging and its biological, social, cognitive, and psychological aspects.
    - (III) Long-term care.
    - (IV) End-of-life and grief.
  - (iii) A minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, intervention strategies, and same-gender abuse dynamics.
  - (iv) Cultural factors relevant to abuse of partners and family members.
  - (v) Childbirth, child rearing, parenting, and stepparenting.
  - (vi) Marriage, divorce, and blended families.
  - (vii) Poverty and deprivation.
  - (viii) Financial and social stress.
  - (ix) Effects of trauma.
  - (x) The psychological, psychotherapeutic, community, and health implications of the matters and life events described in clauses (i) to (ix), inclusive.
- (5) At least one semester unit, or 15 hours, of instruction in multicultural development and cross-cultural interaction, including experiences of race, ethnicity, class, spirituality, sexual orientation, gender, and disability, and their incorporation into the psychotherapeutic process.

- (6) A minimum of 10 contact hours of training or coursework in human sexuality, as specified in Section 25 and any regulations promulgated under that section, including the study of physiological, psychological, and social cultural variables associated with sexual behavior and gender identity, and the assessment and treatment of psychosexual dysfunction.
- (7) A minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework in substance use disorders, and a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework in co-occurring disorders and addiction. The following subjects shall be included in this coursework:
- (A) The definition of substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders, and addiction. For purposes of this subparagraph, “co-occurring disorders” means a mental illness and substance abuse diagnosis occurring simultaneously in an individual.
  - (B) Medical aspects of substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders.
  - (C) The effects of psychoactive drug use.
  - (D) Current theories of the etiology of substance abuse and addiction.
  - (E) The role of persons and systems that support or compound substance abuse and addiction.
  - (F) Major approaches to identification, evaluation, and treatment of substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders, and addiction, including, but not limited to, best practices.
  - (G) Legal aspects of substance abuse.
  - (H) Populations at risk with regard to substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders.
  - (I) Community resources offering screening, assessment, treatment, and followup for the affected person and family.
  - (J) Recognition of substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders, and addiction, and appropriate referral.
  - (K) The prevention of substance use disorders and addiction.
- (8) A minimum of a two semester or three quarter unit course in law and professional ethics for marriage and family therapists, including instruction in all of the following subjects:
- (A) Contemporary professional ethics and statutory, regulatory, and decisional laws that delineate the scope of practice of marriage and family therapy.
  - (B) The therapeutic, clinical, and practical considerations involved in the legal and ethical practice of marriage and family therapy, including, but not limited to, family law.
  - (C) The current legal patterns and trends in the mental health professions.
  - (D) The psychotherapist-patient privilege, confidentiality, the patient dangerous to self or others, and the treatment of minors with and without parental consent.
  - (E) A recognition and exploration of the relationship between a practitioner’s sense of self and human values and their professional behavior and ethics.
  - (F) The application of legal and ethical standards in different types of work settings.
  - (G) Licensing law and licensing process.

## ARTICLE 2. DENIAL, SUSPENSION, AND REVOCATION

### § 4982. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The board may deny a license or registration or may suspend or revoke the license or registration of a licensee or registrant if the licensee or registrant has been guilty of unprofessional conduct. Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- (a) The conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a licensee or registrant under this chapter. The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence only of the fact that the conviction occurred. The board may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime in order to fix the degree of discipline or to determine if the conviction is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a licensee or registrant under this chapter. A conviction has the same meaning as defined in Section 7.5. The board may order any license or registration suspended or revoked, or may decline to issue a license or registration when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or, when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence. All actions pursuant to this subdivision shall be taken pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475).
- (b) Securing a license or registration by fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation on any application for licensure or registration submitted to the board, whether engaged in by an applicant for a license or registration, or by a licensee in support of any application for licensure or registration.
- (c) Administering to themselves any controlled substance or using of any of the dangerous drugs specified in Section 4022, or of any alcoholic beverage to the extent, or in a manner, as to be dangerous or injurious to the person applying for a registration or license or holding a registration or license under this chapter, or to any other person, or to the public, or, to the extent that the use impairs the ability of the person applying for or holding a registration or license to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by the registration or license. The board shall deny an application for a registration or license or revoke the license or registration of any person, other than one who is licensed as a physician and surgeon, who uses or offers to use drugs in the course of performing marriage and family therapy services.
- (d) Gross negligence or incompetence in the performance of marriage and family therapy.
- (e) Violating, attempting to violate, or conspiring to violate any of the provisions of this chapter or any regulation adopted by the board.
- (f) Misrepresentation as to the type or status of a license or registration held by the licensee or registrant or otherwise misrepresenting or permitting misrepresentation of the licensee's or registrant's education, professional qualifications, or professional affiliations to any person or entity.
- (g) Impersonation of another by any licensee, registrant, or applicant for a license or registration, or, in the case of a licensee or registrant, allowing any other person to use the licensee's or registrant's license or registration.
- (h) Aiding or abetting, or employing, directly or indirectly, any unlicensed or unregistered person to engage in conduct for which a license or registration is required under this chapter.
- (i) Intentionally or recklessly causing physical or emotional harm to any client.

- (j) The commission of any dishonest, corrupt, or fraudulent act substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a licensee or registrant.
- (k) Engaging in sexual relations with a client, or a former client within two years following termination of therapy, soliciting sexual relations with a client, or committing an act of sexual abuse, or sexual misconduct with a client, or committing an act punishable as a sexually related crime, if that act or solicitation is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a marriage and family therapist.
- (l) Performing, or holding oneself out as being able to perform, or offering to perform, or permitting any trainee, registered associate, or applicant for licensure under supervision to perform, any professional services beyond the scope of the license authorized by this chapter.
- (m) Failure to maintain confidentiality, except as otherwise required or permitted by law, of all information that has been received from a client in confidence during the course of treatment and all information about the client that is obtained from tests or other means.
- (n) Prior to the commencement of treatment, failing to disclose to the client or prospective client the fee to be charged for the professional services, or the basis upon which that fee will be computed.
- (o) Paying, accepting, or soliciting any consideration, compensation, or remuneration, whether monetary or otherwise, for the referral of professional clients. All consideration, compensation, or remuneration shall be in relation to professional counseling services actually provided by the licensee. This subdivision does not prevent collaboration among two or more licensees in a case or cases. However, a fee shall not be charged for that collaboration, except when disclosure of the fee has been made in compliance with subdivision (n).
- (p) Advertising in a manner that is false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive, as defined in Section 651.
- (q) Reproduction or description in public, or in any publication subject to general public distribution, of any psychological test or other assessment device, the value of which depends in whole or in part on the naivete of the subject, in ways that might invalidate the test or device.
- (r) Any conduct in the supervision of any registered associate, trainee, or applicant for licensure by any licensee that violates this chapter or any rules or regulations adopted by the board.
- (s) Performing or holding oneself out as being able to perform mental health services beyond the scope of one's competence, as established by one's education, training, or experience. This subdivision shall not be construed to expand the scope of the license authorized by this chapter.
- (t) Permitting a trainee, registered associate, or applicant for licensure under one's supervision or control to perform, or permitting the trainee, registered associate, or applicant for licensure to hold themselves out as competent to perform, mental health services beyond the trainee's, registered associate's, or applicant for licensure's level of education, training, or experience.
- (u) The violation of any statute or regulation governing the gaining and supervision of experience required by this chapter.
- (v) Failure to keep records consistent with sound clinical judgment, the standards of the profession, and the nature of the services being rendered.
- (w) Failure to comply with the child abuse reporting requirements of Section 11166 of the Penal Code.

- (x) Failure to comply with the elder and dependent adult abuse reporting requirements of Section 15630 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- (y) Willful violation of Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 123100) of Part 1 of Division 106 of the Health and Safety Code.
- (z) Failure to comply with Section 2290.5.
- (aa) (1) Engaging in an act described in Section 261, 286, 287, or 289 of, or former Section 288a of, the Penal Code with a minor or an act described in Section 288 or 288.5 of the Penal Code regardless of whether the act occurred prior to or after the time the registration or license was issued by the board. An act described in this subdivision occurring prior to the effective date of this subdivision shall constitute unprofessional conduct and shall subject the licensee to refusal, suspension, or revocation of a license under this section.
  - (2) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that protection of the public, and in particular minors, from sexual misconduct by a licensee is a compelling governmental interest, and that the ability to suspend or revoke a license for sexual conduct with a minor occurring prior to the effective date of this section is equally important to protecting the public as is the ability to refuse a license for sexual conduct with a minor occurring prior to the effective date of this section.
- (ab) Engaging in any conduct that subverts or attempts to subvert any licensing examination or the administration of an examination as described in Section 123.

#### **§ 4982.05. ENFORCEMENT STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS**

- (a) Except as provided in subdivisions (b), (c), and (e) any accusation filed against a licensee pursuant to Section 11503 of the Government Code shall be filed within three years from the date the board discovers the alleged act or omission that is the basis for disciplinary action, or within seven years from the date the alleged act or omission that is the basis for disciplinary action occurred, whichever occurs first.
- (b) An accusation filed against a licensee pursuant to Section 11503 of the Government Code alleging the procurement of a license by fraud or misrepresentation is not subject to the limitations set forth in subdivision (a).
- (c) The limitation provided for by subdivision (a) shall be tolled for the length of time required to obtain compliance when a report required to be filed by the licensee or registrant with the board pursuant to Article 11 (commencing with Section 800) of Chapter 1 is not filed in a timely fashion.
- (d) If an alleged act or omission involves a minor, the seven-year limitations period provided for by subdivision (a) and the 10-year limitations period provided for by subdivision (e) shall be tolled until the minor reaches the age of majority.
- (e) An accusation filed against a licensee pursuant to Section 11503 of the Government Code alleging sexual misconduct shall be filed within three years after the board discovers the act or omission alleged as the grounds for disciplinary action, or within 10 years after the act or omission alleged as the grounds for disciplinary action occurs, whichever occurs first. This subdivision shall apply to a complaint alleging sexual misconduct received by the board on and after January 1, 2002.
- (f) The limitations period provided by subdivision (a) shall be tolled during any period if material



evidence necessary for prosecuting or determining whether a disciplinary action would be appropriate is unavailable to the board due to an ongoing criminal investigation.

- (g) For purposes of this section, “discovers” means the later of the occurrence of any of the following with respect to each act or omission alleged as the basis for disciplinary action:
- (1) The date the board received a complaint or report describing the act or omission.
  - (2) The date, subsequent to the original complaint or report, on which the board became aware of any additional acts or omissions alleged as the basis for disciplinary action against the same individual.
  - (3) The date the board receives from the complainant a written release of information pertaining to the complainant’s diagnosis and treatment.

## **UNCODIFIED LAW RELATING TO SECTION 4982.05**

This act shall apply to all accusations filed on or after January 1, 2000.

### **§ 4982.1. MENTAL ILLNESS OR CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY; GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL TO LICENSE OR REGISTER**

The board may refuse to issue any registration or license whenever it appears that an applicant may be unable to practice his or her profession safely due to mental illness or chemical dependency. The procedures set forth in Article 12.5 (commencing with Section 820) of Chapter 1 shall apply to any denial of a license or registration pursuant to this section.

### **§ 4982.15. PLACING OF LICENSE OR REGISTRATION ON PROBATION; CIRCUMSTANCES**

- (a) The board may place a license or registration on probation under the following circumstances:
- (1) In lieu of, or in addition to, any order of the board suspending or revoking the license or registration of any licensee or associate.
  - (2) Upon the issuance of a license to an individual who has been guilty of unprofessional conduct, but who had otherwise completed all education and training and experience required for licensure.
  - (3) As a condition upon the reissuance or reinstatement of any license that has been suspended or revoked by the board.
- (b) The board may adopt regulations establishing a monitoring program to ensure compliance with any terms or conditions of probation imposed by the board pursuant to subdivision (a). The cost of probation or monitoring may be ordered to be paid by the licensee, registrant, or applicant.
- (c) The board, in its discretion, may require any licensee or registrant who has been placed on probation, or whose license or registration has been suspended, to obtain additional professional training, and to pass an examination upon completion of that training, and to pay any necessary examination fee. The examination may be written, oral, or a practical or clinical examination.

## **§ 4982.25. DENIAL OF APPLICATION OR SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE OR REGISTRATION; GROUNDS**

The board may deny an application, or may suspend or revoke a license or registration issued under this chapter, for any of the following:

- (a) Denial of licensure, revocation, suspension, restriction, or any other disciplinary action imposed by another state or territory or possession of the United States, or by any other governmental agency, on a license, certificate, or registration to practice marriage and family therapy, or any other healing art, shall constitute unprofessional conduct. A certified copy of the disciplinary action decision or judgment shall be conclusive evidence of that action.
- (b) Revocation, suspension, or restriction by the board of a license, certificate, or registration to practice as a marriage and family therapist, clinical social worker, professional clinical counselor, or educational psychologist shall also constitute grounds for disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct against the licensee or registrant under this chapter.

## **§ 4982.26. DECISION CONTAINING FINDING THAT LICENSEE OR REGISTRANT ENGAGED IN SEXUAL CONTACT WITH PATIENT OR FORMER PATIENT; ORDER OF REVOCATION**

The board shall revoke any license issued under this chapter upon a decision made in accordance with the procedures set forth in Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, that contains any finding of fact that the licensee or registrant engaged in any act of sexual contact, as defined in Section 729, when that act is with a patient, or with a former patient when the relationship was terminated primarily for the purpose of engaging in that act. The revocation shall not be stayed by the administrative law judge or the board.

## **§ 4982.3. CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS**

The proceedings conducted under this article shall be held in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

# **ARTICLE 3. PENALTIES**

## **§ 4983. VIOLATION; MISDEMEANOR; PUNISHMENT**

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six months, or by a fine not exceeding two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500), or by both.

## **§ 4983.1. INJUNCTION**

In addition to other proceedings provided for in this chapter, whenever any person has engaged, or is about to engage, in any acts or practices which constitute, or will constitute, an offense against this chapter, the superior court in and for the county wherein the acts or practices take place, or are about to take place, may issue an injunction, or other appropriate order, restraining such conduct on

application of the board, the Attorney General, or the district attorney of the county.

The proceedings under this section shall be governed by Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 525) of Title 7 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

## **ARTICLE 4. REVENUE**

### **§ 4984. EXPIRATION OF LICENSES; RENEWAL OF UNEXPIRED LICENSES**

- (a) Licenses issued under this chapter shall expire no more than 24 months after the issue date. The expiration date of the original license shall be set by the board.
- (b) To renew an unexpired license, the licensee, on or before the expiration date of the license, shall do all of the following:
  - (1) Apply for a renewal on a form prescribed by the board.
  - (2) Pay a two-year renewal fee prescribed by the board.
  - (3) Certify compliance with the continuing education requirements set forth in Section 4980.54.
  - (4) Notify the board whether he or she has been convicted, as defined in Section 490, of a misdemeanor or felony, or whether any disciplinary action has been taken by any regulatory or licensing board in this or any other state, subsequent to the licensee's last renewal.

### **§ 4984.01. ASSOCIATE REGISTRATION; DURATION; RENEWAL**

- (a) The associate marriage and family therapist registration shall expire one year from the last day of the month in which it was issued.
- (b) To renew the registration, the registrant shall, on or before the expiration date of the registration, complete all of the following actions:
  - (1) Apply for renewal on a form prescribed by the board.
  - (2) Pay a renewal fee prescribed by the board.
  - (3) Participate in the California law and ethics examination pursuant to Section 4980.399 each year until successful completion of this examination.
  - (4) Notify the board whether they have been convicted, as defined in Section 490, of a misdemeanor or felony, and whether any disciplinary action has been taken against them by a regulatory or licensing board in this or any other state subsequent to the last renewal of the registration.
  - (5) Certify under penalty of perjury their compliance with the continuing education requirements set forth in Section 4980.54.
- (c) An expired registration may be renewed by completing all of the actions described in paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (b).
- (d) The registration may be renewed a maximum of five times. No registration shall be renewed or reinstated beyond six years from the last day of the month during which it was issued, regardless

of whether it has been revoked. When no further renewals are possible, an applicant may apply for and obtain a subsequent associate registration number if the applicant meets the educational requirements for a subsequent associate registration number and has passed the California law and ethics examination. An applicant who is issued a subsequent associate registration number pursuant to this subdivision shall not be employed or volunteer in a private practice.

#### **§ 4984.1. RENEWAL OF EXPIRED LICENSES**

A licensee may renew a license at any time within three years after its expiration by completing all of the actions described in subdivision (b) of Section 4984 and paying any delinquency fees.

#### **§ 4984.2. SUSPENDED LICENSE; RENEWAL**

A suspended license is subject to expiration and shall be renewed as provided in this article, but such renewal does not entitle the licensee, while it remains suspended and until it is reinstated, to engage in the activity to which the license relates, or in any other activity or conduct in violation of the order or judgment by which it was suspended.

#### **§ 4984.3. REVOKED LICENSE; REINSTATEMENT**

A revoked license is subject to expiration as provided in this article, but it may not be renewed. If it is reinstated after its expiration, the licensee shall, as a condition precedent to its reinstatement, pay a reinstatement fee in an amount equal to the renewal fee in effect on the last regular renewal date before the date on which it is reinstated, plus the delinquency fee, if any, accrued at the time of its revocation.

#### **§ 4984.4. TIME LIMIT FOR RENEWAL AFTER EXPIRATION; NEW LICENSE**

A license that is not renewed within three years after its expiration shall not be renewed, restored, reinstated, or reissued; however, the former licensee may apply for and obtain a new license if the following criteria are satisfied:

- (a) No fact, circumstance, or condition exists that, if the license were issued, would constitute grounds for its revocation or suspension.
- (b) He or she submits an application for licensure and the fee for that application.
- (c) He or she takes and passes the current licensing examinations.
- (d) He or she submits the fee for initial license issuance.
- (e) He or she complies with the fingerprint requirements established by board regulation.

#### **§ 4984.41. ISSUANCE OF A RETIRED LICENSE – MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST**

- (a) The board shall issue, upon application and payment of the fee fixed by this chapter, a retired license to a marriage and family therapist who holds a license that is current and active or a

license that is inactive, and whose license is not suspended, revoked, or otherwise punitively restricted by the board or subject to disciplinary action under this chapter.

- (b) The holder of a retired license issued pursuant to this section shall not engage in any activity for which an active marriage and family therapist license is required.
- (c) The holder of a retired license shall not be required to renew that license.
- (d) The holder of a retired license may apply to restore to active status his or her license to practice marriage and family therapy if that retired license was issued less than three years prior to the application date, and the applicant meets all of the following requirements:
  - (1) Has not committed an act or crime constituting grounds for denial of licensure.
  - (2) Pays the renewal fee required by this chapter.
  - (3) Completes the required continuing education as specified in Section 4980.54.
  - (4) Complies with the fingerprint submission requirements established by the board in regulation.
- (e) An applicant requesting to restore his or her license pursuant to subdivision (d), whose license was issued in accordance with this section less than one year from the date of the application, shall complete 18 hours of continuing education as specified in Section 4980.54.
- (f) An applicant requesting to restore his or her license pursuant to subdivision (d), whose license was issued in accordance with this section one or more years from the date of the application, shall complete 36 hours of continuing education as specified in Section 4980.54.
- (g) The holder of a retired license may apply to restore to active status his or her license to practice marriage and family therapy if that retired license was issued three or more years prior to the application date, and the applicant meets all of the following requirements:
  - (1) Has not committed an act or crime constituting grounds for denial of licensure.
  - (2) Applies for licensure and pays the fee required by this chapter.
  - (3) Passes the examinations required for licensure.
  - (4) Complies with the fingerprint submission requirements established by the board in regulation.

#### **§ 4984.5. BOARD REPORT AND PAYMENT OF REVENUE**

The board shall report each month to the Controller the amount and source of all revenue received pursuant to this chapter and at the same time pay the entire amount thereof into the State Treasury for credit to the Behavioral Sciences Fund.

#### **§ 4984.7. FEE SCHEDULE**

- (a) The board shall assess the following fees relating to the licensure of marriage and family therapists:

- (1) The application fee for an associate registration shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300).
  - (2) The annual renewal fee for an associate registration shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300).
  - (3) The fee for the application for licensure shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of five hundred dollars (\$500).
  - (4) (A) (i) The fee for the clinical examination shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of five hundred dollars (\$500).
    - (ii) The fee for the California law and ethics examination shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300).
  - (B) An applicant who fails to appear for an examination, after having been scheduled to take the examination, shall forfeit the examination fee.
  - (C) The amount of the examination fees shall be based on the actual cost to the board of developing, purchasing, and grading each examination and the actual cost to the board of administering each examination. The examination fees shall be adjusted periodically by regulation to reflect the actual costs incurred by the board.
  - (5) The fee for rescoring an examination shall be twenty dollars (\$20).
  - (6) The fee for the issuance of an initial license shall be two hundred dollars (\$200). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of four hundred dollars (\$400).
  - (7) The fee for the two-year license renewal shall be two hundred dollars (\$200). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of four hundred dollars (\$400).
  - (8) The renewal delinquency fee shall be one-half of the fee for license renewal. A person who permits their license to expire is subject to the delinquency fee.
  - (9) The fee for issuance of a replacement registration, license, or certificate shall be twenty dollars (\$20).
  - (10) The fee for issuance of a certificate or letter of good standing shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25).
  - (11) The fee for issuance of a retired license shall be forty dollars (\$40).
- (b) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2021.

**§ 4984.72. FAILED CLINICAL EXAMINATION; REEXAMINATION; NEW APPLICATION REQUIREMENT**

- (a) Effective January 1, 2016, an applicant who fails the clinical examination may, within one year from the notification date of that failure, retake the examination as regularly scheduled without further application upon payment of the fee for the examination. Thereafter, the applicant shall not be eligible for further examination until he or she files a new application, meets all requirements in effect on the date of application, and pays all required fees.
- (b) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

**§ 4984.75. ADDITIONAL LICENSE RENEWAL FEE; MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER EDUCATION FUND**

- (a) In addition to the fees charged pursuant to Section 4984.7 for the biennial renewal of a license pursuant to Section 4984, the board shall collect an additional fee of twenty dollars (\$20) at the time of renewal. The board shall transfer this amount to the Controller who shall deposit the funds in the Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund.
- (b) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2018.

**§ 4984.8. INACTIVE LICENSE**

- (a) A licensee may apply to the board to request that his or her license be placed on inactive status.
- (b) A licensee on inactive status shall be subject to this chapter and shall not engage in the practice of marriage and family therapy in this state.
- (c) A licensee who holds an inactive license shall pay a biennial fee in the amount of one-half of the standard renewal fee and shall be exempt from continuing education requirements.
- (d) A licensee on inactive status who has not committed an act or crime constituting grounds for denial of licensure may, upon request, restore his or her license to practice marriage and family therapy to active status.
  - (1) A licensee requesting to restore his or her license to active status between renewal cycles shall pay the remaining one-half of his or her renewal fee.
  - (2) A licensee requesting to restore his or her license to active status, whose license will expire less than one year from the date of the request, shall complete 18 hours of continuing education as specified in Section 4980.54.
  - (3) A licensee requesting to restore his or her license to active status, whose license will expire more than one year from the date of the request, shall complete 36 hours of continuing education as specified in Section 4980.54.

## **§ 4984.9. LICENSEE OR REGISTRANT NAME CHANGE**

A licensee or registrant shall give written notice to the board of a name change, giving both the old and new names. The written notice shall be submitted to the board within 30 days of the issuance of a new government-issued photographic identification. The licensee or registrant shall certify the information by signing a statement under penalty of perjury. A copy of both of the following documents evidencing the change shall be submitted with the notice:

- (a) A current government-issued photographic identification.
- (b) The legal document authorizing the name change, such as a court order or a marriage certificate.

## **ARTICLE 6. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST CORPORATIONS**

### **§ 4987.5. DEFINITION**

A marriage and family therapy corporation is a corporation that is authorized to render professional services, as defined in Section 13401 of the Corporations Code, so long as that corporation and its shareholders, officers, directors, and employees rendering professional services are in compliance with the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act (Part 4 (commencing with Section 13400) of Division 3 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code), this article, and any other statute or regulation pertaining to that corporation and the conduct of its affairs. With respect to a marriage and family therapy corporation, the governmental agency referred to in the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act is the Board of Behavioral Sciences.

### **§ 4987.6. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

It shall constitute unprofessional conduct and a violation of this chapter for any person licensed under this chapter to violate, attempt to violate, directly or indirectly, or assist in or abet the violation of, or conspire to violate, any provision or term of this article, the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act (Part 4(commencing with Section 13400) of Division 3 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code), or any regulations duly adopted under those laws.

### **§ 4987.7. NAME**

The name of a marriage and family therapy corporation shall contain one or more of the words "marriage," "family," or "child" together with one or more of the words "counseling," "counselor," "therapy," or "therapist," and wording or abbreviations denoting corporate existence. A marriage and family therapy corporation that conducts business under a fictitious business name shall not use any name that is false, misleading or deceptive, and shall inform the patient, prior to the commencement of treatment, that the business is conducted by a marriage and family therapy corporation.

### **§ 4987.8. DIRECTORS, SHAREHOLDERS AND OFFICERS; NECESSITY OF LICENSE**

Except as provided in Section 13403 of the Corporations Code, each director, shareholder, and officer of a marriage and family therapy corporation shall be a licensed person as defined in the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act.



## **§ 4988. INCOME FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES NOT TO ACCRUE TO DISQUALIFIED SHAREHOLDERS**

The income of a marriage and family therapy corporation attributable to professional services rendered while a shareholder is a disqualified person (as defined in the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act) shall not in any manner accrue to the benefit of that shareholder or his or her shares in the marriage and family therapy corporation.

### **§ 4988.1. CORPORATE UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

A marriage and family therapy corporation shall not do or fail to do any act the doing of which or the failure to do which would constitute unprofessional conduct under any statute, rule or regulation now or hereafter in effect. In the conduct of its practice, it shall observe and be bound by statutes, rules and regulations to the same extent as a person holding a license as a marriage and family therapist.

### **§ 4988.2. RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The board may formulate and enforce rules and regulations to carry out the purposes and objectives of this article, including rules and regulations requiring (a) that the articles of incorporation or bylaws of a marriage and family therapy corporation shall include a provision whereby the capital stock of the corporation owned by a disqualified person (as defined in the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act), or a deceased person, shall be sold to the corporation or to the remaining shareholders of the corporation within the time that rules and regulations may provide, and (b) that a marriage and family therapy corporation shall provide adequate security by insurance or otherwise for claims against it by its patients arising out of the rendering of professional services.

## **ARTICLE 7. REVIEW**

### **§ 4989. POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARD; DATE OF REVIEW**

The powers and duties of the board, as set forth in this chapter, shall be subject to the review required by Division 1.2 (commencing with Section 473). The first review shall be performed as if this chapter were scheduled to become inoperative on July 1, 2005, and would be repealed as of January 1, 2006, as described in Section 473.1.

## CHAPTER 13.5. LICENSED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

*Note to the reader: This Chapter contains the Educational Psychologist Practice Act. It should be reviewed in conjunction with the regulation section of this book. However, the materials shown here do not encompass all laws applicable to the profession. You can utilize the following links as a resource for searching all statutes and regulations related to the profession.*

- [California Statutes](#)
- [California Code of Regulations](#)

### ARTICLE 1. GENERAL

#### § 4989.10. EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST PRACTICE ACT

This chapter shall be known, and may be cited as, the Educational Psychologist Practice Act.

#### § 4989.12. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CHAPTER

The Board of Behavioral Sciences shall administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter. For the purposes of this chapter it shall be designated as the board.

#### § 4989.13. ENGAGING IN PRACTICE

A person engages in the practice of educational psychology when he or she performs or offers to perform or holds himself or herself out as able to perform this service for remuneration in any form, including donations.

#### § 4989.14. SCOPE OF PRACTICE

- (a) The practice of educational psychology is the performance of any of the following professional functions pertaining to academic learning processes or the educational system or both:
- (1) Educational evaluation.
  - (2) Diagnosis of psychological disorders related to academic learning processes.
  - (3) Administration of diagnostic tests related to academic learning processes including tests of academic ability, learning patterns, achievement, motivation, and personality factors.
  - (4) Interpretation of diagnostic tests related to academic learning processes including tests of academic ability, learning patterns, achievement, motivation, and personality factors.
  - (5) Providing psychological counseling for individuals, groups, and families.
  - (6) Consultation with other educators and parents on issues of social development and behavioral and academic difficulties.
  - (7) Conducting psychoeducational assessments for the purposes of identifying special needs.

- (8) Developing treatment programs and strategies to address problems of adjustment.
  - (9) Coordinating intervention strategies for management of individual crises.
- (b) For purposes of supervising an associate marriage and family therapist or a marriage and family therapist trainee pursuant to Section 4980.03, an associate clinical social worker pursuant to Section 4996.20, or an associate professional clinical counselor pursuant to Section 4999.12, “educationally related mental health services” are mental health services provided to clients who have social, emotional, or behavioral issues that interfere with their educational progress. These services include all of the following:
- (1) Educationally related counseling services to clients qualified for special education that are necessary to receive a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment pursuant to the federal requirements of Section 1412 of Title 20 of the United States Code.
  - (2) Intensive counseling services on a continuum that may reflect an increase in frequency, duration, or staff specialization to address the client’s emotional and behavioral needs.
  - (3) Counseling services provided by qualified practitioners.
  - (4) Parent counseling and training.
  - (5) Psychological services that include consulting with staff members in planning school programs to meet the client’s educational needs and assisting in developing positive behavioral intervention strategies for the client.
  - (6) Social work services such as preparing a social or developmental history on a client with a disability.
  - (7) Group and individualized counseling with the client and family.
  - (8) Mobilizing school and community resources to enable the client to learn as effectively as possible in their educational program, as outlined in Section 300.34 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

**§ 4989.16. LICENSING EXCEPTIONS**

- (a) A person appropriately credentialed by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing may perform the functions authorized by that credential in a public school without a license issued under this chapter by the board.
- (b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to constrict, limit, or withdraw the Medical Practice Act (Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2000)), the Nursing Practice Act (Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 2700)), the Psychology Licensing Law (Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 2900)), the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Practice Act (Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 4980)), the Clinical Social Worker Practice Act (Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 4991)), or the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor Act (Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 4999.10)).

**§ 4989.17. REQUIRED NOTICE TO CLIENTS**

- (a) On and after July 1, 2020, a licensee shall provide a client with a notice written in at least 12-point type prior to initiating psychological services, or as soon as practicably possible thereafter, that reads as follows:

## NOTICE TO CLIENTS

The Board of Behavioral Sciences receives and responds to complaints regarding services provided within the scope of practice of licensed educational psychologists. You may contact the board online at [www.bbs.ca.gov](http://www.bbs.ca.gov), or by calling (916) 574-7830.

(b) Delivery of the notice required by this section to the client shall be documented.

### **§ 4989.18. RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

The board may, by rules or regulations, adopt, amend, or repeal rules of professional conduct appropriate to the establishment and maintenance of a high standard of integrity and dignity in the profession, provided those rules or regulations are not inconsistent with Section 4989.54. Every person licensed under this chapter shall be governed by those rules of professional conduct.

## **ARTICLE 2. LICENSURE**

### **§ 4989.20. LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS**

- (a) The board may issue a license as an educational psychologist if the applicant satisfies, with proof satisfactory to the board, the following requirements:
- (1) Possession of, at minimum, a master's degree in psychology, educational psychology, school psychology, counseling and guidance, or a degree deemed equivalent by the board. This degree shall be obtained from an educational institution approved by the board according to the regulations adopted under this chapter.
  - (2) Attainment of 18 years of age.
  - (3) Is not subject to denial of licensure pursuant to Section 480.
  - (4) Successful completion of 60 semester hours of postgraduate work in pupil personnel services.
  - (5) Two years of full-time, or the equivalent to full-time, experience as a credentialed school psychologist in the public schools. The applicant shall not be credited with experience obtained more than six years prior to filing the application for licensure.
  - (6) One of the following:
    - (A) One year of supervised professional experience in an accredited school psychology program.
    - (B) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (5), one year of full-time, or the equivalent to full-time, experience as a credentialed school psychologist in the public schools obtained under the direction of a licensed educational psychologist or a licensed psychologist.
  - (7) Passage of an examination specified by the board.

## **§ 4989.22. EXAMINATION**

- (a) Only persons who satisfy the requirements of Section 4989.20 are eligible to take the licensure examination.
- (b) An applicant who fails the written examination may, within one year from the notification date of failure, retake the examination as regularly scheduled without further application. Thereafter, the applicant shall not be eligible for further examination until the applicant files a new application, meets all current requirements, and pays all fees required.
- (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board may destroy all examination materials two years after the date of an examination.
- (d) The board shall not deny any applicant, whose application for licensure is complete, admission to the written examination, nor shall the board postpone or delay any applicant's written examination, solely upon the receipt by the board of a complaint alleging acts or conduct that would constitute grounds to deny licensure.
- (e) Notwithstanding Section 135, the board may deny any applicant who has previously failed the written examination permission to retake the examination pending completion of the investigation of any complaint against the applicant. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the board from denying an applicant admission to any examination, withholding the results, or refusing to issue a license to any applicant when an accusation or statement of issues has been filed against the applicant pursuant to Section 11503 or 11504 of the Government Code, or the applicant has been denied in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 485.

## **§ 4989.23. REQUIRED COURSEWORK OR SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: SUICIDE RISK ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION**

- (a) On or after January 1, 2021, an applicant for licensure as an educational psychologist shall show, as part of the application, that they have completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention. This requirement shall be met in one of the following ways:
  - (1) Obtained as part of their qualifying graduate degree program. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the registrar or training director of the educational institution or program from which the applicant graduated stating that the coursework required by this section is included within the institution's curriculum required for graduation at the time the applicant graduated, or within the coursework that was completed by the applicant.
  - (2) Obtained as part of their applied experience. Applied experience can be met in any of the following settings: practicum, supervised experience gained pursuant to Section 4989.20, formal postdoctoral placement that meets the requirements of Section 2911, or other qualifying supervised experience. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the director of training for the program or primary supervisor where the

qualifying experience has occurred stating that the training required by this section is included within the applied experience.

(3) By taking a continuing education course that meets the requirements of Section 4989.34. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a certification of completion.

(b) As a one-time requirement, a licensee prior to the time of their first renewal after January 1, 2021, or an applicant for reactivation or reinstatement to an active license status on or after January 1, 2021, shall have completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention, using one of the methods specified in subdivision (a). Proof of compliance with this section shall be certified under penalty of perjury that they are in compliance with this section and shall be retained for submission to the board upon request.

#### **§ 4989.23.1. REQUIRED TRAINING OR COURSEWORK: PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES VIA TELEHEALTH**

(a) On or after July 1, 2023, an applicant for licensure as an educational psychologist shall show, as part of the application, that they have completed a minimum of three hours of training or coursework in the provision of mental health services via telehealth, which shall include law and ethics related to telehealth. This requirement shall be met in one of the following ways:

(1) Obtained as part of their qualifying graduate degree program. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the registrar or training director of the educational institution or program from which the applicant graduated stating that the coursework required by this section is included within the institution's curriculum required for graduation at the time the applicant graduated, or within the coursework that was completed by the applicant.

(2) Obtained by completing a continuing education course that meets the requirements of Section 4989.34. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a certification of completion.

(b) As a one-time requirement, a licensee before the time of their first renewal after July 1, 2023, or an applicant for reactivation or reinstatement to an active license status on or after July 1, 2023, shall have completed a minimum of three hours of training or coursework in the provision of mental health services via telehealth, which shall include law and ethics related to telehealth, using one of the methods specified in subdivision (a).

(c) Proof of compliance with subdivision (b) shall be certified under penalty of perjury that they are in compliance with this section and shall be retained for submission to the board upon request.

#### **§ 4989.24. CONVICTION INVOLVING SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN**

(a) The board shall not issue a license to a person who has been convicted of a crime in this or any other state or in a territory of the United States that involves sexual abuse of children or who is required to register pursuant to Section 290 of the Penal Code or the equivalent in another state or territory.

(b) A denial issued pursuant to this section shall comply with the conditions for denial specified in Section 480.

**§ 4989.26. GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL TO ISSUE LICENSE; MENTAL ILLNESS OR CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY**

The board may refuse to issue a license to an applicant if it appears he or she may be unable to practice safely due to mental illness or chemical dependency. The procedures set forth in Article 12.5 (commencing with Section 820) of Chapter 1 shall apply to a denial of a license pursuant to this section.

**§ 4989.28. DENIAL OF APPLICATION FOR UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

The board may deny an application for licensure if the applicant is or has been guilty of unprofessional conduct as described in Section 4989.54.

**ARTICLE 3. RENEWAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION**

**§ 4989.30. EXPIRATION OF LICENSE**

A license issued under this chapter shall expire no later than 24 months after its date of issue. The expiration date of the original license shall be set by the board.

**§ 4989.32. RENEWAL OF UNEXPIRED LICENSE**

To renew an unexpired license, the licensee shall, on or before the expiration date of the license, take all of the following actions:

- (a) Apply for renewal on a form prescribed by the board.
- (b) Pay a two-year renewal fee prescribed by the board.
- (c) Inform the board of whether the licensee has been convicted, as defined in Section 490, of any misdemeanor or felony and whether any disciplinary action has been taken by a regulatory or licensing board in this or any other state after the prior issuance or renewal of a license.
- (d) Complete the continuing education requirements described in Section 4989.34.

**§ 4989.34. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

- (a) To renew a license, a licensee shall certify to the board, on a form prescribed by the board, completion in the preceding two years of not less than 36 hours of approved continuing education in, or relevant to, educational psychology.
- (b) (1) The continuing education shall be obtained from either an accredited university or a continuing education provider as specified by the board by regulation.  
(2) The board shall establish, by regulation, a procedure identifying acceptable providers of continuing education courses, and all providers of continuing education shall comply with procedures established by the board. The board may revoke or deny the right of a provider to

offer continuing education coursework pursuant to this section for failure to comply with this section or any regulation adopted pursuant to this section.

- (c) Training, education, and coursework by approved providers shall incorporate one or more of the following:
  - (1) Aspects of the discipline that are fundamental to the understanding or the practice of educational psychology.
  - (2) Aspects of the discipline of educational psychology in which significant recent developments have occurred.
  - (3) Aspects of other disciplines that enhance the understanding or the practice of educational psychology.
- (d) The board may audit the records of a licensee to verify completion of the continuing education requirement. A licensee shall maintain records of the completion of required continuing education coursework for a minimum of two years and shall make these records available to the board for auditing purposes upon its request.
- (e) The board may establish exceptions from the continuing education requirements of this section for good cause, as determined by the board.
- (f) The continuing education requirements of this section shall comply fully with the guidelines for mandatory continuing education established by the Department of Consumer Affairs pursuant to Section 166.

#### **§ 4989.36. RENEWAL OF EXPIRED LICENSE**

A licensee may renew a license that has expired at any time within three years after its expiration date by taking all of the actions described in Section 4989.32 and by paying the delinquency fee.

#### **§ 4989.38. SUSPENDED LICENSE; RENEWAL**

A suspended license is subject to expiration and shall be renewed as provided in this article, but such renewal does not entitle the licensee, while it remains suspended and until it is reinstated, to engage in the activity to which the license relates, or in any other activity or conduct in violation of the order or judgment by which it was suspended.

#### **§ 4989.40. REVOKED LICENSE; REINSTATEMENT**

A revoked license is subject to expiration as provided in this article and shall not be renewed. The applicant may apply to the board for reinstatement of their license. If it is reinstated after its expiration, the licensee shall, as a condition precedent to its reinstatement, pay a reinstatement fee in an amount equal to the renewal fee in effect on the last regular renewal date before the date on which it is reinstated, plus the delinquency fee, if any, accrued at the time of its revocation.



#### **§ 4989.42. TIME LIMIT FOR RENEWAL AFTER EXPIRATION; NEW LICENSE**

A license that is not renewed within three years after its expiration may not be renewed, restored, reinstated, or reissued thereafter. A former licensee may apply for a new license if he or she satisfies all of the following requirements:

- (a) No fact, circumstance, or condition exists that, if the license were issued, would constitute grounds for its revocation or suspension.
- (b) Payment of the fees that would be required if he or she were applying for a license for the first time.
- (c) Passage of the current licensure examination.
- (d) He or she complies with the fingerprint requirements established by board regulation.

#### **§ 4989.44. INACTIVE LICENSE**

- (a) A licensee may apply to the board to request that his or her license be placed on inactive status.
- (b) A licensee on inactive status shall be subject to this chapter and shall not engage in the practice of educational psychology in this state.
- (c) A licensee who holds an inactive license shall pay a biennial fee of one-half of the amount of the standard renewal fee.
- (d) A licensee on inactive status who has not committed an act or crime constituting grounds for denial of licensure may, upon request, restore his or her license to practice educational psychology to active status. A licensee requesting that his or her license be placed on active status between renewal cycles shall pay the remaining one-half of his or her renewal fee. A licensee requesting to restore his or her license to active status, whose license will expire less than one year from the date of the request, shall complete 18 hours of continuing education as specified in Section 4989.34. A licensee requesting to restore his or her license to active status, whose license will expire more than one year from the date of the request, shall complete 36 hours of continuing education as specified in Section 4989.34.

#### **§ 4989.45. ISSUANCE OF A RETIRED LICENSE – LICENSED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST**

- (a) The board shall issue, upon application and payment of the fee fixed by this chapter, a retired license to a licensed educational psychologist who holds a license that is current and active or a license that is inactive, and whose license is not suspended, revoked, or otherwise punitively restricted by the board or subject to disciplinary action under this chapter.
- (b) The holder of a retired license issued pursuant to this section shall not engage in any activity for which an active educational psychologist license is required.
- (c) The holder of a retired license shall not be required to renew that license.

- (d) The holder of a retired license may apply to restore to active status his or her license to practice educational psychology if that retired license was issued less than three years prior to the application date, and the applicant meets all of the following requirements:
- (1) Has not committed an act or crime constituting grounds for denial of licensure.
  - (2) Pays the renewal fee fixed by this chapter.
  - (3) Completes the required continuing education as specified in Section 4989.34.
  - (4) Complies with the fingerprint submission requirements established by the board in regulation.
- (e) An applicant requesting to restore his or her license pursuant to subdivision (d), whose license was issued in accordance with this section less than one year from the date of the application, shall complete 18 hours of continuing education as specified in Section 4989.34.
- (f) An applicant requesting to restore his or her license pursuant to subdivision (d), whose license was issued in accordance with this section one or more years from the date of application, shall complete 36 hours of continuing education as specified in Section 4989.34.
- (g) The holder of a retired license may apply to restore to active status his or her license to practice educational psychology if that retired license was issued three or more years prior to the application date, and the applicant meets all of the following requirements:
- (1) Has not committed an act or crime constituting grounds for denial of licensure.
  - (2) Applies for licensure and pays the required fee.
  - (3) Passes the examinations required for licensure.
  - (4) Complies with the fingerprint submission requirements established by the board in regulation.

## **ARTICLE 4. REGULATION**

### **§ 4989.46. NAME CHANGE REQUIREMENTS**

A licensee shall give written notice to the board of a name change, providing both the old and new names. The written notice shall be submitted to the board within 30 days of the issuance of a new government-issued photographic identification. The licensee shall certify the information is correct by signing a statement under penalty of perjury. A copy of both of the following documents evidencing the change shall be submitted with the notice:

- (a) A current government-issued photographic identification.
- (b) The legal document authorizing the name change, such as a court order or a marriage certificate.

### **§ 4989.47. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES**

Any licensed educational psychologist who conducts a private practice under a fictitious business name shall not use any name that is false, misleading, or deceptive, and shall inform the patient, prior

to the commencement of treatment, of the name and license designation of the owner or owners of the practice.

#### **§ 4989.48. DISPLAY OF LICENSE**

A licensee shall display his or her license in a conspicuous place in the licensee's primary place of practice.

#### **§ 4989.49. ADVERTISING**

"Advertising," as used in this chapter, includes, but is not limited to, any public communication as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 651, the issuance of any card, sign, or device to any person, or the causing, permitting, or allowing of any sign or marking on, or in, any building or structure, or in any newspaper, magazine, or directory, or any printed matter whatsoever, with or without any limiting qualification. Signs within religious buildings or notices in bulletins from a religious organization mailed to a congregation shall not be construed as advertising within the meaning of this chapter.

#### **§ 4989.50. NECESSITY OF LICENSE; UNAUTHORIZED REPRESENTATION AS A LICENSEE**

Except as authorized by this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to practice educational psychology or use any title or letters that imply that he or she is a licensed educational psychologist unless, at the time of so doing, he or she holds a valid, unexpired, and unrevoked license issued under this chapter.

#### **§ 4989.51. CLIENT RECORDS: RETENTION**

(a) A licensed educational psychologist shall retain a client's health service records for a minimum of seven years from the date therapy is terminated. If the client is a minor, the client's health service records shall be retained for a minimum of seven years from the date the client reaches 18 years of age. Health service records may be retained in either a written or an electronic format.

(b) This section shall apply only to the records of a client whose therapy is terminated on or after January 1, 2015.

#### **§ 4989.52. COMPENSATION IN RELATION TO PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING SERVICES**

All consideration, compensation, or remuneration received by the licensee shall be in relation to professional counseling services actually provided by the licensee. Nothing in this section shall prevent collaboration among two or more licensees in a case. However, no fee shall be charged for that collaboration, except when disclosure of the fee has been made to the client.

### **ARTICLE 5. ENFORCEMENT**

#### **§ 4989.54. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

The board may deny a license or may suspend or revoke the license of a licensee if the person has been guilty of unprofessional conduct. Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- (a) Conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of an educational psychologist.
  - (1) The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence only of the fact that the conviction occurred.
  - (2) The board may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime in order to fix the degree of discipline or to determine if the conviction is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a licensee under this chapter.
  - (3) A conviction has the same meaning as defined in Section 7.5.
  - (4) The board may order a license suspended or revoked, or may decline to issue a license when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence. All actions pursuant to this subdivision shall be taken pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475).
- (b) Securing a license by fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation on an application for licensure submitted to the board, whether engaged in by an applicant for a license or by a licensee in support of an application for licensure.
- (c) Administering to themselves a controlled substance or using any of the dangerous drugs specified in Section 4022 or an alcoholic beverage to the extent, or in a manner, as to be dangerous or injurious to themselves or to any other person or to the public or to the extent that the use impairs their ability to safely perform the functions authorized by the license. The board shall deny an application for a license or revoke the license of any person, other than one who is licensed as a physician and surgeon, who uses or offers to use drugs in the course of performing educational psychology.
- (d) Failure to comply with the consent provisions in Section 2290.5.
- (e) Advertising in a manner that is false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive, as defined in Section 651.
- (f) Violating, attempting to violate, or conspiring to violate any of the provisions of this chapter or any regulation adopted by the board.
- (g) Commission of any dishonest, corrupt, or fraudulent act substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a licensee.
- (h) Denial of licensure, revocation, suspension, restriction, or any other disciplinary action imposed by another state or territory or possession of the United States or by any other governmental agency, on a license, certificate, or registration to practice educational psychology or any other healing art. A certified copy of the disciplinary action, decision, or judgment shall be conclusive evidence of that action.
- (i) Revocation, suspension, or restriction by the board of a license, certificate, or registration to practice as an educational psychologist, a clinical social worker, professional clinical counselor, or marriage and family therapist.
- (j) Failure to keep records consistent with sound clinical judgment, the standards of the profession, and the nature of the services being rendered.
- (k) Gross negligence or incompetence in the practice of educational psychology.

- (l) Misrepresentation as to the type or status of a license held by the licensee or otherwise misrepresenting or permitting misrepresentation of the licensee's education, professional qualifications, or professional affiliations to any person or entity.
- (m) Intentionally or recklessly causing physical or emotional harm to any client.
- (n) Engaging in sexual relations with a client or a former client within two years following termination of professional services, soliciting sexual relations with a client, or committing an act of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct with a client or committing an act punishable as a sexually related crime, if that act or solicitation is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a licensed educational psychologist.
- (o) Before the commencement of treatment, failing to disclose to the client or prospective client the fee to be charged for the professional services or the basis upon which that fee will be computed.
- (p) Paying, accepting, or soliciting any consideration, compensation, or remuneration, whether monetary or otherwise, for the referral of professional clients.
- (q) Failing to maintain confidentiality, except as otherwise required or permitted by law, of all information that has been received from a client in confidence during the course of treatment and all information about the client that is obtained from tests or other means.
- (r) Performing, holding oneself out as being able to perform, offering to perform, or permitting any unlicensed person under supervision to perform, any professional services beyond the scope of the license authorized by this chapter or beyond the person's field or fields of competence as established by the person's education, training, or experience. For purposes of this subdivision, "unlicensed person" includes, but is not limited to, an applicant for licensure, an associate, an intern, or a trainee under the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Act (Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 4980)), the Clinical Social Worker Practice Act (Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 4991)), or the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor Act (Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 4999.10)).
- (s) Reproducing or describing in public, or in any publication subject to general public distribution, any psychological test or other assessment device the value of which depends in whole or in part on the naivete of the subject in ways that might invalidate the test or device. An educational psychologist shall limit access to the test or device to persons with professional interests who can be expected to safeguard its use.
- (t) Aiding or abetting an unlicensed person to engage in conduct requiring a license under this chapter.
- (u) When employed by another person or agency, encouraging, either orally or in writing, the employer's or agency's clientele to utilize the person's private practice for further counseling without the approval of the employing agency or administration.
- (v) Failing to comply with the child abuse reporting requirements of Section 11166 of the Penal Code.
- (w) Failing to comply with the elder and adult dependent abuse reporting requirements of Section 15630 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- (x) Willful violation of Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 123100) of Part 1 of Division 106 of the Health and Safety Code.

- (y) (1) Engaging in an act described in Section 261, 286, 287, or 289 of, or former Section 288a of, the Penal Code with a minor or an act described in Section 288 or 288.5 of the Penal Code regardless of whether the act occurred prior to or after the time the registration or license was issued by the board. An act described in this subdivision occurring prior to the effective date of this subdivision shall constitute unprofessional conduct and shall subject the licensee to refusal, suspension, or revocation of a license under this section.
- (2) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that protection of the public, and in particular minors, from sexual misconduct by a licensee is a compelling governmental interest, and that the ability to suspend or revoke a license for sexual conduct with a minor occurring prior to the effective date of this section is equally important to protecting the public as is the ability to refuse a license for sexual conduct with a minor occurring prior to the effective date of this section.
- (z) Engaging in any conduct that subverts or attempts to subvert any licensing examination or the administration of the examination as described in Section 123.
- (aa) Impersonation of another by any licensee or applicant for a license, or, in the case of a licensee, allowing any other person to use the person's license.
- (ab) Permitting an unlicensed person under the licensee's supervision or control to perform, or permitting that person to hold themselves out as competent to perform, mental health services beyond the unlicensed person's level of education, training, or experience. For purposes of this subdivision, "unlicensed person" is defined in subdivision (r).
- (ac) The violation of any statute or regulation governing the gaining and supervision of experience of an unlicensed person, including an unlicensed person identified in subdivision (ab), by a licensee that violates this chapter, the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Act (Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 4980)), the Clinical Social Worker Practice Act (Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 4991)), the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor Act (Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 4999.10)), or any rules or regulations adopted by the board pursuant to those provisions. For purposes of this subdivision, "unlicensed person" is defined in subdivision (r).
- (ad) The violation of any statute or regulation governing the gaining and supervision of experience of an unlicensed person required by the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Act (Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 4980)), the Clinical Social Worker Practice Act (Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 4991)), or the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor Act (Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 4999.10)).

#### **§ 4989.56. REVOCATION OF LICENSE; USE OF DRUGS IN PRACTICE**

The board shall revoke the license of a licensee, other than one who is also licensed as a physician and surgeon, who uses or offers to use drugs in the course of his or her practice as an educational psychologist.

#### **§ 4989.58. REVOCATION OF LICENSE DUE TO SEXUAL CONTACT WITH A CLIENT**

The board shall revoke the license of a licensee upon a decision that contains a finding of fact that the licensee engaged in an act of sexual contact, as defined in Section 729, when that act is with a client,

or with a former client and the relationship was terminated primarily for the purpose of engaging in that act. The revocation shall not be stayed by the administrative law judge or the board.

#### **§ 4989.60. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES PENDING REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSE**

A person whose license has been suspended or revoked shall not, until the reinstatement of his or her license, engage in any activity to which the license relates or any other activity or conduct in violation of the order or judgment by which the license was suspended.

#### **§ 4989.62. CONDUCT OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS**

All proceedings by the board to suspend, revoke, or to take other disciplinary action against a licensee shall be conducted pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

#### **§ 4989.64. ISSUANCE OF INJUNCTION OR OTHER ORDER TO RESTRAIN CONDUCT**

In addition to other proceedings provided for in this chapter, whenever a person has engaged, or is about to engage, in an act or practice that constitutes, or will constitute, an offense against this chapter, the superior court in and for the county where the act or practice takes place, or is about to take place, may issue an injunction, or other appropriate order, restraining that conduct on application of the board, the Attorney General, or the district attorney of the county. The proceedings under this section shall be governed by Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 525) of Title 7 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

#### **§ 4989.66. VIOLATION OF CHAPTER; MISDEMEANOR**

A person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor.

### **ARTICLE 6. REVENUE**

#### **§ 4989.68. FEE SCHEDULE**

- (a) The board shall assess the following fees relating to the licensure of educational psychologists:
- (1) The application fee for licensure shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of five hundred dollars (\$500).
  - (2) The fee for issuance of the initial license shall be two hundred dollars (\$200). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of four hundred dollars (\$400).
  - (3) The fee for the two-year license renewal shall be two hundred dollars (\$200). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of four hundred dollars (\$400).

- (4) The delinquency fee shall be one-half of the fee for license renewal. A person who permits their license to expire shall be subject to the delinquency fee.
- (5) The written examination fee shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of five hundred dollars (\$500). An applicant who fails to appear for an examination, once having been scheduled, shall forfeit any examination fees they paid.
- (6) The fee for rescoring a written examination shall be twenty dollars (\$20).
- (7) The fee for issuance of a replacement registration, license, or certificate shall be twenty dollars (\$20).
- (8) The fee for issuance of a certificate or letter of good standing shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25).
- (9) The fee for issuance of a retired license shall be forty dollars (\$40).

(b) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2021.

#### **§ 4989.70. REPORTING REVENUE TO CONTROLLER; DEPOSIT TO STATE TREASURY**

The board shall report each month to the Controller the amount and source of all revenue received pursuant to this chapter and at the same time pay the entire amount thereof into the State Treasury for credit to the Behavioral Sciences Fund.



## CHAPTER 13.7. BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

*Note to the reader: This Chapter contains statutes directly related to the establishment and duties of the Board of Behavioral Sciences. It should be reviewed in conjunction with the practice acts for each license type, as well as the regulation section of this book. However, the materials shown here do not encompass all laws related to the Board and the professions it regulates. You can utilize the following links as a resource for searching all statutes and regulations related to the Board and the professions it regulates.*

- [California Statutes](#)
- [California Code of Regulations](#)

### ARTICLE 1. ADMINISTRATION

#### § 4990. BOARD MEMBERS

- (a) There is in the Department of Consumer Affairs, a Board of Behavioral Sciences that consists of the following members:
- (1) Two state licensed clinical social workers.
  - (2) One state licensed educational psychologist.
  - (3) Two state licensed marriage and family therapists.
  - (4) One state licensed professional clinical counselor.
  - (5) Seven public members.
- (b) Each member, except the seven public members, shall have at least two years of experience in their profession.
- (c) Each member shall reside in the State of California.
- (d) The Governor shall appoint five of the public members and the six licensed members with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Senate Committee on Rules and the Speaker of the Assembly shall each appoint a public member.
- (e) Each member of the board shall be appointed for a term of four years. A member appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules or the Speaker of the Assembly shall hold office until the appointment and qualification of their successor or until one year from the expiration date of the term for which they were appointed, whichever first occurs. Pursuant to Section 1774 of the Government Code, a member appointed by the Governor shall hold office until the appointment and qualification of their successor or until 60 days from the expiration date of the term for which they were appointed, whichever first occurs.
- (f) A vacancy on the board shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term by the authority who appointed the member whose membership was vacated.
- (g) Not later than the first of June of each calendar year, the board shall elect a chairperson and a vice chairperson from its membership.

- (h) Each member of the board shall receive a per diem and reimbursement of expenses as provided in Section 103.
- (i) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.
- (j) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the repeal of this section renders the board subject to review by the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature.

#### **§ 4990.02. DEFINITION OF “BOARD”**

"Board," as used in this chapter, Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 4980), Chapter 13.5 (commencing with Section 4989.10), Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 4991), and Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 4999.10) means the Board of Behavioral Sciences.

#### **§ 4990.04. EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

- (a) The board shall appoint an executive officer. This position is designated as a confidential position and is exempt from civil service under subdivision (e) of Section 4 of Article VII of the California Constitution.
- (b) The executive officer serves at the pleasure of the board.
- (c) The executive officer shall exercise the powers and perform the duties delegated by the board and vested in them by this chapter.
- (d) With the approval of the director, the board shall fix the salary of the executive officer.
- (e) The chairperson and executive officer may call meetings of the board and any duly appointed committee at a specified time and place. For purposes of this section, "call meetings" means setting the agenda, time, date, or place for any meeting of the board or any committee.
- (f) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.

#### **§ 4990.06. EMPLOYEES**

Subject to the State Civil Service Act (Part 2 (commencing with Section 18500) of Division 5 of Title 2 of the Government Code) and except as provided by Sections 155, 156, and 159.5, the board may employ any clerical, technical, and other personnel as it deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter and the other chapters it administers and enforces, within budget limitations.

#### **§ 4990.07. ELECTRONIC MAIL ADDRESS**

- (a) An applicant, registrant, or licensee who has an electronic mail address shall provide the board with that electronic mail address no later than July 1, 2022. The electronic mail address shall be considered confidential and not subject to public disclosure.
- (b) An applicant, registrant, and licensee shall provide to the board any and all changes to their electronic mail address no later than 30 calendar days after the changes have occurred.

(c) The board shall, with each renewal application, remind licensees and registrants of their obligation to report and keep current their electronic mail address with the board.

#### **§ 4990.08. RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS, APPLICANTS AND LICENSEES**

The board shall keep an accurate record of all of its proceedings and a record of all applicants for licensure and all individuals to whom it has issued a license.

#### **§ 4990.09. INTERNET PUBLICATION OF FINAL DETERMINATION; TIME LIMIT**

The board shall not publish on the Internet the final determination of a citation and fine of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) or less issued against a licensee or registrant pursuant to Section 125.9 for a period of time in excess of five years from the date of issuance of the citation.

#### **§ 4990.10. RESEARCH, STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The board may conduct research in, and make studies of problems involved in, the maintaining of professional standards among those engaged in the professions it licenses and may publish its recommendations thereon.

#### **§ 4990.12. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CHAPTERS; POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARD AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

The duty of administering and enforcing this chapter, Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 4980), Chapter 13.5 (commencing with Section 4989.10), Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 4991), and Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 4999.10) is vested in the board and the executive officer subject to, and under the direction of, the board. In the performance of this duty, the board and the executive officer have all the powers and are subject to all the responsibilities vested in, and imposed upon, the head of a department by Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11150) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

#### **§ 4990.13. LICENSE AND REGISTRATION VERIFICATION**

For purposes of license and registration verification, a person may rely upon the licensing and registration information as it is displayed on the board's internet website that includes the issuance and expiration dates of any license or registration issued by the board.

#### **§ 4990.14. BOARD SEAL**

The board shall have and use a seal bearing the words "The Board of Behavioral Sciences," and shall otherwise conform to Section 107.5.

#### **§ 4990.16. PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC**

Protection of the public shall be the highest priority for the board in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. Whenever the protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests

sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount.

#### **§ 4990.18. LEGISLATIVE INTENT; BOARD RESOURCES**

It is the intent of the Legislature that the board employ its resources for each and all of the following functions:

- (a) The licensure of marriage and family therapists, clinical social workers, professional clinical counselors, and educational psychologists.
- (b) The development and administration of licensure examinations and examination procedures consistent with prevailing standards for the validation and use of licensing and certification tests. Examinations shall measure knowledge and abilities demonstrably important to the safe, effective practice of the profession.
- (c) Enforcement of laws designed to protect the public from incompetent, unethical, or unprofessional practitioners.
- (d) Consumer education.

#### **§ 4990.20. RULES AND REGULATIONS; ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND CORPORATE INSURANCE**

- (a) The board may adopt rules and regulations as necessary to administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter and the other chapters it administers and enforces. The adoption, amendment, or repeal of those rules and regulations shall be made in accordance with Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.
- (b) The board may formulate and enforce rules and regulations requiring the following:
  - (1) That the articles of incorporation or bylaws of a marriage and family therapist corporation, a licensed clinical social worker corporation, or a professional clinical counselor corporation include a provision whereby the capital stock of that corporation owned by a disqualified person, as defined in the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act (Part 4 (commencing with Section 13400) of Division 3 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code), or a deceased person shall be sold to the corporation or to the remaining shareholders of that corporation within the time that the rules and regulations may provide.
  - (2) That a marriage and family therapist corporation, a licensed clinical social worker corporation, or a professional clinical counselor corporation shall provide adequate security by insurance or otherwise for claims against it by its patients arising out of the rendering of professional services.

#### **§ 4990.22. BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES FUND; REVENUE; SURPLUSES**

- (a) The Behavioral Sciences Fund shall be used for the purposes of carrying out and enforcing the provisions of this chapter and the chapters listed in Section 4990.12. All moneys in the fund shall

be expended, upon appropriation of the Legislature, by the board for the purposes of the programs under its jurisdiction.

- (b) The board shall keep records that reasonably ensure that funds expended in the administration of each licensure or registration category shall bear a reasonable relation to the revenue derived from each category and report to the department no later than May 31 of each year on those expenditures.
- (c) Surpluses, if any, may be used by the board in a manner that bears a reasonable relation to the revenue derived from each licensure or registration category and may include, but not be limited to, expenditures for education and research related to each of the licensing or registration categories.

#### **§ 4990.24. REVIEW OF POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARD**

The powers and duties of the board, as set forth in this chapter, shall be subject to the review required by Division 1.2 (commencing with Section 473).

#### **§ 4990.26. BOARD NAME**

Wherever "Board of Behavioral Science Examiners," "Board of Social Work Examiners of the State of California," or "Social Worker and Marriage Counselor Qualifications Board of the State of California" is used in any law or regulations of this state, it shall mean the Board of Behavioral Sciences.

### **ARTICLE 2. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

#### **§ 4990.28. GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL TO ISSUE LICENSE OR REGISTRATION; MENTAL ILLNESS OR CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY**

The board may refuse to issue a registration or license under the chapters it administers and enforces whenever it appears that the applicant may be unable to practice his or her profession safely due to mental illness or chemical dependency. The procedures set forth in Article 12.5 (commencing with Section 820) of Chapter 1 shall apply to denial of a license or registration pursuant to this section.

#### **§ 4990.30. PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT OR MODIFICATION OF PENALTY**

- (a) A licensed marriage and family therapist, associate marriage and family therapist, licensed clinical social worker, associate clinical social worker, licensed professional clinical counselor, associate professional clinical counselor, or licensed educational psychologist whose license or registration has been revoked, suspended, or placed on probation, may petition the board for reinstatement or modification of the penalty, including modification or termination of probation. The petition shall be on a form provided by the board and shall state any facts and information as may be required by the board including, but not limited to, proof of compliance with the terms and conditions of the underlying disciplinary order. The petition shall be verified by the petitioner who shall file an

original and sufficient copies of the petition, together with any supporting documents, for the members of the board, the administrative law judge, and the Attorney General.

- (b) The licensee or registrant may file the petition on or after the expiration of the following timeframes, each of which excludes any periods during which the probation was tolled, and commences on the effective date of the decision ordering the disciplinary action or, if the order of the board, or any portion of it, is stayed by the board itself or by the superior court, from the date the disciplinary action is actually implemented in its entirety:
- (1) Three years for reinstatement of a license or registration that was revoked for unprofessional conduct, except that the board may, in its sole discretion, specify in its revocation order that a petition for reinstatement may be filed after two years. A registrant who is ineligible for reinstatement pursuant to Section 4984.01, 4996.28, or 4999.100 may apply for a subsequent registration number.
  - (2) Two years for early termination of any probation period of three years or more.
  - (3) One year for modification of a condition, reinstatement of a license or registration revoked for mental or physical illness, or termination of probation of less than three years. A registrant who is ineligible for reinstatement pursuant to Section 4984.01, 4996.28, or 4999.100 may apply for a subsequent registration number.
- (c) The petition may be heard by the board itself or the board may assign the petition to an administrative law judge pursuant to Section 11512 of the Government Code.
- (d) If the petition is to be heard by the board, the petitioner may request that the board schedule the hearing on the petition for a board meeting at a specific city where the board regularly meets.
- (e) The petitioner and the Attorney General shall be given timely notice by letter of the time and place of the hearing on the petition and an opportunity to present both oral and documentary evidence and argument to the board or the administrative law judge.
- (f) The petitioner shall at all times have the burden of production and proof to establish by clear and convincing evidence that they are entitled to the relief sought in the petition.
- (g) The board, when it is hearing the petition itself, or an administrative law judge sitting for the board, may consider all activities of the petitioner since the disciplinary action was taken, the offense for which the petitioner was disciplined, the petitioner's activities during the time their license or registration was in good standing, and the petitioner's rehabilitative efforts, general reputation for truth, and professional ability.
- (h) The hearing may be continued from time to time as the board or the administrative law judge deems appropriate but in no case may the hearing on the petition be delayed more than 180 days from its filing without the consent of the petitioner.
- (i) The board itself, or the administrative law judge if one is designated by the board, shall hear the petition and shall prepare a written decision setting forth the reasons supporting the decision. In a decision granting a petition reinstating a license or modifying a penalty, the board itself, or the administrative law judge, may impose any terms and conditions that the agency deems reasonably appropriate, including those set forth in Sections 823 and 4990.40. If a petition is heard by an administrative law judge sitting alone, the administrative law judge shall prepare a proposed decision and submit it to the board. The board may take action with respect to the proposed decision and petition as it deems appropriate.

- (j) The petitioner shall pay a fingerprinting fee and provide a current set of their fingerprints to the board. The petitioner shall execute a form authorizing release to the board or its designee, of all information concerning the petitioner's current physical and mental condition. Information provided to the board pursuant to the release shall be confidential and shall not be subject to discovery or subpoena in any other proceeding, and shall not be admissible in any action, other than before the board, to determine the petitioner's fitness to practice as required by Section 822.
- (k) The board may delegate to its executive officer authority to order investigation of the contents of the petition.
- (l) No petition shall be considered while the petitioner is under sentence for any criminal offense, including any period during which the petitioner is on court-imposed probation or parole or the petitioner is required to register pursuant to Section 290 of the Penal Code. No petition shall be considered while there is an accusation or petition to revoke probation pending against the petitioner.
- (m) Except in those cases where the petitioner has been disciplined for violation of Section 822, the board may in its discretion deny without hearing or argument any petition that is filed pursuant to this section within a period of two years from the effective date of a prior decision following a hearing under this section.

#### **§ 4990.31. PETITION REQUEST; DENIAL WITHOUT HEARING**

The board may deny without a hearing a request to petition for termination of probation or modification of penalty for any of the following reasons:

- (a) The petitioner has failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the disciplinary order.
- (b) The board is conducting an investigation of the petitioner while he or she is on probation.
- (c) The petitioner has a subsequent arrest that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the licensee or registrant and this arrest occurred while on probation.
- (d) The petitioner's probation with the board is currently tolled.

#### **§ 4990.32. ENFORCEMENT STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS**

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an accusation filed pursuant to Section 11503 of the Government Code against a licensee or registrant under the chapters the board administers and enforces shall be filed within three years from the date the board discovers the alleged act or omission that is the basis for disciplinary action or within seven years from the date the alleged act or omission that is the basis for disciplinary action occurred, whichever occurs first.
- (b) An accusation filed against a licensee alleging the procurement of a license by fraud or misrepresentation is not subject to the limitations set forth in subdivision (a).
- (c) The limitations period provided by subdivision (a) shall be tolled for the length of time required to obtain compliance when a report required to be filed by the licensee or registrant with the board pursuant to Article 11 (commencing with Section 800) of Chapter 1 is not filed in a timely fashion.
- (d) An accusation alleging sexual misconduct shall be filed within three years after the board discovers the act or omission alleged as the grounds for disciplinary action or within 10 years after

the act or omission alleged as the grounds for disciplinary action occurred, whichever occurs first. This subdivision shall apply to a complaint alleging sexual misconduct received by the board on and after January 1, 2002.

- (e) If an alleged act or omission involves a minor, the seven-year limitations period provided for by subdivision (a) and the 10-year limitations period provided for by subdivision (d) shall be tolled until the minor reaches the age of majority. However, if the board discovers an alleged act of sexual contact with a minor under Section 261, 286, 287, 288, 288.5, or 289 of, or former Section 288a of, the Penal Code after the limitations periods described in this subdivision have otherwise expired, and there is independent evidence that corroborates the allegation, an accusation shall be filed within three years from the date the board discovers that alleged act.
- (f) The limitations period provided by subdivision (a) shall be tolled during any period if material evidence necessary for prosecuting or determining whether a disciplinary action would be appropriate is unavailable to the board due to an ongoing criminal investigation.
- (g) For purposes of this section, “discovers” means the latest of the occurrence of any of the following with respect to each act or omission alleged as the basis for disciplinary action:
  - (1) The date the board received a complaint or report describing the act or omission.
  - (2) The date, subsequent to the original complaint or report, on which the board became aware of any additional acts or omissions alleged as the basis for disciplinary action against the same individual.
  - (3) The date the board receives from the complainant a written release of information pertaining to the complainant’s diagnosis and treatment.

**§ 4990.33. DISCIPLINARY ACTION: LICENSE STATUS CHANGE**

Notwithstanding any other law, except as provided in Section 4990.32, the expiration, cancellation, forfeiture, or suspension of a license, registration, or other authority to practice by operation of law or by order or decision of the board or a court of law, the placement of a license on a retired status, or the voluntary surrender of a license or registration by a licensee or registrant, of any license or registration within the authority of the board, shall not deprive the board of jurisdiction to commence or proceed with any investigation of, or action or disciplinary proceeding against, the licensee or registrant or to render a decision suspending or revoking the license or registration.

**§ 4990.34. PLACING LICENSE OR REGISTRATION ON PROBATION; MONITORING PROGRAM**

- (a) The board may place a license or registration issued under the chapters it administers and enforces on probation under the following circumstances:
  - (1) In lieu of, or in addition to, any order of the board suspending or revoking the license or registration.
  - (2) Upon the issuance of a license or registration to an individual who has been guilty of unprofessional conduct but who otherwise completed all education, training, and experience required for licensure or registration.



(3) As a condition upon the reissuance or reinstatement of a license or registration that has been suspended or revoked by the board.

(b) The board may adopt regulations establishing a monitoring program to ensure compliance with any terms or conditions of probation imposed by the board pursuant to subdivision (a). The cost of probation or monitoring may be ordered to be paid by the licensee or registrant.

#### **§ 4990.36. TRAINING OR EXAMINATION AFTER PROBATION OR SUSPENSION**

The board, in its discretion, may require a licensee or registrant whose license or registration has been placed on probation or whose license or registration has been suspended, to obtain additional professional training and to pass an examination upon completion of that training and to pay any necessary examination fee. The examination may be written, oral, or a practical or clinical examination.

#### **§ 4990.38. DISCIPLINARY ACTION; GROUNDS FOR DENIAL, SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION**

The board may deny an application or may suspend or revoke a license or registration issued under the chapters it administers and enforces for any disciplinary action imposed by this state or another state or territory or possession of the United States, or by a governmental agency on a license, certificate or registration to practice marriage and family therapy, clinical social work, educational psychology, professional clinical counseling, or any other healing art. The disciplinary action, which may include denial of licensure or revocation or suspension of the license or imposition of restrictions on it, constitutes unprofessional conduct. A certified copy of the disciplinary action decision or judgment shall be conclusive evidence of that action.

#### **§ 4990.40. REVOCATION OF LICENSE OR REGISTRATION DUE TO SEXUAL CONTACT WITH A PATIENT**

The board shall revoke a license or registration issued under the chapters it administers and enforces upon a decision made in accordance with the procedures set forth in Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, that contains a finding of fact that the licensee or registrant engaged in an act of sexual contact, as defined in Section 729, when that act is with a patient or with a former patient when the relationship was terminated primarily for the purpose of engaging in that act. The revocation shall not be stayed by the administrative law judge or the board.

#### **§ 4990.42. CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS**

The proceedings under this article shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

## CHAPTER 14. SOCIAL WORKERS

*Note to the reader: This Chapter contains the Clinical Social Worker Practice Act. It should be reviewed in conjunction with the regulation section of this book. However, the materials shown here do not encompass all laws applicable to the profession. You can utilize the following links as a resource for searching all statutes and regulations related to the profession.*

- [California Statutes](#)
- [California Code of Regulations](#)

### ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### § 4991. CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER PRACTICE ACT

This chapter shall be known, and may be cited, as the Clinical Social Worker Practice Act. It shall be liberally construed to effect its objectives.

#### § 4991.1. ENGAGING IN PRACTICE

A person engages in the practice of clinical social work when he or she performs or offers to perform or holds himself or herself out as able to perform this service for remuneration in any form, including donations.

#### § 4991.2. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this chapter:

- “Accredited school of social work” means a school that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education.
- “Board” means the Board of Behavioral Sciences.

### ARTICLE 2. APPLICATION OF CHAPTER

#### § 4992. LICENSE APPLICATION; FEES

- Every applicant for a license under this chapter shall file an application with the board accompanied by the application fee prescribed by this chapter. Every application shall also be accompanied by the applicable examination fee prescribed by this chapter.
- The application shall contain information showing that the applicant has all the qualifications required by the board for admission to an examination.

## **§ 4992.05. REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS**

- (a) A registrant or an applicant for licensure as a clinical social worker shall pass the following two examinations as prescribed by the board:
  - (1) A California law and ethics examination.
  - (2) A clinical examination.
- (b) Upon registration with the board, an associate clinical social worker registrant, within the first year of registration, shall take an examination on California law and ethics.
- (c) A registrant or an applicant for licensure may take the clinical examination only upon meeting all of the following requirements:
  - (1) Completion of all education requirements.
  - (2) Passage of the California law and ethics examination.
  - (3) Completion of all required supervised work experience.

## **§ 4992.07. EXAMINATION RESTRUCTURE TRANSITION SCENARIOS**

- (a) An applicant who had previously taken and passed the standard written examination but had not passed the clinical vignette examination shall also obtain a passing score on the clinical examination in order to be eligible for licensure.
- (b) An applicant who had previously failed to obtain a passing score on the standard written examination shall obtain a passing score on the California law and ethics examination and the clinical examination.
- (c) An applicant who had obtained eligibility for the standard written examination shall take the California law and ethics examination and the clinical examination.
- (d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

## **§ 4992.09. CALIFORNIA LAW AND ETHICS: EXAMINATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION**

- (a) Except as provided in subdivision (a) of Section 4992.07, an applicant and registrant shall obtain a passing score on a board-administered California law and ethics examination in order to qualify for licensure.
- (b) A registrant shall participate in a board-administered California law and ethics examination before their registration renewal.
- (c) If an applicant fails the California law and ethics examination, they may retake the examination, upon payment of the required fees, without further application.
- (d) The board shall not issue a subsequent registration number unless the applicant has passed the California law and ethics examination.

(e) A registrant shall complete a minimum of three hours of continuing education in the subject of California law and ethics during each renewal period to be eligible to renew their registration, regardless of whether they have passed the California law and ethics examination. The coursework shall be obtained from a board-accepted provider of continuing education, as specified in Section 4996.22.

#### **§ 4992.1. ELIGIBILITY FOR EXAMINATION; EXAMINATION RECORD RETENTION; SEVEN YEAR LIMITATION ON CLINICAL EXAMINATION**

- (a) Only individuals who have the qualifications prescribed by the board under this chapter are eligible to take an examination under this chapter.
- (b) Every applicant who is issued a clinical social worker license shall be examined by the board.
- (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board may destroy all examination materials two years following the date of an examination.
- (d) The board shall not deny any applicant, whose application for licensure is complete, admission to the clinical examination, nor shall the board postpone or delay any applicant's clinical examination, solely upon the receipt by the board of a complaint alleging acts or conduct that would constitute grounds to deny licensure.
- (e) If an applicant for examination who has passed the California law and ethics examination is the subject of a complaint or is under board investigation for acts or conduct that, if proven to be true, would constitute grounds for the board to deny licensure, the board shall permit the applicant to take the clinical examination for licensure, but may notify the applicant that licensure will not be granted pending completion of the investigation.
- (f) Notwithstanding Section 135, the board may deny any applicant who has previously failed either the California law and ethics examination or the clinical examination permission to retake either examination pending completion of the investigation of any complaint against the applicant. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the board from denying an applicant admission to any examination, or refusing to issue a license to any applicant when an accusation or statement of issues has been filed against the applicant pursuant to Section 11503 or 11504 of the Government Code, or the applicant has been denied in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 485.
- (g) An applicant shall not be eligible to participate in the clinical examination if the applicant fails to obtain a passing score on the clinical examination within seven years from their initial attempt, unless the applicant takes and obtains a passing score on the current version of the California law and ethics examination.
- (h) A passing score on the clinical examination shall be accepted by the board for a period of seven years from the date the examination was taken.

#### **§ 4992.2. ADVERTISING**

"Advertising," as used in this chapter, includes, but is not limited to, any public communication as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 651, the issuance of any card, sign, or device to any person, or the causing, permitting, or allowing of any sign or marking on, or in, any building or structure, or in

any newspaper, magazine, or directory, or any printed matter whatsoever, with or without any limiting qualification. Signs within religious buildings or notices in bulletins from a religious organization mailed to a congregation shall not be construed as advertising within the meaning of this chapter.

### **§ 4992.3. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

The board may deny a license or a registration, or may suspend or revoke the license or registration of a licensee or registrant if the licensee or registrant has been guilty of unprofessional conduct. Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- (a) The conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a licensee or registrant under this chapter. The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence only of the fact that the conviction occurred. The board may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime in order to fix the degree of discipline or to determine if the conviction is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a licensee or registrant under this chapter. A conviction has the same meaning as defined in Section 7.5. The board may order any license or registration suspended or revoked, or may decline to issue a license or registration when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or, when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence. All actions pursuant to this subdivision shall be taken pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475).
- (b) Securing a license or registration by fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation on any application for licensure or registration submitted to the board, whether engaged in by an applicant for a license or registration, or by a licensee in support of any application for licensure or registration.
- (c) Administering to themselves any controlled substance or using any of the dangerous drugs specified in Section 4022 or any alcoholic beverage to the extent, or in a manner, as to be dangerous or injurious to the person applying for a registration or license or holding a registration or license under this chapter, or to any other person, or to the public, or, to the extent that the use impairs the ability of the person applying for or holding a registration or license to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by the registration or license. The board shall deny an application for a registration or license or revoke the license or registration of any person who uses or offers to use drugs in the course of performing clinical social work. This provision does not apply to any person also licensed as a physician and surgeon under Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2000) or the Osteopathic Act who lawfully prescribes drugs to a patient under the person's care.
- (d) Incompetence in the performance of clinical social work.
- (e) An act or omission that falls sufficiently below the standard of conduct of the profession as to constitute an act of gross negligence.
- (f) Violating, attempting to violate, or conspiring to violate this chapter or any regulation adopted by the board.
- (g) Misrepresentation as to the type or status of a license or registration held by the licensee or registrant or otherwise misrepresenting or permitting misrepresentation of the licensee's or registrant's education, professional qualifications, or professional affiliations to any person or entity. For purposes of this subdivision, this misrepresentation includes, but is not limited to,

misrepresentation of the person's qualifications as an adoption service provider pursuant to Section 8502 of the Family Code.

- (h) Impersonation of another by any licensee, registrant, or applicant for a license or registration, or, in the case of a licensee or registrant, allowing any other person to use the licensee's or registrant's license or registration.
- (i) Aiding or abetting, or employing, directly or indirectly, any unlicensed or unregistered person to engage in conduct for which a license or registration is required under this chapter.
- (j) Intentionally or recklessly causing physical or emotional harm to any client.
- (k) The commission of any dishonest, corrupt, or fraudulent act substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a licensee or registrant.
- (l) Engaging in sexual relations with a client or with a former client within two years from the termination date of therapy with the client, soliciting sexual relations with a client, or committing an act of sexual abuse, or sexual misconduct with a client, or committing an act punishable as a sexually related crime, if that act or solicitation is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a clinical social worker.
- (m) Performing, or holding oneself out as being able to perform, or offering to perform or permitting, any registered associate, trainee, or applicant for licensure under supervision to perform any professional services beyond the scope of the license authorized by this chapter.
- (n) Failure to maintain confidentiality, except as otherwise required or permitted by law, of all information that has been received from a client in confidence during the course of treatment and all information about the client that is obtained from tests or other means.
- (o) Prior to the commencement of treatment, failing to disclose to the client or prospective client the fee to be charged for the professional services, or the basis upon which that fee will be computed.
- (p) Paying, accepting, or soliciting any consideration, compensation, or remuneration, whether monetary or otherwise, for the referral of professional clients. All consideration, compensation, or remuneration shall be in relation to professional counseling services actually provided by the licensee. This subdivision does not prevent collaboration among two or more licensees in a case or cases. However, no fee shall be charged for that collaboration, except when disclosure of the fee has been made in compliance with subdivision (o).
- (q) Advertising in a manner that is false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive, as defined in Section 651.
- (r) Reproduction or description in public, or in any publication subject to general public distribution, of any psychological test or other assessment device, the value of which depends in whole or in part on the naivete of the subject, in ways that might invalidate the test or device. A licensee shall limit access to that test or device to persons with professional interest who are expected to safeguard its use.
- (s) Any conduct in the supervision of any registered associate, trainee, or applicant for licensure by any licensee that violates this chapter or any rules or regulations adopted by the board.
- (t) Performing or holding oneself out as being able to perform mental health services beyond the scope of one's competence, as established by one's education, training, or experience. This subdivision shall not be construed to expand the scope of the license authorized by this chapter.

- (u) Permitting an applicant for licensure, trainee, or registrant under one's supervision or control to perform, or permitting the supervisee to hold themselves out as competent to perform, mental health services beyond the supervisee's level of education, training, or experience.
- (v) The violation of any law governing the gaining or supervision of experience required by this chapter.
- (w) Failure to keep records consistent with sound clinical judgment, the standards of the profession, and the nature of the services being rendered.
- (x) Failure to comply with the child abuse reporting requirements of Section 11166 of the Penal Code.
- (y) Failure to comply with the elder and dependent adult abuse reporting requirements of Section 15630 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- (z) Willful violation of Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 123100) of Part 1 of Division 106 of the Health and Safety Code.
- (aa) Failure to comply with Section 2290.5.
- (ab) (1) Engaging in an act described in Section 261, 286, 287, or 289 of, or former Section 288a of, the Penal Code with a minor or an act described in Section 288 or 288.5 of the Penal Code regardless of whether the act occurred prior to or after the time the registration or license was issued by the board. An act described in this subdivision occurring prior to the effective date of this subdivision shall constitute unprofessional conduct and shall subject the licensee to refusal, suspension, or revocation of a license under this section.
- (2) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that protection of the public, and in particular minors, from sexual misconduct by a licensee is a compelling governmental interest, and that the ability to suspend or revoke a license for sexual conduct with a minor occurring prior to the effective date of this section is equally important to protecting the public as is the ability to refuse a license for sexual conduct with a minor occurring prior to the effective date of this section.
- (ac) Engaging in any conduct that subverts or attempts to subvert any licensing examination or the administration of the examination as described in Section 123.

**§ 4992.33. DECISION CONTAINING FINDING THAT LICENSEE OR REGISTRANT ENGAGED IN SEXUAL CONTACT WITH PATIENT OR FORMER PATIENT; ORDER OF REVOCATION**

The board shall revoke any license issued under this chapter upon a decision made in accordance with the procedures set forth in Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, that contains any finding of fact that the licensee or registrant engaged in any act of sexual contact, as defined in Section 729, when that act is with a patient, or with a former patient when the relationship was terminated primarily for the purpose of engaging in that act. The revocation shall not be stayed by the administrative law judge or the board.

**§ 4992.35. GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL TO LICENSE OR REGISTER; MENTAL ILLNESS OR CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY**

The board may refuse to issue any registration or license whenever it appears that an applicant may be unable to practice his or her profession safely due to mental illness or chemical dependency. The

procedures set forth in Article 12.5 (commencing with Section 820) of Chapter 1 shall apply to any denial of a license or registration pursuant to this section.

#### **§ 4992.36. DISCIPLINARY ACTION; GROUNDS FOR APPLICATION DENIAL OR LICENSE OR REGISTRATION SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION**

The board may deny an application, or may suspend or revoke a license or registration issued under this chapter, for any of the following:

- (a) Denial of licensure, revocation, suspension, restriction, or any other disciplinary action imposed by another state or territory of the United States, or by any other governmental agency, on a license, certificate, or registration to practice clinical social work or any other healing art shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct. A certified copy of the disciplinary action decision or judgment shall be conclusive evidence of that action.
- (b) Revocation, suspension, or restriction by the board of a license, certificate, or registration to practice clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, professional clinical counseling, or educational psychology against a licensee or registrant shall also constitute grounds for disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct under this chapter.

#### **§ 4992.4. CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS**

The proceedings for the suspension or revocation of licenses under this chapter shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and the board shall have all the powers granted therein.

#### **§ 4992.5. TIME AND PLACE OF EXAMINATIONS**

Examinations may be held at those times and places as the board may determine. However, one examination shall be held during each calendar year.

The board may make arrangements with organizations furnishing examination materials as it may deem desirable.

#### **§ 4992.7. FALSE STATEMENTS OR IMPERSONATION IN CONNECTION WITH APPLICATION OR EXAMINATION; MISDEMEANOR**

Every person who willfully makes any false statement or who impersonates any other person or permits or aids any other person to impersonate him or her in connection with any application or examination is guilty of a misdemeanor.

#### **§ 4992.8. LICENSEE OR REGISTRANT NAME CHANGE**

A licensee or registrant shall give written notice to the board of a name change, giving both the old and new names. The written notice shall be submitted to the board within 30 days of the issuance of a new government-issued photographic identification. The licensee or registrant shall certify the



information is correct by signing a statement under penalty of perjury. A copy of both of the following documents evidencing the change shall be submitted with the notice:

- (a) A current government-issued photographic identification.
- (b) The legal document authorizing the name change, such as a court order or a marriage certificate.

#### **§ 4992.10. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES**

A licensed clinical social worker who owns a business using a fictitious business name shall not use a name that is false, misleading, or deceptive, and shall inform the patient, prior to the commencement of treatment, of the name and license designation of the owner or owners of the practice.

#### **§ 4993. CLIENT RECORDS: RETENTION**

- (a) A licensed clinical social worker shall retain a client's or patient's health service records for a minimum of seven years from the date therapy is terminated. If the client or patient is a minor, the client's or patient's health service records shall be retained for a minimum of seven years from the date the client or patient reaches 18 years of age. Health service records may be retained in either a written or an electronic format.
- (b) This section shall apply only to the records of a client or patient whose therapy is terminated on or after January 1, 2015.

### **ARTICLE 4. LICENSURE**

#### **§ 4996. NECESSITY OF LICENSE; UNAUTHORIZED REPRESENTATION AS LICENSEE; MISDEMEANOR**

- (a) Only individuals who have received a license under this article may style themselves as "Licensed Clinical Social Workers." Every individual who styles himself or herself or who holds himself or herself out to be a licensed clinical social worker, or who uses any words or symbols indicating or tending to indicate that he or she is a licensed clinical social worker, without holding his or her license in good standing under this article, is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- (b) It is unlawful for any person to engage in the practice of clinical social work unless at the time of so doing such person holds a valid, unexpired, and unrevoked license under this article.
- (c) A clinical social worker licensed under this chapter is a licentiate for purposes of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 805, and thus is a health care practitioner subject to the provisions of Section 2290.5 pursuant to subdivision (b) of that section.

#### **§ 4996.1. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE**

- (a) Effective January 1, 2016, the board shall issue a clinical social worker license to each applicant who qualifies pursuant to this article and who successfully passes a California law and ethics examination and a clinical examination. An applicant who has successfully passed a previously

administered written examination may be subsequently required to take and pass another written examination.

(b) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

## **§ 4996.2. QUALIFICATIONS OF LICENSEES**

Each applicant for a license shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant complies with all of the following requirements:

- (a) Is at least 21 years of age.
- (b) Has received a master's degree from an accredited school of social work.
- (c) Has had two years of supervised post-master's degree experience, as specified in Section 4996.23.
- (d) Not be subject to denial of licensure pursuant to Section 480. The board shall not issue a registration or license to any person who has been convicted of any crime in this or another state or in a territory of the United States that involves sexual abuse of children or who is required to register pursuant to Section 290 of the Penal Code or the equivalent in another state or territory, in accordance with Section 480.
- (e) Has completed adequate instruction and training in the subject of alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency. This requirement applies only to applicants who matriculate on or after January 1, 1986.
- (f) Has completed instruction and training in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention. This requirement applies to an applicant who began graduate training during the period commencing on January 1, 1995, and ending on December 31, 2003. An applicant who began graduate training on or after January 1, 2004, shall complete a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies, including knowledge of community resources, cultural factors, and same gender abuse dynamics. Coursework required under this subdivision may be satisfactory if taken either in fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure or in a separate course.
- (g) Has completed a minimum of 10 contact hours of training or coursework in human sexuality as specified in Section 1807 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations. This training or coursework may be satisfactory if taken either in fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure or in a separate course.
- (h) Has completed a minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting as specified in Section 1807.2 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations. This training or coursework may be satisfactory if taken either in fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure or in a separate course.

## **§ 4996.3. FEE SCHEDULE**

(a) The board shall assess the following fees relating to the licensure of clinical social workers:

- (1) The application fee for registration as an associate clinical social worker shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300).
  - (2) The fee for annual renewal of an associate clinical social worker registration shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300).
  - (3) The fee for application for licensure shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of five hundred dollars (\$500).
  - (4) (A) (i) The fee for the board-administered clinical examination, if the board chooses to adopt this examination in regulations, shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of five hundred dollars (\$500).
    - (ii) The fee for the California law and ethics examination shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300).
  - (B) An applicant who fails to appear for an examination, after having been scheduled to take the examination, shall forfeit the examination fees.
  - (C) The amount of the examination fees shall be based on the actual cost to the board of developing, purchasing, and grading each examination and the actual cost to the board of administering each examination. The written examination fees shall be adjusted periodically by regulation to reflect the actual costs incurred by the board.
  - (5) The fee for rescoring an examination shall be twenty dollars (\$20).
  - (6) The fee for issuance of an initial license shall be two hundred dollars (\$200). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of four hundred dollars (\$400).
  - (7) The fee for the two-year license renewal shall be two hundred dollars (\$200). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of four hundred dollars (\$400).
  - (8) The renewal delinquency fee shall be one-half of the fee for license renewal. A person who permits their license to expire shall be subject to the delinquency fee.
  - (9) The fee for issuance of a replacement registration, license, or certificate shall be twenty dollars (\$20).
  - (10) The fee for issuance of a certificate or letter of good standing shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25).
  - (11) The fee for issuance of a retired license shall be forty dollars (\$40).
- (b) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2021.

#### **§ 4996.4. FEE FOR REEXAMINATION**

- (a) Effective January 1, 2016, an applicant who fails the clinical examination may, within one year from the notification date of failure, retake that examination as regularly scheduled, without further application, upon payment of the required examination fees. Thereafter, the applicant shall not be eligible for further examination until he or she files a new application, meets all current requirements, and pays all required fees.
- (b) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

#### **§ 4996.5. SCOPE, FORM AND CONTENT OF LICENSE**

The board shall issue a license to each applicant meeting the requirements of this article, which license, so long as the renewal fees have been paid, licenses the holder to engage in the practice of clinical social work as defined in Section 4996.9, entitles the holder to use the title of licensed clinical social worker, and authorizes the holder to hold himself or herself out as qualified to perform any of the functions delineated by this chapter. The form and content of the license shall be determined by the director in accordance with Section 164.

#### **§ 4996.6. DURATION OF LICENSE; RENEWAL; EXPIRED LICENSE**

- (a) Licenses issued under this chapter shall expire no more than 24 months after the issue date. The expiration date of the original license shall be set by the board.
- (b) To renew an unexpired license, the licensee shall, on or before the expiration date of the license, complete the following actions:
- (1) Apply for a renewal on a form prescribed by the board.
  - (2) Pay a two-year renewal fee prescribed by the board.
  - (3) Certify compliance with the continuing education requirements set forth in Section 4996.22.
  - (4) Notify the board whether he or she has been convicted, as defined in Section 490, of a misdemeanor or felony, or whether any disciplinary action has been taken by any regulatory or licensing board in this or any other state, subsequent to the licensee's last renewal.
- (c) To renew an expired license within three years of its expiration, the licensee shall, as a condition precedent to renewal, complete all of the actions described in subdivision (b) and pay a delinquency fee.
- (d) A license that is not renewed within three years after its expiration may not be renewed, restored, reinstated, or reissued thereafter; however, the former licensee may apply for and obtain a new license if he or she satisfies all of the following requirements:
- (1) No fact, circumstance, or condition exists that, if the license were issued, would justify its revocation or suspension.
  - (2) He or she submits an application for licensure.

- (3) He or she takes and passes the current licensing examinations.
- (4) He or she submits the licensure application fees and the fee for initial license issuance.
- (5) He or she complies with the fingerprint requirements established by board regulation.

#### **§ 4996.61. SUSPENDED LICENSE; RENEWAL**

A suspended license is subject to expiration and shall be renewed as provided in this article, but such renewal does not entitle the licensee, while the license remains suspended and until it is reinstated, to engage in the activity to which the license relates, or in any other activity or conduct in violation of the order or judgment by which it was suspended.

#### **§ 4996.62. REVOKED LICENSE; REINSTATEMENT**

A revoked license is subject to expiration as provided in this article, but it may not be renewed. If it is reinstated after its expiration, the licensee shall, as a condition precedent to its reinstatement, pay a reinstatement fee in an amount equal to the renewal fee in effect on the last regular renewal date before the date on which it is reinstated, plus the delinquency fee, if any, accrued at the time of its revocation.

#### **§ 4996.65. ADDITIONAL LICENSE RENEWAL FEE; MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER EDUCATION FUND**

- (a) In addition to the fees charged pursuant to Section 4996.3 for the biennial renewal of a license pursuant to Section 4996.6, the board shall collect an additional fee of twenty dollars (\$20) at the time of renewal. The board shall transfer this amount to the Controller who shall deposit the funds in the Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund.
- (b) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2018.

#### **§ 4996.7. DISPLAY OF LICENSE**

A licensee shall display his or her license in a conspicuous place in the licensee's primary place of practice.

#### **§ 4996.75. REQUIRED NOTICE TO CLIENTS**

- (a) On and after July 1, 2020, a licensee or registrant shall provide a client with a notice written in at least 12-point type prior to initiating psychotherapy services, or as soon as practicably possible thereafter, that reads as follows:

##### **NOTICE TO CLIENTS**

The Board of Behavioral Sciences receives and responds to complaints regarding services provided within the scope of practice of clinical social workers. You may contact the board online at [www.bbs.ca.gov](http://www.bbs.ca.gov), or by calling (916) 574-7830.

(b) Delivery of the notice required by this section to the client shall be documented.

#### **§ 4996.8. DISPLAY OF CURRENT RENEWAL RECEIPT**

The current renewal receipt shall be displayed near the license.

#### **§ 4996.9. CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK AND PSYCHOTHERAPY DEFINED**

The practice of clinical social work is defined as a service in which a special knowledge of social resources, human capabilities, and the part that unconscious motivation plays in determining behavior, is directed at helping people to achieve more adequate, satisfying, and productive social adjustments. The application of social work principles and methods includes, but is not restricted to, counseling and using applied psychotherapy of a nonmedical nature with individuals, families, or groups; providing information and referral services; providing or arranging for the provision of social services; explaining or interpreting the psychosocial aspects in the situations of individuals, families, or groups; helping communities to organize, to provide, or to improve social or health services; doing research related to social work; and the use, application, and integration of the coursework and experience required by Sections 4996.2 and 4996.23.

Psychotherapy, within the meaning of this chapter, is the use of psychosocial methods within a professional relationship, to assist the person or persons to achieve a better psychosocial adaptation, to acquire greater human realization of psychosocial potential and adaptation, and to modify internal and external conditions which affect individuals, groups, or communities in respect to behavior, emotions, and thinking, in respect to their intrapersonal and interpersonal processes.

#### **§ 4996.10. APPLICATION OF ARTICLE ONLY TO CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS**

The provisions of this article shall be construed only as provisions relating to the examination and licensing of clinical social workers.

#### **§ 4996.11. SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE; GROUNDS; CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS**

The board may suspend or revoke the license of any person who is guilty on the grounds set forth in Section 4992.3. The proceedings for the suspension or revocation of licenses under this article shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and the board shall have all the powers granted in that chapter.

#### **§ 4996.12. VIOLATIONS; PENALTIES**

Any person who violates this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding a period of six months, or by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both.

**§ 4996.13. OTHER PROFESSIONAL GROUPS; WORK OF PSYCHOSOCIAL NATURE; IMPERMISSIBLE REPRESENTATIONS**

Nothing in this article shall prevent qualified members of other professional groups from doing work of a psychosocial nature consistent with the standards and ethics of their respective professions. However, they shall not hold themselves out to the public by any title or description of services incorporating the words psychosocial, or clinical social worker, or that they shall not state or imply that they are licensed to practice clinical social work. These qualified members of other professional groups include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) A physician and surgeon certified pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2000).
- (b) A psychologist licensed pursuant to Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 2900).
- (c) Members of the State Bar of California.
- (d) Marriage and family therapists licensed pursuant to Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 4980).
  
- (e) Licensed professional clinical counselors pursuant to Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 4999.10).
- (f) A priest, rabbi, or minister of the gospel of any religious denomination.

**§ 4996.14. EMPLOYEES OF CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS; ACTIVITIES OF PSYCHOSOCIAL NATURE; REQUIRED NOTICE TO CLIENTS**

- (a) This chapter shall not be construed to constrict, limit, or withdraw the Medical Practice Act, the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Act, the Nursing Practice Act, the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor Act, or the Psychology Licensing Law.
- (b) This chapter shall not apply to an unlicensed or unregistered employee or volunteer working in a governmental entity, a school, a college, a university, or an institution that is both nonprofit and charitable if both of the following apply:
  - (1) The work of the employee or volunteer is performed under the oversight and direction of the entity.
  - (2) (A) On and after July 1, 2020, the employee or volunteer provides a client, prior to initiating psychotherapy services or as soon as practicably possible thereafter, a notice written in at least 12-point type that is in substantially the following form:

**NOTICE TO CLIENTS**

The (Name of office or unit) of the (Name of agency) receives and responds to complaints regarding the practice of psychotherapy by any unlicensed or unregistered practitioner providing services at (Name of agency). To file a complaint, contact (Telephone number, email address, internet website, or mailing address of agency).

The Board of Behavioral Sciences receives and responds to complaints regarding services provided by individuals licensed and registered by the board. If you have a complaint and are unsure if your practitioner is licensed or registered, please contact the Board of

Behavioral Sciences at 916-574-7830 for assistance or utilize the board's online license verification feature by visiting [www.bbs.ca.gov](http://www.bbs.ca.gov).

- (B) The delivery of the notice described in subparagraph (A) to the client shall be documented.
- (c) This chapter shall not apply to a person using hypnotic techniques if their client was referred by a physician and surgeon, dentist, or psychologist.
- (d) This chapter shall not apply to a person using hypnotic techniques that offer vocational self-improvement, and the person is not performing therapy for emotional or mental disorders.
- (e) Notwithstanding subdivisions (b) and (c) or Section 4996.13, all persons registered as associates or licensed under this chapter shall not be exempt from this chapter or the jurisdiction of the board.

#### **§ 4996.14.1. EXEMPT SETTINGS**

The settings described in Section 4996.14 are exempt settings and do not fall under the jurisdiction of this chapter or of the board except as specified in Section 4996.14, and with the following exceptions:

- (a) Any individual working or volunteering in an exempt setting who is licensed or registered under this chapter shall fall under the jurisdiction of the board and is not exempt from this chapter.
- (b) An entity that is licensed or certified by a government regulatory agency to provide health care services shall not be considered an exempt setting unless the entity directly meets the criteria described in Section 4996.14.

#### **§ 4996.14.2. NONEXEMPT SETTINGS**

(a) For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Nonexempt setting" means a setting that does not qualify as an exempt setting, as specified in Section 4996.14.
- (2) "Private practice" means a type of nonexempt setting that meets all of the following criteria:
  - (A) The practice is owned by a health professional who is licensed under this division either independently or jointly with one or more other health professionals who are licensed under this division.
  - (B) The practice provides clinical mental health services, including psychotherapy, to clients.
  - (C) One or more licensed health professionals are responsible for the practice and for the services provided and set conditions of client payment or reimbursement for the provision of services.
- (3) "Professional corporation" means a type of nonexempt setting and private practice that has been formed pursuant to Part 4 (commencing with Section 13400) of Division 3 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code.

(b) An active license or registration number shall be required to engage in the practice of clinical social work, as defined in Section 4996.9, in nonexempt settings at all times, except as follows:



- (1) A social work intern may engage in the practice of clinical social work in a nonexempt setting that is not a private practice or a professional corporation, while pursuing a course of study leading to a master's degree in social work pursuant to Section 4996.15.
- (2) An applicant for registration as an associate may engage in the practice of clinical social work in a nonexempt setting that is not a private practice or a professional corporation before their registration number is issued if they are in compliance with subdivision (b) of Section 4996.23 and are gaining supervised experience that meets the requirements of this chapter.

**§ 4996.15. PERFORMANCE OF PSYCHOSOCIAL WORK BY PERSONS IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS; SOCIAL WORK INTERN**

- (a) Nothing in this article shall restrict or prevent psychosocial activities by employees of accredited academic institutions, public schools, government agencies, or nonprofit institutions who train graduate students pursuing a master's degree in social work in an accredited college or university. Any psychosocial activities by the employee shall be part of a supervised course of study and the graduate students shall be designated by titles such as social work interns, social work trainees, or other titles clearly indicating the training status appropriate to their level of training. The term "social work intern," however, shall be reserved for persons enrolled in a master's or doctoral training program in social work in an accredited school or department of social work.
- (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a graduate student shall not perform clinical social work in a private practice or a professional corporation.

**§ 4996.16. PERSONS FROM OUT-OF-STATE; CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN THIS STATE**

Nothing in this chapter shall apply to any clinical social worker from outside this state, when in actual consultation with a licensed practitioner of this state, or when an invited guest of a professional association, or of an educational institution for the sole purpose of engaging in professional education through lectures, clinics, or demonstrations, if he or she is at the time of the consultation, lecture, or demonstration licensed to practice clinical social work in the state or country in which he or she resides. These clinical social workers shall not open an office or appoint a place to meet clients or receive calls from clients within the limits of this state.

**§ 4996.16.1. TEMPORARY PRACTICE ALLOWANCE: LICENSEES IN ANOTHER STATE OR UNITED STATES JURISDICTION**

- (a) Notwithstanding Section 4996, a person who holds a license in another jurisdiction of the United States as a clinical social worker may provide clinical social work services in this state for a period not to exceed 30 consecutive days in any calendar year, if all of the following conditions are met:
  - (1) The license from another jurisdiction is at the highest level for independent clinical practice in the jurisdiction in which the license was granted.
  - (2) The license from another jurisdiction is current, active, and unrestricted.
  - (3) The client is located in California during the time the person seeks to provide care in California.

- (4) The client is a current client of the person and has an established, ongoing client-provider relationship with the person at the time the client became located in California.
  - (5) The person informs the client of the limited timeframe of the services and that the person is not licensed in California.
  - (6) The person provides the client with the Board of Behavioral Sciences' internet website address.
  - (7) The person informs the client of the jurisdiction in which the person is licensed and the type of license held and provides the client with the person's license number.
- (b) A person who intends to provide clinical social work services pursuant to this section shall provide the board with all of the following information before providing services:
- (1) The name under which the person is licensed in another jurisdiction, the person's mailing address, the person's phone number, the person's social security number or individual taxpayer identification number, and the person's electronic mailing address, if the person has an electronic mailing address.
  - (2) The jurisdiction in which the person is licensed, the type of license held, and the license number.
  - (3) The date on which the person will begin providing clinical social work services to the person's client in California.
- (c) A person who provides services pursuant to this section is deemed to have agreed to practicing under the jurisdiction of the board and to be bound by the laws of this state.
- (d) This section does not apply to any person licensed by the board whose license has been suspended or revoked.
- (e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.

#### **§ 4996.17.1. OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS: LICENSURE BY CREDENTIAL**

The board may issue a license to a person who, at the time of submitting an application for a license pursuant to this chapter, holds a license in another jurisdiction of the United States as a clinical social worker at the highest level for independent practice if all of the following requirements are met:

- (a) The applicant's license in the other jurisdiction has been current, active, and unrestricted for at least two years immediately before the date the application was received by the board. The applicant shall disclose to the board for review any past restrictions or disciplinary actions on an out-of-state license and the board shall consider these actions in determining whether to issue a license to the applicant.
- (b) The applicant's degree that qualified the applicant for the out-of-state license is a master's degree from an accredited school or department of social work.
- (c) The applicant complies with the fingerprint requirements established in Section 144.
- (d) The applicant completes the coursework specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) from an accredited school or department of social work, a school, college, or university accredited by a regional or

national institutional accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States Department of Education, a school, college, or university that is approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, or from a continuing education provider that is identified as acceptable by the board pursuant to Section 4996.22. Undergraduate coursework shall not satisfy these requirements.

- (1) A minimum of 12 hours of coursework in California law and professional ethics. The content of the course shall include, but not be limited to, the following: advertising, scope of practice, scope of competence, treatment of minors, confidentiality, dangerous patients, psychotherapist-patient privilege, recordkeeping, patient access to records, state and federal laws related to confidentiality of patient health information, dual relationships, child abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, online therapy, insurance reimbursement, civil liability, disciplinary actions and unprofessional conduct, ethics complaints and ethical standards, termination of therapy, standards of care, relevant family law, therapist disclosures to patients, the application of legal and ethical standards in different types of work settings, and licensing law and process.
  - (2) At least one semester unit, or 15 hours, of instruction that includes an understanding of various California cultures and the social and psychological implications of socioeconomic position.
- (e) The applicant obtains a minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting, as specified in Section 28, and any regulations promulgated thereunder.
  - (f) On and after January 1, 2021, the applicant shall show proof of completion of at least six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention using one of the methods specified in Section 4996.27.
  - (g) The applicant passes the board-administered California law and ethics examination required in Section 4996.1. The clinical examination required in Section 4996.1 shall be waived for an applicant qualifying under this section.
  - (h) This section was developed based on an examination of the licensure requirements for clinical social workers on a national level. This section shall not be construed to apply to any provisions under this division or Division 3 (commencing with Section 5000) other than this act.

#### **§ 4996.17.2. OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS: LICENSURE BY EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE**

- (a) This section applies to persons with education gained from an out-of-state school or experience gained outside of California who apply for licensure or registration and who do not qualify for a license under Section 4996.17.1.
- (b) The board shall accept experience gained outside of California for the purpose of satisfying the licensure requirements if the experience is substantially the equivalent to the requirements of this chapter. If the applicant has fewer than 3,000 hours of qualifying supervised experience, the board shall accept as qualifying experience the amount of time the applicant held an active license in good standing in another state or country as a clinical social worker at the highest level for independent practice at a rate of 100 hours per month, up to a maximum of 1,200 hours.

- (c) The board shall accept education gained from an out-of-state school for purposes of satisfying licensure or registration requirements if the applicant has received a master's degree from an accredited school of social work, or complies with subdivision (e) of Section 4996.18.
- (d) In addition to the experience and education described in subdivisions (b) and (c), the applicant shall pass, or have passed, the licensing examinations as specified in Section 4996.1 and pay the required fees. Issuance of the license is conditioned upon all of the following:
- (1) The applicant has supervised experience as described in subdivision (b).
  - (2) Completion of the coursework or training specified in this paragraph taken from an accredited school or department of social work, a school, college, or university accredited by a regional or national institutional accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States Department of Education, a school, college, or university that is approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, or from a continuing education provider that is identified as acceptable to the board pursuant to Section 4996.22. Undergraduate coursework shall not satisfy this requirement. This coursework may be completed while registered as an associate, unless otherwise specified.
    - (A) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting, as specified in Section 28, and any regulations promulgated thereunder.
    - (B) A minimum of 10 contact hours of training or coursework in human sexuality, as specified in Section 25, and any regulations promulgated thereunder.
    - (C) A minimum of 15 contact hours of training or coursework in alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency, as specified by regulation.
    - (D) A minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework or training in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies.
    - (E) A minimum of 10 contact hours of coursework in aging and long-term care, as specified in Section 4996.25.
    - (F) Completion of a 12-hour course in California law and professional ethics. The content of the course shall include, but not be limited to, the following: advertising, scope of practice, scope of competence, treatment of minors, confidentiality, dangerous patients, psychotherapist-patient privilege, recordkeeping, patient access to records, state and federal laws related to confidentiality of patient health information, dual relationships, child abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, online therapy, insurance reimbursement, civil liability, disciplinary actions and unprofessional conduct, ethics complaints and ethical standards, termination of therapy, standards of care, relevant family law, therapist disclosures to patients, the application of legal and ethical standards in different types of work settings, and licensing law and process. This coursework shall be completed before registration as an associate.
    - (G) At least one semester unit, or 15 hours, of instruction that includes an understanding of various California cultures and the social and psychological implications of socioeconomic position.
  - (3) On and after January 1, 2021, an applicant for licensure shall show proof of completion of at least six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention using one of the methods specified in Section 4996.27.

- (4) The applicant's license is in good standing and is not suspended, revoked, restricted, sanctioned, or voluntarily surrendered in any state.
  - (5) The applicant is not currently under investigation in any other state, and has not been charged with an offense for any act substantially related to the practice of social work by any public agency, entered into any consent agreement or been subject to an administrative decision that contains conditions placed by an agency upon an applicant's professional conduct or practice, including any voluntary surrender of license, or been the subject of an adverse judgment resulting from the practice of social work that the board determines constitutes evidence of a pattern of incompetence or negligence.
  - (6) The applicant shall provide a certification from each state where the applicant holds a license pertaining to licensure, disciplinary action, and complaints pending.
  - (7) The applicant is not subject to denial of licensure under Section 480, 4992.3, 4992.35, or 4992.36.
- (e) An applicant who obtained a license or registration under another state or country may qualify for licensure with the board without taking the clinical examination specified in Section 4996.1 if both of the following conditions are met:
- (1) The applicant obtained a passing score on the clinical licensing examination set forth in regulation as accepted by the board.
  - (2) The applicant's license or registration in that state or country is active and in good standing at the time of the application and is not revoked, suspended, surrendered, denied, or otherwise restricted or encumbered.

#### **§ 4996.18. ASSOCIATE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER; REGISTRATION; SUPERVISION**

- (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b) of Section 4996.23, an applicant shall have an active registration with the board as an associate clinical social worker in order to gain hours of supervised experience. The application shall be made on a form prescribed by the board.
- (b) An applicant for registration shall satisfy the following requirements:
- (1) Possess a master's degree from an accredited school or department of social work.
  - (2) Not be subject to denial of licensure pursuant to Section 480.
  - (3) Have completed training or coursework, which may be embedded within more than one course, in California law and professional ethics for clinical social workers. The coursework shall be taken from an accredited school or department of social work, a school, college, or university accredited by a regional or national institutional accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States Department of Education, a school, college, or university that is approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, or from a continuing education provider that is acceptable to the board, as defined in Section 4996.22. Undergraduate coursework shall not satisfy this requirement. The coursework shall include instruction in all of the following areas of study:
    - (A) Contemporary professional ethics and statutes, regulations, and court decisions that delineate the scope of practice of clinical social work.

- (B) The therapeutic, clinical, and practical considerations involved in the legal and ethical practice of clinical social work, including, but not limited to, family law.
  - (C) The current legal patterns and trends in the mental health professions.
  - (D) The psychotherapist-patient privilege, confidentiality, dangerous patients, and the treatment of minors with and without parental consent.
  - (E) A recognition and exploration of the relationship between a practitioner's sense of self and human values, and the practitioner's professional behavior and ethics.
  - (F) The application of legal and ethical standards in different types of work settings.
  - (G) Licensing law and process.
- (c) An applicant who possesses a master's degree from a school or department of social work that is a candidate for accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education shall be eligible, and, except as provided in subdivision (b) of Section 4996.23, shall be required to register as an associate clinical social worker in order to gain experience toward licensure if the applicant is not subject to denial of licensure pursuant to Section 480. That applicant shall not, however, be eligible to take the clinical examination until the school or department of social work has received accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education.
  - (d) An applicant who possesses a master's degree from an accredited school or department of social work shall be able to apply experience the applicant obtained during the time the accredited school or department was in candidacy status by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education toward the licensure requirements, if the experience meets the requirements of Section 4996.23. This subdivision shall apply retroactively to persons who possess a master's degree from an accredited school or department of social work and who obtained experience during the time the accredited school or department was in candidacy status by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education.
  - (e) An applicant for registration or licensure trained in an educational institution outside the United States shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board that the applicant possesses a master's of social work degree that is equivalent to a master's degree issued from a school or department of social work that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education. These applicants shall provide the board with a comprehensive evaluation of the degree and shall provide any other documentation the board deems necessary. The board has the authority to make the final determination as to whether a degree meets all requirements, including, but not limited to, course requirements regardless of evaluation or accreditation.
  - (f) All applicants for licensure and registrants shall be at all times under the supervision of a supervisor who shall be responsible for ensuring that the extent, kind, and quality of counseling performed is consistent with the training and experience of the person being supervised and who shall be responsible to the board for compliance with all laws governing the practice of clinical social work.
  - (g) All applicants and registrants shall inform each client or patient before performing any professional services that the applicant or registrant is unlicensed and is under the supervision of a licensed professional.

## **§ 4996.19. LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS' CORPORATION; APPLICATION OF ARTICLE**

Nothing in this article shall prohibit the acts or practices of a licensed clinical social workers' corporation duly certificated pursuant to the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act, as contained in Part 4 (commencing with Section 13400) of Division 3 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code and Article 5 (commencing with Section 4998), when the corporation is in compliance with (a) the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act; (b) Article 5 (commencing with Section 4998); and (c) all other statutes and all rules and regulations now or hereafter enacted or adopted pertaining to the corporation and the conduct of its affairs.

## **§ 4996.20. ASSOCIATE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER: ACCEPTABLE SUPERVISORS AND SUPERVISION DEFINITION**

(a) "Supervisor," as used in this chapter, means an individual who meets all of the following requirements:

- (1) Has held an active license for at least two years within the five-year period immediately preceding any supervision as either:
  - (A) A licensed professional clinical counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist, psychologist licensed pursuant to Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 2900), licensed clinical social worker, licensed educational psychologist, or equivalent out-of-state license. A licensed educational psychologist may only supervise the provision of educationally related mental health services that are consistent with the scope of practice of an educational psychologist, as specified in Section 4989.14.
  - (B) A physician and surgeon who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology or an out-of-state licensed physician and surgeon who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.
- (2) For at least two years within the five-year period immediately preceding any supervision, has practiced psychotherapy, provided psychological counseling pursuant to paragraph (5) of subdivision (a) of Section 4989.14, or provided direct clinical supervision of psychotherapy performed by associate clinical social workers, associate marriage and family therapists or trainees, or associate professional clinical counselors. Supervision of psychotherapy performed by a social work intern or a professional clinical counselor trainee shall be accepted if the supervision provided is substantially equivalent to the supervision required for registrants.
- (3) Has received training in supervision as specified in this chapter and by regulation.
- (4) Has not provided therapeutic services to the supervisee.
- (5) Has and maintains a current and active license that is not under suspension or probation as one of the following:
  - (A) A marriage and family therapist, professional clinical counselor, clinical social worker, or licensed educational psychologist issued by the board.
  - (B) A psychologist licensed pursuant to Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 2900).
  - (C) A physician and surgeon who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

- (6) Is not a spouse, domestic partner, or relative of the supervisee.
  - (7) Does not currently have or previously had a personal, professional, or business relationship with the supervisee that undermines the authority or effectiveness of the supervision.
- (b) As used in this chapter, the term “supervision” means responsibility for, and control of, the quality of mental health and related services provided by the supervisee. Consultation or peer discussion shall not be considered supervision and shall not qualify as supervised experience.

“Supervision” includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

- (1) Ensuring the extent, kind, and quality of counseling performed is consistent with the education, training, and experience of the supervisee.
- (2) Monitoring and evaluating the supervisee’s assessment, diagnosis, and treatment decisions and providing regular feedback.
- (3) Monitoring and evaluating the supervisee’s ability to provide services at the site or sites where the supervisee is practicing and to the particular clientele being served.
- (4) Monitoring and addressing clinical dynamics, including, but not limited to, countertransference-, intrapsychic-, interpersonal-, or trauma-related issues that may affect the supervisory or the practitioner-patient relationship.
- (5) Ensuring the supervisee’s compliance with laws and regulations governing the practice of clinical social work.
- (6) Reviewing the supervisee’s progress notes, process notes, and other patient treatment records, as deemed appropriate by the supervisor.
- (7) With the client’s written consent, providing direct observation or review of audio or video recordings of the supervisee’s counseling or therapy, as deemed appropriate by the supervisor.

#### **§ 4996.21. AUDITS OF SUPERVISORS**

The board may audit the records of any supervisor to verify the completion of the supervisor qualifications specified by this chapter and by regulation. A supervisor shall maintain records of completion of the required supervisor qualifications for seven years after termination of supervision and shall make these records available to the board for auditing purposes upon request.

#### **§ 4996.22. CONTINUING EDUCATION**

- (a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (c), the board shall not renew any license pursuant to this chapter unless the applicant certifies to the board, on a form prescribed by the board, that the applicant has completed not less than 36 hours of approved continuing education in or relevant to the field of social work in the preceding two years, as determined by the board.
- (2) The board shall not renew any license of an applicant who began graduate study before January 1, 2004, pursuant to this chapter unless the applicant certifies to the board that during the applicant’s first renewal period after the operative date of this section, the applicant completed a continuing education course in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection,



and intervention strategies, including community resources, cultural factors, and same gender abuse dynamics. On and after January 1, 2005, the course shall consist of not less than seven hours of training. Equivalent courses in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies taken before the operative date of this section or proof of equivalent teaching or practice experience may be submitted to the board and at its discretion, may be accepted in satisfaction of this requirement. Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this paragraph shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education required under paragraph (1).

- (3) The board shall not renew any registration pursuant to this chapter unless the registrant certifies under penalty of perjury to the board, and on a form prescribed by the board, that they have completed not less than three hours of continuing education in the subject of California law and ethics during the preceding year.
- (b) The board shall have the right to audit the records of any applicant to verify the completion of the continuing education requirement. Applicants shall maintain records of completion of required continuing education coursework for a minimum of two years and shall make these records available to the board for auditing purposes upon request.
- (c) The board may establish exceptions from the continuing education requirement of this section for good cause as defined by the board.
- (d) The continuing education shall be obtained from one of the following sources:
  - (1) An accredited school of social work, as defined in Section 4991.2, or a school or department of social work that is a candidate for accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as requiring coursework to be offered as part of a regular degree program.
  - (2) A school, college, or university accredited by a regional or national institutional accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States Department of Education or a school, college, or university that is approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education.
  - (3) Another continuing education provider, as specified by the board by regulation.
- (e) The board shall establish, by regulation, a procedure for identifying acceptable providers of continuing education courses, and all providers of continuing education, as described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (d), shall adhere to the procedures established by the board. The board may revoke or deny the right of a provider to offer continuing education coursework pursuant to this section for failure to comply with this section or any regulation adopted pursuant to this section.
- (f) Training, education, and coursework by approved providers shall incorporate one or more of the following:
  - (1) Aspects of the discipline that are fundamental to the understanding, or the practice, of social work.
  - (2) Aspects of the social work discipline in which significant recent developments have occurred.
  - (3) Aspects of other related disciplines that enhance the understanding, or the practice, of social work.

- (g) A system of continuing education for licensed clinical social workers shall include courses directly related to the diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of the client population being served.
- (h) The continuing education requirements of this section shall comply fully with the guidelines for mandatory continuing education established by the Department of Consumer Affairs pursuant to Section 166.
- (i) The board may adopt regulations as necessary to implement this section.

**§ 4996.23. SUPERVISED POST-MASTER'S EXPERIENCE**

- (a) To qualify for licensure, each applicant shall complete 3,000 hours of post-master's degree supervised experience related to the practice of clinical social work. Except as provided in subdivision (b), experience shall not be gained until the applicant is registered as an associate clinical social worker.
- (b) Postdegree hours of experience gained before the issuance of an associate registration shall be credited toward licensure if all of the following apply:
  - (1) The registration applicant applies for the associate registration and the board receives the application within 90 days of the granting of the qualifying master's or doctoral degree.
  - (2) For applicants completing graduate study on or after January 1, 2020, the experience is obtained at a workplace that, prior to the registration applicant gaining supervised experience hours, requires completed Live Scan fingerprinting. The applicant shall provide the board with a copy of that completed "State of California Request for Live Scan Service" form with the application for licensure.
  - (3) The board subsequently grants the associate registration.
- (c) The applicant shall not be employed or volunteer in a private practice or a professional corporation until the applicant has been issued an associate registration by the board.
- (d) The experience shall be as follows:
  - (1) (A) At least 1,700 hours shall be gained under the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker. The remaining required supervised experience may be gained under the supervision of a physician and surgeon who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, licensed professional clinical counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist, psychologist licensed pursuant to Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 2900), licensed educational psychologist, or licensed clinical social worker.
  - (B) A maximum of 1,200 hours gained under the supervision of a licensed educational psychologist providing educationally related mental health services that are consistent with the scope of practice of an educational psychologist, as specified in Section 4989.14.
  - (2) A minimum of 2,000 hours in clinical psychosocial diagnosis, assessment, and treatment, including psychotherapy or counseling; however, at least 750 hours shall be face-to-face individual or group psychotherapy provided in the context of clinical social work services.
  - (3) A maximum of 1,000 hours in client-centered advocacy, consultation, evaluation, research, direct supervisor contact, and workshops, seminars, training sessions, or conferences directly related to clinical social work that have been approved by the applicant's supervisor.

- (4) A minimum of two years of supervised experience is required to be obtained over a period of not less than 104 weeks and shall have been gained within the six years immediately preceding the date on which the application for licensure was received by the board.
- (5) No more than 40 hours of experience may be credited in any seven consecutive days.
- (6) For hours gained on or after January 1, 2010, no more than six hours of supervision, whether individual, triadic, or group supervision, shall be credited during any single week.
- (e) An individual who submits an application for licensure between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2020, may alternatively qualify under the experience requirements of this section that were in place on January 1, 2015.

**§ 4996.23.1 DIRECT SUPERVISOR CONTACT; INOPERATIVE JANUARY 1, 2026**

- (a) Except for experience gained by attending workshops, seminars, training sessions, or conferences, as described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 4996.23, direct supervisor contact shall occur as follows:
  - (1) Supervision shall include at least one hour of direct supervisor contact each week for which experience is credited in each work setting.
  - (2) An associate gaining experience who performs more than 10 hours of direct clinical counseling in a week in any setting shall receive at least one additional hour of direct supervisor contact for that setting.
- (b) (1) For purposes of this chapter, “one hour of direct supervisor contact” means any of the following:
  - (A) Individual supervision, which means one hour of face-to-face contact between one supervisor and one supervisee.
  - (B) Triadic supervision, which means one hour of face-to-face contact between one supervisor and two supervisees.
  - (C) Group supervision, which means two hours of face-to-face contact between one supervisor and no more than eight supervisees. Segments of group supervision may be split into no less than one continuous hour. A supervisor shall ensure that the amount and degree of supervision is appropriate for each supervisee.
- (2) For purposes of this subdivision, “face-to-face contact” means in-person contact, contact via two-way, real-time videoconferencing, or some combination of these.
- (c) The supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with federal and state laws relating to confidentiality of patient health information.
- (d) (1) Within 60 days of the commencement of supervision, a supervisor shall conduct a meeting with the supervisee during which the supervisor shall assess the appropriateness of allowing the supervisee to receive supervision via two-way, real-time videoconferencing. This assessment of appropriateness shall include, but is not limited to, the abilities of the supervisee, the preferences of both the supervisee and supervisor, and the privacy of the locations of the supervisee and supervisor while supervision is conducted.

- (2) The supervisor shall document the results of the assessment made pursuant to paragraph (1), and shall not utilize supervision via two-way, real-time videoconferencing if their assessment finds it is not appropriate.
- (e) Direct supervisor contact shall occur within the same week as the hours claimed.
- (f) Of the 104 weeks of required supervision, 52 weeks shall be individual supervision, triadic supervision, or a combination of both.
- (g) Of the 52 weeks of required individual or triadic supervision, no less than 13 weeks shall be supervised by a licensed clinical social worker.
- (h) Alternative supervision may be arranged during a supervisor's vacation or sick leave if the alternative supervision meets the requirements of this chapter.
- (i) Notwithstanding any other law, once the required number of experience hours are gained, an associate clinical social worker or applicant for licensure shall receive a minimum of one hour of direct supervisor contact per week for each practice setting in which direct clinical counseling is performed. Once the required number of experience hours are gained, further supervision for nonclinical practice, as described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 4996.23, shall be at the supervisor's discretion.
- (j) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.

**§ 4996.23.1 DIRECT SUPERVISOR CONTACT; OPERATIVE JANUARY 1, 2026**

- (a) Except for experience gained by attending workshops, seminars, training sessions, or conferences, as described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 4996.23, direct supervisor contact shall occur as follows:
  - (1) Supervision shall include at least one hour of direct supervisor contact each week for which experience is credited in each work setting.
  - (2) An associate gaining experience who performs more than 10 hours of direct clinical counseling in a week in any setting shall receive at least one additional hour of direct supervisor contact for that setting.
- (b) For purposes of this chapter, "one hour of direct supervisor contact" means any of the following:
  - (1) Individual supervision, which means one hour of face-to-face contact between one supervisor and one supervisee.
  - (2) Triadic supervision, which means one hour of face-to-face contact between one supervisor and two supervisees.
  - (3) Group supervision, which means two hours of face-to-face contact between one supervisor and no more than eight supervisees. Segments of group supervision may be split into no less than one continuous hour. A supervisor shall ensure that the amount and degree of supervision is appropriate for each supervisee.
- (c) Direct supervisor contact shall occur within the same week as the hours claimed.
- (d) Of the 104 weeks of required supervision, 52 weeks shall be individual supervision, triadic supervision, or a combination of both.

- (e) Of the 52 weeks of required individual or triadic supervision, no less than 13 weeks shall be supervised by a licensed clinical social worker.
- (f) Alternative supervision may be arranged during a supervisor's vacation or sick leave if the alternative supervision meets the requirements of this chapter.
- (g) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), a supervisee working in an exempt setting described in Section 4996.14 may obtain the required weekly direct supervisor contact via two-way, real-time videoconferencing. The supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with state and federal laws relating to confidentiality of patient health information.
- (h) Notwithstanding any other law, once the required number of experience hours are gained, an associate clinical social worker or applicant for licensure shall receive a minimum of one hour of direct supervisor contact per week for each practice setting in which direct clinical counseling is performed. Once the required number of experience hours are gained, further supervision for nonclinical practice, as described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 4996.23, shall be at the supervisor's discretion.
- (i) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2026.

**§ 4996.23.2. SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: ACCEPTABLE SETTINGS; ACCEPTABLE SUPERVISION PRACTICES**

- (a) An associate clinical social worker or applicant for licensure shall only perform mental health and related services as an employee or as a volunteer, not as an independent contractor. The requirements of this chapter regarding hours of experience and supervision shall apply equally to employees and volunteers. An associate or applicant for licensure shall not perform any services or gain any experience within the scope of practice of the profession, as defined in Section 4996.9, as an independent contractor. While an associate may be either a paid employee or a volunteer, employers are encouraged to provide fair remuneration.
  - (1) If employed, an associate shall provide the board, upon application for licensure, with copies of the corresponding W-2 tax forms for each year of experience claimed.
  - (2) If volunteering, an associate shall provide the board, upon application for licensure, with a letter from their employer verifying the associate's status as a volunteer during the dates the experience was gained.
- (b) Employment in a private practice or professional corporation shall not commence until the applicant has been registered as an associate clinical social worker.
- (c) Experience shall only be gained in a setting that meets both of the following:
  - (1) Lawfully and regularly provides clinical social work, mental health counseling, or psychotherapy.
  - (2) Provides oversight to ensure that the associate's work at the setting meets the experience and supervision requirements set forth in this chapter and is within the scope of practice for the profession as defined in Section 4996.9.
- (d) Only experience gained in the position for which the associate clinical social worker volunteers or is employed shall qualify as supervised experience.

- (e) Any experience obtained under the supervision of a spouse or relative by blood or marriage shall not be credited toward the required hours of supervised experience. Any experience obtained under the supervision of a supervisor with whom the applicant has had or currently has a personal, professional, or business relationship that undermines the authority or effectiveness of the supervision shall not be credited toward the required hours of supervised experience.
- (f) An associate clinical social worker or applicant for licensure who provides voluntary services in any lawful work setting and who only receives reimbursement for expenses actually incurred shall be considered an employee. The board may audit an applicant for licensure who receives reimbursement for expenses and the applicant shall have the burden of demonstrating that the payments received were for reimbursement of expenses actually incurred.
- (g) An associate clinical social worker or applicant for licensure who receives a stipend or educational loan repayment from a program designed to encourage demographically underrepresented groups to enter the profession or to improve recruitment and retention in underserved regions or settings shall be considered an employee. The board may audit an applicant who receives a stipend or educational loan repayment and the applicant shall have the burden of demonstrating that the payments received were for the specified purposes.
- (h) An associate or applicant for licensure shall not receive any remuneration from patients or clients and shall only be paid by their employer, if an employee.
- (i) An associate or applicant for licensure shall have no proprietary interest in their employer's business and shall not lease or rent space, pay for furnishings, equipment, or supplies, or in any other way pay for the obligations of their employer.
- (j) An associate may provide services via telehealth that are in the scope of practice as outlined in this chapter.
- (k) Each educational institution preparing applicants pursuant to this chapter shall consider requiring, and shall encourage, its students to undergo individual, marital, conjoint, family, or group counseling or psychotherapy, as appropriate. Each supervisor shall consider, advise, and encourage their supervisees regarding the advisability of undertaking individual, marital, conjoint, family, or group counseling or psychotherapy, as appropriate. Insofar as it is deemed appropriate and is desired by the applicant, educational institutions and supervisors are encouraged to assist the applicant to locate counseling or psychotherapy at a reasonable cost.

**§ 4996.23.3. SUPERVISEES: LOCATION OF SERVICES; MAXIMUM NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS; OVERSIGHT AGREEMENT**

- (a) An associate clinical social worker or an applicant for licensure shall only perform mental health and related services at the places where their employer permits business to be conducted.
- (b) An associate who is employed by, or volunteering in, a private practice or a professional corporation shall be supervised by an individual who is both of the following:
  - (1) Is employed by or contracted by the associate's employer or is an owner of the private practice or professional corporation.
  - (2) Either provides psychotherapeutic services to clients for the associate's employer, or meets both of the following:

- (A) The supervisor and the associate's employer have a written contract providing the supervisor the same access to the associate's clinical records provided to employees of that employer.
- (B) The associate's clients authorize the release of their clinical records to the supervisor.
- (c) Supervisors of supervisees in a nonexempt setting shall not serve as individual or triadic supervisors for more than six supervisees at any time. Supervisees may be registered as associate marriage and family therapists, associate professional clinical counselors, associate clinical social workers, or any combination of those registrations.
- (d) A written oversight agreement, as specified by the board by regulation, shall be executed between the supervisor and employer when the supervisor is not employed by the supervisee's employer or is a volunteer. The supervisor shall evaluate the site or sites where the supervisee will be gaining experience to determine that the site or sites comply with the requirements of this chapter.

#### **§ 4996.25. ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK**

- (a) Any applicant for licensure as a licensed clinical social worker who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2004, shall complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum of 10 contact hours of coursework in aging and long-term care, which could include, but is not limited to, the biological, social, and psychological aspects of aging. On and after January 1, 2012, this coursework shall include instruction on the assessment and reporting of, as well as treatment related to, elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect.
- (b) Coursework taken in fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure pursuant to this chapter, or in a separate course of study, may, at the discretion of the board, fulfill the requirements of this section.
- (c) In order to satisfy the coursework requirement of this section, the applicant shall submit to the board a certification from the chief academic officer of the educational institution from which the applicant graduated stating that the coursework required by this section is included within the institution's required curriculum for graduation, or within the coursework, that was completed by the applicant.
- (d) The board shall not issue a license to the applicant until the applicant has met the requirements of this section.

#### **§ 4996.26. ADDITIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS; AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE; ELDER AND DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

- (a) A licensee who began graduate study prior to January 1, 2004, shall complete a three-hour continuing education course in aging and long-term care during his or her first renewal period after the operative date of this section, and shall submit to the board evidence acceptable to the board of the person's satisfactory completion of the course.
- (b) The course shall include, but is not limited to, the biological, social, and psychological aspects of aging. On and after January 1, 2012, this coursework shall include instruction on the assessment and reporting of, as well as treatment related to, elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect.

- (c) Any person seeking to meet the requirements of subdivision (a) of this section may submit to the board a certificate evidencing completion of equivalent courses in aging and long-term care taken prior to the operative date of this section, or proof of equivalent teaching or practice experience. The board, in its discretion, may accept that certification as meeting the requirements of this section.
- (d) The board may not renew an applicant's license until the applicant has met the requirements of this section.
- (e) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education required in Section 4996.22.
- (f) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2005.

**§ 4996.27. REQUIRED COURSEWORK OR SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: SUICIDE RISK ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION**

- (a) On or after January 1, 2021, an applicant for licensure as a clinical social worker shall show, as part of the application, that they have completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention. This requirement shall be met in one of the following ways:
  - (1) Obtained as part of their qualifying graduate degree program. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the registrar or training director of the educational institution or program from which the applicant graduated stating that the coursework required by this section is included within the institution's curriculum required for graduation at the time the applicant graduated, or within the coursework that was completed by the applicant.
  - (2) Obtained as part of their applied experience. Applied experience can be met in any of the following settings: practicum or associateship that meets the requirement of this chapter, formal postdoctoral placement that meets the requirements of Section 2911, or other qualifying supervised experience. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the director of training for the program or primary supervisor where the qualifying experience has occurred stating that the training required by this section is included within the applied experience.
  - (3) By taking a continuing education course that meets the requirements of Section 4996.22. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a certification of completion.
- (b) As a one-time requirement, a licensee prior to the time of their first renewal after January 1, 2021, or an applicant for reactivation or reinstatement to an active license status on or after January 1, 2021, shall have completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention, using one of the methods specified in subdivision (a). Proof of compliance with this section shall be certified under penalty of perjury that they are in compliance with this section and shall be retained for submission to the board upon request.



**§ 4996.27.1. REQUIRED TRAINING OR COURSEWORK: PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES VIA TELEHEALTH**

- (a) On or after July 1, 2023, an applicant for licensure as a clinical social worker shall show, as part of the application, that they have completed a minimum of three hours of training or coursework in the provision of mental health services via telehealth, which shall include law and ethics related to telehealth. This requirement shall be met in one of the following ways:
- (1) Obtained as part of their qualifying graduate degree program. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the registrar or training director of the educational institution or program from which the applicant graduated stating that the coursework required by this section is included within the institution's curriculum required for graduation at the time the applicant graduated, or within the coursework that was completed by the applicant.
  - (2) Obtained by completing a continuing education course that meets the requirements of Section 4996.22. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a certification of completion.
- (b) As a one-time requirement, a licensee before the time of their first renewal after July 1, 2023, or an applicant for reactivation or reinstatement to an active license status on or after July 1, 2023, shall have completed a minimum of three hours of training or coursework in the provision of mental health services via telehealth, which shall include law and ethics related to telehealth, using one of the methods specified in subdivision (a)
- (c) Proof of compliance with subdivision (b) shall be certified under penalty of perjury that they are in compliance with this section and shall be retained for submission to the board upon request.

**§ 4996.28. ASSOCIATE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER; REGISTRATION EXPIRATION; RENEWAL**

- (a) Registration as an associate clinical social worker shall expire one year from the last day of the month during which it was issued. To renew a registration, the registrant shall, on or before the expiration date of the registration, complete all of the following actions:
- (1) Apply for renewal on a form prescribed by the board.
  - (2) Pay a renewal fee prescribed by the board.
  - (3) Notify the board whether they have been convicted, as defined in Section 490, of a misdemeanor or felony, and whether any disciplinary action has been taken by a regulatory or licensing board in this or any other state, subsequent to the last renewal of the registration.
  - (4) Participate in the California law and ethics examination pursuant to Section 4992.09 each year until successful completion of this examination.
  - (5) Certify under penalty of perjury their compliance with the continuing education requirements set forth in Section 4996.22.
- (b) An expired registration may be renewed by completing all of the actions described in paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (a).
- (c) A registration as an associate clinical social worker may be renewed a maximum of five times. No registration shall be renewed or reinstated beyond six years from the last day of the month during

which the registration was issued, regardless of whether the registration has been revoked. When no further renewals are possible, an applicant may apply for and obtain a subsequent associate clinical social worker registration number if the applicant meets all requirements for registration in effect at the time of their application for a subsequent associate clinical social worker registration number and has passed the California law and ethics examination pursuant to Section 4992.09. An applicant issued a subsequent associate registration number pursuant to this subdivision shall not be employed or volunteer in a private practice.

## **§ 4997. INACTIVE LICENSE**

- (a) A licensee may apply to the board to request that his or her license be placed on inactive status.
- (b) A licensee on inactive status shall be subject to this chapter and shall not engage in the practice of clinical social work in this state.
- (c) A licensee who holds an inactive license shall pay a biennial fee in the amount of one-half of the standard renewal fee and shall be exempt from continuing education requirements.
- (d) A licensee on inactive status who has not committed an act or crime constituting grounds for denial of licensure may, upon request, restore his or her license to practice clinical social work to active status.
  - (1) A licensee requesting his or her license be restored to active status between renewal cycles shall pay the remaining one-half of his or her renewal fee.
  - (2) A licensee requesting to restore his or her license to active status whose license will expire less than one year from the date of the request shall complete 18 hours of continuing education as specified in Section 4996.22.
  - (3) A licensee requesting to restore his or her license to active status whose license will expire more than one year from the date of the request shall complete 36 hours of continuing education as specified in Section 4996.22.

## **§ 4997.1. ISSUANCE OF A RETIRED LICENSE – LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER**

- (a) The board shall issue, upon application and payment of the fee fixed by this chapter, a retired license to a licensed clinical social worker who holds a license that is current and active or a license that is inactive, and whose license is not suspended, revoked, or otherwise punitively restricted by the board or subject to disciplinary action under this chapter.
- (b) The holder of a retired license issued pursuant to this section shall not engage in any activity for which an active clinical social worker license is required.
- (c) The holder of a retired license shall not be required to renew that license.
- (d) The holder of a retired license may apply to restore to active status his or her license to practice clinical social work if that retired license was issued less than three years prior to the application date, and the applicant meets all of the following requirements:
  - (1) Has not committed an act or crime constituting grounds for denial of licensure.

- (2) Pays the required renewal fee.
  - (3) Completes the required continuing education as specified in Section 4996.22.
  - (4) Complies with the fingerprint submission requirements established by the board in regulation.
- (e) An applicant requesting to restore his or her license pursuant to subdivision (d), whose license was issued in accordance with this section less than one year from the date of the application, shall complete 18 hours of continuing education as specified in Section 4996.22.
- (f) An applicant requesting to restore his or her license pursuant to subdivision (d), whose license was issued in accordance with this section one or more years from the date of application, shall complete 36 hours of continuing education as specified in Section 4996.22.
- (g) The holder of a retired license may apply to restore to active status his or her license to practice clinical social work if that retired license was issued three or more years prior to the application date, and the applicant meets all of the following requirements:
- (1) Has not committed an act or crime constituting grounds for denial of licensure.
  - (2) Applies for licensure and pays the required fees.
  - (3) Passes the examinations required for licensure.
  - (4) Complies with the fingerprint submission requirements established by the board in regulation.

## **ARTICLE 5. CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS CORPORATIONS**

### **§ 4998. DEFINITION; RIGHT TO PRACTICE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK; BOARD AS GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY**

A licensed clinical social worker corporation is a corporation that is authorized to render professional services, as defined in Section 13401 of the Corporations Code, so long as that corporation and its shareholders, officers, directors, and employees rendering professional services are in compliance with the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act (Part 4 (commencing with Section 13400) of Division 3 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code), this article, and all other statutes and regulations now or hereafter enacted or adopted pertaining to that corporation and the conduct of its affairs. With respect to a licensed clinical social worker corporation, the governmental agency referred to in the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act is the Board of Behavioral Sciences.

#### **§ 4998.1. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

It shall constitute unprofessional conduct and a violation of this chapter for any person licensed under this chapter to violate, attempt to violate, directly or indirectly, or assist in or abet the violation of, or conspire to violate, any provision or term of this article, the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act ((Part 4 (commencing with Section 13400) of Division 3 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code), or any regulations duly adopted under those laws.

## **§ 4998.2. NAME**

Notwithstanding Section 4996, the name of a licensed clinical social worker corporation and any name or names under which it may be rendering professional services shall contain the words “licensed clinical social worker” and wording or abbreviations denoting corporate existence.

A licensed clinical social worker corporation that conducts business under a fictitious business name shall not use any name that is false, misleading, or deceptive, and shall inform the patient, prior to the commencement of treatment, that the business is conducted by a licensed clinical social worker corporation.

## **§ 4998.3. DIRECTORS, SHAREHOLDERS AND OFFICERS; LICENSE**

Except as provided in Section 13403 of the Corporations Code, each director, shareholder, and officer of a licensed clinical social worker corporation shall be a licensed person as defined in the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act.

## **§ 4998.4. INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDER WHO IS DISQUALIFIED PERSON**

The income of a licensed clinical social worker corporation attributable to professional services rendered while a shareholder is a disqualified person, as defined in the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act (Part 4 (commencing with Section 13400) of Division 3 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code), shall not in any manner accrue to the benefit of that shareholder or his or her shares in the licensed clinical social workers corporation.

## **§ 4998.5. CORPORATE UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

A licensed clinical social worker corporation shall not do or fail to do any act the doing of which or the failure to do which would constitute unprofessional conduct under any statute, rule, or regulation now or hereafter in effect. In the conduct of its practice, it shall observe and be bound by those statutes, rules, and regulations to the same extent as a person holding a license as a licensed clinical social worker.

## CHAPTER 16 LICENSED PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELORS

*Note to the reader: This Chapter contains the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor Act. It should be reviewed in conjunction with the regulation section of this book. However, the materials shown here do not encompass all laws applicable to the profession. You can utilize the following links as a resource for searching all statutes and regulations related to the profession.*

- [California Statutes](#)
- [California Code of Regulations](#)

### ARTICLE 1. ADMINISTRATION

#### § 4999.10. LICENSED PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR

This chapter constitutes, and may be cited as, the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor Act.

#### § 4999.11. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

In enacting this chapter, the Legislature recognizes that licensed professional clinical counselors practice a separate and distinct profession from the professions practiced by licensed marriage and family therapists and licensed clinical social workers. As such, the Legislature recognizes the need to appropriately test licensed marriage and family therapists and licensed clinical social workers seeking to become licensed professional clinical counselors on the difference in practice between the professions.

#### § 4999.12. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

- “Board” means the Board of Behavioral Sciences.
- “Accredited” means a school, college, or university accredited by a regional or national institutional accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States Department of Education.
- “Approved” means a school, college, or university that possessed unconditional approval by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education at the time of the applicant’s graduation from the school, college, or university.
- “Applicant for licensure” means an unlicensed person who has completed the required education and required hours of supervised experience for licensure.
- “Licensed professional clinical counselor” or “LPCC” means a person licensed under this chapter to practice professional clinical counseling, as defined in Section 4999.20.
- “Associate” means an unlicensed person who meets the requirements of Section 4999.42 and is registered with the board.
- “Clinical counselor trainee” means an unlicensed person who is currently enrolled in a master’s or doctoral degree program, as specified in Section 4999.32 or 4999.33, that is designed to qualify

the person for licensure and who has completed no less than 12 semester units or 18 quarter units of coursework in any qualifying degree program.

(h) "Supervisor" means an individual who meets all of the following requirements:

(1) Has held an active license for at least two years within the five-year period immediately preceding any supervision as either:

(A) A licensed professional clinical counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist, psychologist licensed pursuant to Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 2900), licensed clinical social worker, licensed educational psychologist, or equivalent out-of-state license. A licensed educational psychologist may only supervise the provision of educationally related mental health services that are consistent with the scope of practice of an educational psychologist, as specified in Section 4989.14.

(B) A physician and surgeon who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, or an out-of-state licensed physician and surgeon who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

(2) For at least two years within the five-year period immediately preceding any supervision, has practiced psychotherapy, provided psychological counseling pursuant to paragraph (5) of subdivision (a) of Section 4989.14, or provided direct clinical supervision of psychotherapy performed by marriage and family therapist trainees, associate marriage and family therapists, associate professional clinical counselors, or associate clinical social workers. Supervision of psychotherapy performed by a social work intern or a professional clinical counselor trainee shall be accepted if the supervision provided is substantially equivalent to the supervision required for registrants.

(3) Has received training in supervision as specified in this chapter and by regulation.

(4) Has not provided therapeutic services to the supervisee.

(5) Has and maintains a current and active license that is not under suspension or probation as one of the following:

(A) A marriage and family therapist, professional clinical counselor, clinical social worker, or licensed educational psychologist issued by the board.

(B) A psychologist licensed pursuant to Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 2900).

(C) A physician and surgeon who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

(6) Is not a spouse, domestic partner, or relative of the supervisee.

(7) Does not currently have or previously had a personal, professional, or business relationship with the supervisee that undermines the authority or effectiveness of the supervision.

(i) "Client centered advocacy" includes, but is not limited to, researching, identifying, and accessing resources, or other activities, related to obtaining or providing services and supports for clients or groups of clients receiving psychotherapy or counseling services.

(j) "Advertising" or "advertise" includes, but is not limited to, the issuance of any card, sign, or device to any person, or the causing, permitting, or allowing of any sign or marking on, or in, any building or structure, or in any newspaper or magazine or in any directory, or any printed matter

whatsoever, with or without any limiting qualification. It also includes business solicitations communicated by radio or television broadcasting. Signs within church buildings or notices in church bulletins mailed to a congregation are not advertising within the meaning of this chapter.

- (k) "Referral" means evaluating and identifying the needs of a client to determine whether it is advisable to refer the client to other specialists, informing the client of that judgment, and communicating that determination as requested or deemed appropriate to referral sources.
- (l) "Research" means a systematic effort to collect, analyze, and interpret quantitative and qualitative data that describes how social characteristics, behavior, emotion, cognitions, disabilities, mental disorders, and interpersonal transactions among individuals and organizations interact.
- (m) "Supervision" means responsibility for, and control of, the quality of mental health and related services provided by the supervisee. Consultation or peer discussion shall not be considered supervision and shall not qualify as supervised experience. Supervision includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
  - (1) Ensuring the extent, kind, and quality of counseling performed is consistent with the education, training, and experience of the supervisee.
  - (2) Monitoring and evaluating the supervisee's assessment, diagnosis, and treatment decisions and providing regular feedback.
  - (3) Monitoring and evaluating the supervisee's ability to provide services at the site or sites where the supervisee is practicing and to the particular clientele being served.
  - (4) Monitoring and addressing clinical dynamics, including, but not limited to, countertransference-, intrapsychic-, interpersonal-, or trauma-related issues that may affect the supervisory or the practitioner-patient relationship.
  - (5) Ensuring the supervisee's compliance with laws and regulations governing the practice of licensed professional clinical counseling.
  - (6) Reviewing the supervisee's progress notes, process notes, and other patient treatment records, as deemed appropriate by the supervisor.
  - (7) With the client's written consent, providing direct observation or review of audio or video recordings of the supervisee's counseling or therapy, as deemed appropriate by the supervisor.
- (n) "Clinical setting" means any setting that meets both of the following requirements:
  - (1) Lawfully and regularly provides mental health counseling or psychotherapy.
  - (2) Provides oversight to ensure that the associate's work meets the experience and supervision requirements set forth in this chapter and in regulation and is within the scope of practice of the profession.

#### **§ 4999.12.5. REGISTRANT TITLE NAME CHANGE**

- (a) (1) The title "professional clinical counselor intern" or "professional clinical counselor registered intern" is hereby renamed "associate professional clinical counselor" or "registered associate professional clinical counselor," respectively. Any reference in any statute or regulation to a "professional clinical counselor intern" or "professional clinical counselor registered intern" shall

be deemed a reference to an “associate professional clinical counselor” or “registered associate professional clinical counselor.”

(2) Any reference in this chapter to the term “intern” means “associate.”

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to expand or constrict the scope of practice of a person licensed or registered pursuant to this chapter.

### **§ 4999.13. ENGAGING IN PRACTICE**

A person engages in the practice of professional clinical counseling when he or she performs or offers to perform or holds himself or herself out as able to perform this service for remuneration in any form, including donations.

### **§ 4999.14. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION; DUTIES OF THE BOARD**

The board shall do all of the following:

- (a) Communicate information about its activities, the requirements and qualifications for licensure, and the practice of professional clinical counseling to the relevant educational institutions, supervisors, professional associations, applicants, clinical counselor trainees, associates, and the public.
- (b) Develop policies and procedures to assist educational institutions in meeting the educational qualifications of Sections 4999.32 and 4999.33.

## **ARTICLE 2. SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

### **§ 4999.20. SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

- (a) (1) “Professional clinical counseling” means the application of counseling interventions and psychotherapeutic techniques to identify and remediate cognitive, mental, and emotional issues, including personal growth, adjustment to disability, crisis intervention, and psychosocial and environmental problems, and the use, application, and integration of the coursework and training required by Sections 4999.32 and 4999.33. “Professional clinical counseling” includes conducting assessments for the purpose of establishing counseling goals and objectives to empower individuals to deal adequately with life situations, reduce stress, experience growth, change behavior, and make well-informed, rational decisions.
- (2) “Professional clinical counseling” is focused exclusively on the application of counseling interventions and psychotherapeutic techniques for the purposes of improving mental health, and is not intended to capture other, nonclinical forms of counseling for the purposes of licensure. For purposes of this paragraph, “nonclinical” means nonmental health.
- (3) “Professional clinical counseling” does not include the provision of clinical social work services.
- (b) “Counseling interventions and psychotherapeutic techniques” means the application of cognitive, affective, verbal or nonverbal, systemic or holistic counseling strategies that include principles of



development, wellness, and maladjustment that reflect a pluralistic society. These interventions and techniques are specifically implemented in the context of a professional clinical counseling relationship and use a variety of counseling theories and approaches.

- (c) "Assessment" means selecting, administering, scoring, and interpreting tests, instruments, and other tools and methods designed to measure an individual's attitudes, abilities, aptitudes, achievements, interests, personal characteristics, disabilities, and mental, emotional, and behavioral concerns and development and the use of methods and techniques for understanding human behavior in relation to coping with, adapting to, or ameliorating changing life situations, as part of the counseling process. "Assessment" shall not include the use of projective techniques in the assessment of personality, individually administered intelligence tests, neuropsychological testing, or utilization of a battery of three or more tests to determine the presence of psychosis, dementia, amnesia, cognitive impairment, or criminal behavior.
- (d) Professional clinical counselors shall refer clients to other licensed health care professionals when they identify issues beyond their own scope of education, training, and experience.

#### **§ 4999.22. CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER LAWS; NONAPPLICATION TO CERTAIN PROFESSIONALS AND EMPLOYEES; REQUIRED NOTICE TO CLIENTS**

- (a) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent qualified persons from doing work of a psychosocial nature consistent with the standards and ethics of their respective professions. However, these qualified persons shall not hold themselves out to the public by any title or description of services incorporating the words "licensed professional clinical counselor" and shall not state that they are licensed to practice professional clinical counseling, unless they are otherwise licensed to provide professional clinical counseling services.
- (b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to constrict, limit, or withdraw provisions of the Medical Practice Act, the Clinical Social Worker Practice Act, the Nursing Practice Act, the Psychology Licensing Law, or the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Act.
- (c) This chapter shall not apply to any priest, rabbi, or minister of the gospel of any religious denomination who performs counseling services as part of their pastoral or professional duties, or to any person who is admitted to practice law in this state, or who is licensed to practice medicine, who provides counseling services as part of their professional practice.
- (d) This chapter shall not apply to an unlicensed or unregistered employee or volunteer working in a governmental entity, a school, a college, a university, or an institution that is both nonprofit and charitable, if both of the following apply:
  - (1) The work of the employee or volunteer is performed under the oversight and direction of the entity.
  - (2) (A) On and after July 1, 2020, the employee or volunteer provides a client, prior to initiating psychotherapy services or as soon as practicably possible thereafter, a notice written in at least 12-point type that is in substantially the following form:

#### **NOTICE TO CLIENTS**

The (Name of office or unit) of the (Name of agency) receives and responds to complaints regarding the practice of psychotherapy by any unlicensed or unregistered practitioner

providing services at (Name of agency). To file a complaint, contact (Telephone number, email address, internet website, or mailing address of agency).

The Board of Behavioral Sciences receives and responds to complaints regarding services provided by individuals licensed and registered by the board. If you have a complaint and are unsure if your practitioner is licensed or registered, please contact the Board of Behavioral Sciences at 916-574-7830 for assistance or utilize the board's online license verification feature by visiting [www.bbs.ca.gov](http://www.bbs.ca.gov).

(B) The delivery of the notice described in subparagraph (A) to the client shall be documented.

(e) Notwithstanding subdivisions (c) and (d), all persons registered as associates or licensed under this chapter shall not be exempt from this chapter or the jurisdiction of the board.

### **§ 4999.23. TEMPORARY PRACTICE ALLOWANCE: LICENSEES IN ANOTHER STATE OR UNITED STATES JURISDICTION**

(a) Notwithstanding Section 4999.30, a person who holds a license in another jurisdiction of the United States as a professional clinical counselor may provide professional clinical counseling services in this state for a period not to exceed 30 consecutive days in any calendar year, if all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The license from another jurisdiction is at the highest level for independent clinical practice in the jurisdiction in which the license was granted.
- (2) The license from another jurisdiction is current, active, and unrestricted.
- (3) The client is located in California during the time the person seeks to provide care in California.
- (4) The client is a current client of the person and has an established, ongoing client-provider relationship with the person at the time the client became located in California.
- (5) The person informs the client of the limited timeframe of the services and that the person is not licensed in California.
- (6) The person provides the client with the Board of Behavioral Sciences' internet website address.
- (7) The person informs the client of the jurisdiction in which the person is licensed and the type of license held and provides the client with the person's license number.

(b) A person who intends to provide professional clinical counseling services pursuant to this section shall provide the board with all of the following information before providing services:

- (1) The name under which the person is licensed in another jurisdiction, the person's mailing address, the person's phone number, the person's social security number or individual taxpayer identification number, and the person's electronic mailing address, if the person has an electronic mailing address.
- (2) The jurisdiction in which the person is licensed, the type of license held, and the license number.

- (3) The date on which the person will begin providing professional clinical counseling services to the person's client in California.
- (c) A person who provides services pursuant to this section is deemed to have agreed to practicing under the jurisdiction of the board and to be bound by the laws of this state.
- (d) This section does not apply to any person licensed by the board whose license has been suspended or revoked.
- (e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.

#### **§ 4999.25. EXEMPT SETTINGS**

The settings described in Section 4999.22 are exempt settings and do not fall under the jurisdiction of this chapter or the board except as specified in Section 4999.22, and with the following exceptions:

- (a) Any individual working or volunteering in an exempt setting who is licensed or registered under this chapter shall fall under the jurisdiction of the board and is not exempt from this chapter.
- (b) An entity that is licensed or certified by a government regulatory agency to provide health care services shall not be considered an exempt setting unless it directly meets the criteria described in Section 4999.22.

#### **§ 4999.26. NONEXEMPT SETTINGS**

(a) For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Nonexempt setting" means a setting that does not qualify as an exempt setting, as specified in Section 4999.22.
  - (2) "Private practice" means a type of nonexempt setting that meets all of the following criteria:
    - (A) The practice is owned by a health professional who is licensed under this division, either independently or jointly with one or more other health professionals who are licensed under this division.
    - (B) The practice provides clinical mental health services, including psychotherapy, to clients.
    - (C) One or more licensed health professionals are responsible for the practice and for the services provided and set conditions of client payment or reimbursement for the provision of services.
  - (3) "Professional corporation" means a type of nonexempt setting and private practice that has been formed pursuant to Part 4 (commencing with Section 13400) of Division 3 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code.
- (b) An active license or registration number shall be required to engage in the practice of professional clinical counseling, as defined in Section 4999.20, in nonexempt settings at all times, except as follows:
- (1) A trainee may engage in the practice of professional clinical counseling in a nonexempt setting that is not a private practice or a professional corporation while they are gaining supervised

experience that meets the requirements of this chapter under the jurisdiction and supervision of their school as specified in Section 4999.36.

- (2) An applicant for registration as an associate may engage in the practice of professional clinical counseling in a nonexempt setting that is not a private practice or a professional corporation before the registration number is issued if they are in compliance with subdivision (b) of Section 4999.46 and are gaining supervised experience that meets the requirements of this chapter.

### **§ 4999.27. TRAINEE SERVICES**

- (a) Nothing in this chapter shall restrict or prevent activities of a psychotherapeutic or counseling nature on the part of persons employed by accredited or state-approved academic institutions, public schools, government agencies, or nonprofit institutions who train graduate students pursuing a degree that qualifies for professional clinical counselor licensure at an accredited or state-approved college or university, provided that these activities and services constitute a part of a supervised course of study and that those persons are designated by a title such as “clinical counselor trainee” or other title clearly indicating the training status appropriate to the level of training.
- (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a graduate student shall not perform professional clinical counseling in a private practice or a professional corporation.

## **ARTICLE 3. LICENSURE**

### **§ 4999.30. NECESSITY OF LICENSE**

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a person shall not practice or advertise the performance of professional clinical counseling services without a license issued by the board, and shall pay the license fee required by this chapter.

### **§ 4999.32. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE OR REGISTRATION; GRADUATE COURSEWORK BEGUN BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2012 AND COMPLETED BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2018**

- (a) This section shall apply to applicants for licensure or registration who began graduate study before August 1, 2012, and completed that study on or before December 31, 2018. Those applicants may alternatively qualify under paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 4999.33.
- (b) To qualify for licensure or registration, applicants shall possess a master’s or doctoral degree that is counseling or psychotherapy in content and that meets the requirements of this section, obtained from an accredited or approved institution, as defined in Section 4999.12. For purposes of this subdivision, a degree is “counseling or psychotherapy in content” if it contains the supervised practicum or field study experience described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) and, except as provided in subdivision (d), the coursework in the core content areas listed in subparagraphs (A) to (I), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c).

- (c) The degree described in subdivision (b) shall be a single, integrated program that contains not less than 48 graduate semester units or 72 graduate quarter units of instruction, which shall, except as provided in subdivision (d), include all of the following:
- (1) The equivalent of at least three semester units or four quarter units of graduate study in each of the following core content areas:
    - (A) Counseling and psychotherapeutic theories and techniques, including the counseling process in a multicultural society, an orientation to wellness and prevention, counseling theories to assist in selection of appropriate counseling interventions, models of counseling consistent with current professional research and practice, development of a personal model of counseling, and multidisciplinary responses to crises, emergencies, and disasters.
    - (B) Human growth and development across the lifespan, including normal and abnormal behavior and an understanding of developmental crises, disability, psychopathology, and situational and environmental factors that affect both normal and abnormal behavior.
    - (C) Career development theories and techniques, including career development decisionmaking models and interrelationships among and between work, family, and other life roles and factors, including the role of multicultural issues in career development.
    - (D) Group counseling theories and techniques, including principles of group dynamics, group process components, developmental stage theories, therapeutic factors of group work, group leadership styles and approaches, pertinent research and literature, group counseling methods, and evaluation of effectiveness.
    - (E) Assessment, appraisal, and testing of individuals, including basic concepts of standardized and nonstandardized testing and other assessment techniques, norm-referenced and criterion-referenced assessment, statistical concepts, social and cultural factors related to assessment and evaluation of individuals and groups, and ethical strategies for selecting, administering, and interpreting assessment instruments and techniques in counseling.
    - (F) Multicultural counseling theories and techniques, including counselors' roles in developing cultural self-awareness, identity development, promoting cultural social justice, individual and community strategies for working with and advocating for diverse populations, and counselors' roles in eliminating biases and prejudices, and processes of intentional and unintentional oppression and discrimination.
    - (G) Principles of the diagnostic process, including differential diagnosis, and the use of current diagnostic tools, such as the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, the impact of co-occurring substance use disorders or medical psychological disorders, established diagnostic criteria for mental or emotional disorders, and the treatment modalities and placement criteria within the continuum of care.
    - (H) Research and evaluation, including studies that provide an understanding of research methods, statistical analysis, the use of research to inform evidence-based practice, the importance of research in advancing the profession of counseling, and statistical methods used in conducting research, needs assessment, and program evaluation.
    - (I) Professional orientation, ethics, and law in counseling, including professional ethical standards and legal considerations, licensing law and process, regulatory laws that delineate the profession's scope of practice, counselor-client privilege, confidentiality, the

client dangerous to self or others, treatment of minors with or without parental consent, relationship between practitioner's sense of self and human values, functions and relationships with other human service providers, strategies for collaboration, and advocacy processes needed to address institutional and social barriers that impede access, equity, and success for clients.

(2) In addition to the course requirements described in paragraph (1), a minimum of 12 semester units or 18 quarter units of advanced coursework to develop knowledge of specific treatment issues, special populations, application of counseling constructs, assessment and treatment planning, clinical interventions, therapeutic relationships, psychopathology, or other clinical topics.

(3) Not less than six semester units or nine quarter units of supervised practicum or field study experience that involves direct client contact in a clinical setting that provides a range of professional clinical counseling experience, including the following:

(A) Applied psychotherapeutic techniques.

(B) Assessment.

(C) Diagnosis.

(D) Prognosis.

(E) Treatment planning.

(F) Treatment.

(G) Issues of development, adjustment, and maladjustment.

(H) Health and wellness promotion.

(I) Other recognized counseling interventions.

(J) A minimum of 150 hours of face-to-face supervised clinical experience counseling individuals, families, or groups.

(d) (1) (A) An applicant whose degree is deficient in no more than two of the required areas of study listed in subparagraphs (A) to (I), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) may satisfy those deficiencies by successfully completing postmaster's or postdoctoral degree coursework at an accredited or approved institution, as defined in Section 4999.12.

(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), an applicant shall not be deficient in the required areas of study specified in subparagraph (E) or (G) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) unless the applicant meets one of the following criteria and remediates the deficiency:

(i) The application for licensure was received by the board on or before August 31, 2020.

(ii) The application for registration was received by the board on or before August 31, 2020, and the registration was subsequently issued by the board.

(2) Coursework taken to meet deficiencies in the required areas of study listed in subparagraphs (A) to (I), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) shall be the equivalent of three semester units or four quarter units of study.

- (3) The board shall make the final determination as to whether a degree meets all requirements, including, but not limited to, course requirements, regardless of accreditation.
- (e) In addition to the degree described in this section, or as part of that degree, an applicant shall complete the following coursework or training prior to registration as an associate:
- (1) A minimum of 15 contact hours of instruction in alcoholism and other chemical substance abuse dependency, as specified by regulation.
  - (2) A minimum of 10 contact hours of training or coursework in human sexuality as specified in Section 25, and any regulations promulgated thereunder.
  - (3) A two semester unit or three quarter unit survey course in psychopharmacology.
  - (4) A minimum of 15 contact hours of instruction in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies, including knowledge of community resources, cultural factors, and same gender abuse dynamics.
  - (5) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting as specified in Section 28 and any regulations adopted thereunder.
  - (6) A minimum of 18 contact hours of instruction in California law and professional ethics for professional clinical counselors that includes, but is not limited to, instruction in advertising, scope of practice, scope of competence, treatment of minors, confidentiality, dangerous clients, psychotherapist-client privilege, recordkeeping, client access to records, dual relationships, child abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, online therapy, insurance reimbursement, civil liability, disciplinary actions and unprofessional conduct, ethics complaints and ethical standards, termination of therapy, standards of care, relevant family law, therapist disclosures to clients, and state and federal laws related to confidentiality of patient health information. When coursework in a master's or doctoral degree program is acquired to satisfy this requirement, it shall be considered as part of the 48 semester unit or 72 quarter unit requirement in subdivision (c).
  - (7) A minimum of 10 contact hours of instruction in aging and long-term care, which may include, but is not limited to, the biological, social, and psychological aspects of aging. On and after January 1, 2012, this coursework shall include instruction on the assessment and reporting of, as well as treatment related to, elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect.
  - (8) A minimum of 15 contact hours of instruction in crisis or trauma counseling, including multidisciplinary responses to crises, emergencies, or disasters, and brief, intermediate, and long-term approaches.

**§ 4999.33. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE OR REGISTRATION; GRADUATE COURSEWORK BEGINNING AFTER AUGUST 1, 2012 OR COMPLETED AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2018**

- (a) This section shall apply to the following:
- (1) Applicants for licensure or registration who begin graduate study before August 1, 2012, and do not complete that study on or before December 31, 2018.
  - (2) Applicants for licensure or registration who begin graduate study before August 1, 2012, and who graduate from a degree program that meets the requirements of this section.

- (3) Applicants for licensure or registration who begin graduate study on or after August 1, 2012.
- (b) To qualify for licensure or registration, applicants shall possess a master's or doctoral degree that is counseling or psychotherapy in content and that meets the requirements of this section, obtained from an accredited or approved institution, as defined in Section 4999.12. For purposes of this subdivision, a degree is "counseling or psychotherapy in content" if it contains the supervised practicum or field study experience described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) and, except as provided in subdivision (f), the coursework in the core content areas listed in subparagraphs (A) to (M), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c).
- (c) The degree described in subdivision (b) shall be a single, integrated program that contains not less than 60 graduate semester units or 90 graduate quarter units of instruction, which shall, except as provided in subdivision (f), include all of the following:
- (1) The equivalent of at least three semester units or four quarter units of graduate study in all of the following core content areas:
- (A) Counseling and psychotherapeutic theories and techniques, including the counseling process in a multicultural society, an orientation to wellness and prevention, counseling theories to assist in selection of appropriate counseling interventions, models of counseling consistent with current professional research and practice, development of a personal model of counseling, and multidisciplinary responses to crises, emergencies, and disasters.
  - (B) Human growth and development across the lifespan, including normal and abnormal behavior and an understanding of developmental crises, disability, psychopathology, and situational and environmental factors that affect both normal and abnormal behavior.
  - (C) Career development theories and techniques, including career development decisionmaking models and interrelationships among and between work, family, and other life roles and factors, including the role of multicultural issues in career development.
  - (D) Group counseling theories and techniques, including principles of group dynamics, group process components, group developmental stage theories, therapeutic factors of group work, group leadership styles and approaches, pertinent research and literature, group counseling methods, and evaluation of effectiveness.
  - (E) Assessment, appraisal, and testing of individuals, including basic concepts of standardized and nonstandardized testing and other assessment techniques, norm-referenced and criterion-referenced assessment, statistical concepts, social and cultural factors related to assessment and evaluation of individuals and groups, and ethical strategies for selecting, administering, and interpreting assessment instruments and techniques in counseling.
  - (F) Multicultural counseling theories and techniques, including counselors' roles in developing cultural self-awareness, identity development, promoting cultural social justice, individual and community strategies for working with and advocating for diverse populations, and counselors' roles in eliminating biases and prejudices, and processes of intentional and unintentional oppression and discrimination.
  - (G) Principles of the diagnostic process, including differential diagnosis, and the use of current diagnostic tools, such as the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, the impact of co-occurring substance use disorders or medical psychological disorders, established diagnostic criteria for mental or emotional disorders, and the treatment modalities and placement criteria within the continuum of care.



- (H) Research and evaluation, including studies that provide an understanding of research methods, statistical analysis, the use of research to inform evidence-based practice, the importance of research in advancing the profession of counseling, and statistical methods used in conducting research, needs assessment, and program evaluation.
  - (I) Professional orientation, ethics, and law in counseling, including California law and professional ethics for professional clinical counselors, professional ethical standards and legal considerations, licensing law and process, regulatory laws that delineate the profession's scope of practice, counselor-client privilege, confidentiality, the client dangerous to self or others, treatment of minors with or without parental consent, relationship between practitioner's sense of self and human values, functions and relationships with other human service providers, strategies for collaboration, and advocacy processes needed to address institutional and social barriers that impede access, equity, and success for clients.
  - (J) Psychopharmacology, including the biological bases of behavior, basic classifications, indications, and contraindications of commonly prescribed psychopharmacological medications so that appropriate referrals can be made for medication evaluations and so that the side effects of those medications can be identified.
  - (K) Addictions counseling, including substance abuse, co-occurring disorders, and addiction, major approaches to identification, evaluation, treatment, and prevention of substance abuse and addiction, legal and medical aspects of substance abuse, populations at risk, the role of support persons, support systems, and community resources.
  - (L) Crisis or trauma counseling, including crisis theory; multidisciplinary responses to crises, emergencies, or disasters; cognitive, affective, behavioral, and neurological effects associated with trauma; brief, intermediate, and long-term approaches; and assessment strategies for clients in crisis and principles of intervention for individuals with mental or emotional disorders during times of crisis, emergency, or disaster.
  - (M) Advanced counseling and psychotherapeutic theories and techniques, including the application of counseling constructs, assessment and treatment planning, clinical interventions, therapeutic relationships, psychopathology, or other clinical topics.
- (2) In addition to the course requirements described in paragraph (1), 15 semester units or 22.5 quarter units of advanced coursework to develop knowledge of specific treatment issues or special populations.
- (3) Not less than six semester units or nine quarter units of supervised practicum or field study experience that involves direct client contact in a clinical setting that provides a range of professional clinical counseling experience, including the following:
- (A) Applied psychotherapeutic techniques.
  - (B) Assessment.
  - (C) Diagnosis.
  - (D) Prognosis.
  - (E) Treatment planning.
  - (F) Treatment.

- (G) Issues of development, adjustment, and maladjustment.
  - (H) Health and wellness promotion.
  - (I) Professional writing including documentation of services, treatment plans, and progress notes.
  - (J) How to find and use resources.
  - (K) Other recognized counseling interventions.
  - (L) A minimum of 280 hours of face-to-face supervised clinical experience counseling individuals, families, or groups.
- (d) The 60 graduate semester units or 90 graduate quarter units of instruction required pursuant to subdivision (c) shall, in addition to meeting the requirements of subdivision (c), include instruction in all of the following:
- (1) The understanding of human behavior within the social context of socioeconomic status and other contextual issues affecting social position.
  - (2) The understanding of human behavior within the social context of a representative variety of the cultures found within California.
  - (3) Cultural competency and sensitivity, including a familiarity with the racial, cultural, linguistic, and ethnic backgrounds of persons living in California.
  - (4) An understanding of the effects of socioeconomic status on treatment and available resources.
  - (5) Multicultural development and cross-cultural interaction, including experiences of race, ethnicity, class, spirituality, sexual orientation, gender, and disability and their incorporation into the psychotherapeutic process.
  - (6) Case management, systems of care for the severely mentally ill, public and private services for the severely mentally ill, community resources for victims of abuse, disaster and trauma response, advocacy for the severely mentally ill, and collaborative treatment. The instruction required in this paragraph may be provided either in credit level coursework or through extension programs offered by the degree-granting institution.
  - (7) Human sexuality, including the study of the physiological, psychological, and social cultural variables associated with sexual behavior, gender identity, and the assessment and treatment of psychosexual dysfunction.
  - (8) Spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, intervention strategies, and same gender abuse dynamics.
  - (9) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting, as specified in Section 28, and any regulations promulgated thereunder.
  - (10) Aging and long-term care, including biological, social, cognitive, and psychological aspects of aging. This coursework shall include instruction on the assessment and reporting of, as well as treatment related to, elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect.
- (e) A degree program that qualifies for licensure under this section shall do all of the following:

- (1) Integrate the principles of mental health recovery-oriented care and methods of service delivery in recovery-oriented practice environments.
  - (2) Integrate an understanding of various cultures and the social and psychological implications of socioeconomic position.
  - (3) Provide the opportunity for students to meet with various consumers and family members of consumers of mental health services to enhance understanding of their experience of mental illness, treatment, and recovery.
- (f) (1) (A) An applicant whose degree is deficient in no more than three of the required areas of study listed in subparagraphs (A) to (M), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) may satisfy those deficiencies by successfully completing post-master's or postdoctoral degree coursework at an accredited or approved institution, as defined in Section 4999.12.
- (B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), an applicant shall not be deficient in the required areas of study specified in subparagraphs (E) or (G) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) unless the applicant meets one of the following criteria and remediates the deficiency:
- (i) The application for licensure was received by the board on or before August 31, 2020.
  - (ii) The application for registration was received by the board on or before August 31, 2020, and the registration was subsequently issued by the board.
- (2) Coursework taken to meet deficiencies in the required areas of study listed in subparagraphs (A) to (M), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) shall be the equivalent of three semester units or four quarter units of study.
- (3) The board shall make the final determination as to whether a degree meets all requirements, including, but not limited to, course requirements, regardless of accreditation.

#### **§ 4999.36. TRAINEE ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES; APPLICANT AND SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES**

- (a) A clinical counselor trainee may perform activities and services provided that the activities and services constitute part of the clinical counselor trainee's supervised course of study and that the person is designated by the title "clinical counselor trainee."
- (b) All practicum and field study hours gained as a clinical counselor trainee shall be coordinated between the school and the site where hours are being accrued. The school shall approve each site and shall have a written agreement with each site that details each party's responsibilities, including the methods by which supervision shall be provided. The agreement shall provide for regular progress reports and evaluations of the student's performance at the site.
- (c) If an applicant has gained practicum and field study hours while enrolled in an institution other than the one that confers the qualifying degree, it shall be the applicant's responsibility to provide to the board satisfactory evidence that those practicum and field study hours were gained in compliance with this section.
- (d) A clinical counselor trainee shall inform each client or patient, prior to performing any professional services, that he or she is unlicensed and under supervision.

- (e) No hours earned while a clinical counselor trainee may count toward the 3,000 hours of required postdegree supervised experience.

**§ 4999.40. DEGREE GRANTING PROGRAMS; NOTIFICATION OF QUALIFICATION TO STUDENTS; EQUIVALENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING GAINED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES**

- (a) Each educational institution preparing applicants to qualify for licensure shall notify each of its students by means of its public documents or otherwise in writing that its degree program is designed to meet the requirements of Section 4999.32 or 4999.33 and shall certify to the board that it has so notified its students.
- (b) An applicant for registration or licensure shall submit to the board a certification by the applicant's educational institution that the institution's required curriculum for graduation and any associated coursework completed by the applicant does one of the following:
  - (1) Meets all of the requirements set forth in Section 4999.32.
  - (2) Meets all of the requirements set forth in Section 4999.33.
- (c) An applicant trained at an educational institution outside the United States shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board that he or she possesses a qualifying degree that is equivalent to a degree earned from an institution of higher education that is accredited or approved. These applicants shall provide the board with a comprehensive evaluation of the degree performed by a foreign credential evaluation service that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services and shall provide any other documentation the board deems necessary.

**§ 4999.42. ASSOCIATE REGISTRATION; QUALIFICATION**

- (a) An applicant shall meet all of the following qualifications to qualify for registration as an associate:
  - (1) Earned a master's or doctoral degree as specified in Section 4999.32 or 4999.33, as applicable. An applicant whose education qualifies the applicant under Section 4999.32 shall also have completed the coursework or training specified in subdivision (e) of Section 4999.32.
  - (2) Be at least 18 years of age.
  - (3) Not be subject to denial of licensure pursuant to Section 480.
- (b) (1) The board shall not issue a registration to any person who has been convicted of a crime in this or another state or in a territory of the United States that involves sexual abuse of children or who is required to register pursuant to Section 290 of the Penal Code or the equivalent in another state or territory.
- (2) A denial issued pursuant to this subdivision shall comply with the conditions for denial specified in Section 480.

#### **§ 4999.46. SUPERVISED POST-MASTER'S EXPERIENCE**

- (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), all applicants shall have an active associate registration with the board in order to gain postdegree hours of supervised experience.
- (b) (1) Postdegree hours of experience gained before the issuance of an associate registration shall be credited toward licensure if all of the following apply:
  - (A) The registration applicant applies for the associate registration and the board receives the application within 90 days of the granting of the qualifying master's degree or doctoral degree.
  - (B) For applicants completing graduate study on or after January 1, 2020, the experience is obtained at a workplace that, prior to the registration applicant gaining supervised experience hours, requires completed Live Scan fingerprinting. The applicant shall provide the board with a copy of that completed State of California "Request for Live Scan Service" form with their application for licensure.
  - (C) The board subsequently grants the associate registration.
- (2) The applicant shall not be employed or volunteer in a private practice or a professional corporation until they have been issued an associate registration by the board.
- (c) Supervised experience that is obtained for the purposes of qualifying for licensure shall be related to the practice of professional clinical counseling and comply with the following:
  - (1) A minimum of 3,000 postdegree hours performed over a period of not less than two years (104 weeks).
  - (2) Not more than 40 hours in any seven consecutive days.
  - (3) Not less than 1,750 hours of direct clinical counseling with individuals, groups, couples, or families using a variety of psychotherapeutic techniques and recognized counseling interventions.
  - (4) A maximum of 1,250 hours of nonclinical practice, consisting of direct supervisor contact, administering and evaluating psychological tests, writing clinical reports, writing progress or process notes, client-centered advocacy, and workshops, seminars, training sessions, or conferences directly related to professional clinical counseling that have been approved by the applicant's supervisor.
  - (5) A maximum of 1,200 hours gained under the supervision of a licensed educational psychologist providing educationally related mental health services that are consistent with the scope of practice of an educational psychologist, as specified in Section 4989.14.
- (d) An individual who submits an application for licensure between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2020, may alternatively qualify under the experience requirements of this section that were in place on January 1, 2015.
- (e) Experience hours shall not have been gained more than six years prior to the date the application for licensure was received by the board.

## **§ 4999.46.1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASSOCIATES**

- (a) An associate or applicant for licensure shall be under the supervision of a supervisor at all times.
- (b) An associate shall do both of the following:
  - (1) Inform each client, before performing any professional services, that the associate is unlicensed and under supervision.
  - (2) Renew the registration a maximum of five times. A registration shall not be renewed or reinstated beyond six years from the last day of the month during which it was issued, regardless of whether it has been revoked.
- (c) When no further renewals are possible, an applicant may apply for and obtain a subsequent associate registration number if the applicant meets the educational requirements for a subsequent associate registration number and has passed the California law and ethics examination. An applicant issued a subsequent associate registration number shall not be employed or volunteer in a private practice.

## **§ 4999.46.2. DIRECT SUPERVISOR CONTACT; INOPERATIVE JANUARY 1, 2026**

- (a) Except for experience gained by attending workshops, seminars, training sessions, or conferences, as described in paragraph (4) of subdivision (c) of Section 4999.46, direct supervisor contact shall occur as follows:
  - (1) Supervision shall include at least one hour of direct supervisor contact in each week for which experience is credited in each work setting.
  - (2) A trainee shall receive an average of at least one hour of direct supervisor contact for every five hours of direct clinical counseling performed each week in each setting. For experience gained after January 1, 2009, no more than six hours of supervision, whether individual, triadic, or group, shall be credited during any single week.
  - (3) An associate gaining experience who performs more than 10 hours of direct clinical counseling in a week in any setting shall receive at least one additional hour of direct supervisor contact for that setting. For experience gained after January 1, 2009, no more than six hours of supervision, whether individual supervision, triadic supervision, or group supervision, shall be credited during any single week.
  - (4) Of the 104 weeks of required supervision, 52 weeks shall be individual supervision, triadic supervision, or a combination of both.
- (b) (1) For purposes of this chapter, “one hour of direct supervisor contact” means any of the following:
  - (A) Individual supervision, which means one hour of face-to-face contact between one supervisor and one supervisee.
  - (B) Triadic supervision, which means one hour of face-to-face contact between one supervisor and two supervisees.
  - (C) Group supervision, which means two hours of face-to-face contact between one supervisor and no more than eight supervisees. Segments of group supervision may be split into no

less than one continuous hour. The supervisor shall ensure that the amount and degree of supervision is appropriate for each supervisee.

- (2) For purposes of this subdivision, “face-to-face contact” means in-person contact, contact via two-way, real-time videoconferencing, or some combination of these.
- (c) The supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with federal and state laws relating to confidentiality of patient health information.
- (d) (1) Within 60 days of the commencement of supervision, a supervisor shall conduct a meeting with the supervisee during which the supervisor shall assess the appropriateness of allowing the supervisee to receive supervision via two-way, real-time videoconferencing. This assessment of appropriateness shall include, but is not limited to, the abilities of the supervisee, the preferences of both the supervisee and supervisor, and the privacy of the locations of the supervisee and supervisor while supervision is conducted.
- (2) The supervisor shall document the results of the assessment made pursuant to paragraph (1), and shall not utilize supervision via two-way, real-time videoconferencing if their assessment finds it is not appropriate.
- (e) Direct supervisor contact shall occur within the same week as the hours claimed.
- (f) Alternative supervision may be arranged during a supervisor’s vacation or sick leave if the alternative supervision meets the requirements in this chapter.
- (g) Notwithstanding any other law, once the required number of experience hours are gained, associates and applicants for licensure shall receive a minimum of one hour of direct supervisor contact per week for each practice setting in which direct clinical counseling is performed. Once the required number of experience hours are gained, further supervision for nonclinical practice, as defined in paragraph (4) of subdivision (c) of Section 4999.46, shall be at the supervisor’s discretion.
- (h) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.

#### **§ 4999.46.2. DIRECT SUPERVISOR CONTACT; OPERATIVE JANUARY 1, 2026**

- (a) Except for experience gained by attending workshops, seminars, training sessions, or conferences, as described in paragraph (4) of subdivision (c) of Section 4999.46, direct supervisor contact shall occur as follows:
- (1) Supervision shall include at least one hour of direct supervisor contact in each week for which experience is credited in each work setting.
- (2) A trainee shall receive an average of at least one hour of direct supervisor contact for every five hours of direct clinical counseling performed each week in each setting. For experience gained after January 1, 2009, no more than six hours of supervision, whether individual, triadic, or group, shall be credited during any single week.
- (3) An associate gaining experience who performs more than 10 hours of direct clinical counseling in a week in any setting shall receive at least one additional hour of direct supervisor contact for that setting. For experience gained after January 1, 2009, no more than six hours of supervision, whether individual supervision, triadic supervision, or group supervision, shall be credited during any single week.

- (4) Of the 104 weeks of required supervision, 52 weeks shall be individual supervision, triadic supervision, or a combination of both.
- (b) For purposes of this chapter, “one hour of direct supervisor contact” means any of the following:
- (1) Individual supervision, which means one hour of face-to-face contact between one supervisor and one supervisee.
  - (2) Triadic supervision, which means one hour of face-to-face contact between one supervisor and two supervisees.
  - (3) Group supervision, which means two hours of face-to-face contact between one supervisor and no more than eight supervisees. Segments of group supervision may be split into no less than one continuous hour. The supervisor shall ensure that the amount and degree of supervision is appropriate for each supervisee.
- (c) Direct supervisor contact shall occur within the same week as the hours claimed.
- (d) Alternative supervision may be arranged during a supervisor’s vacation or sick leave if the alternative supervision meets the requirements in this chapter.
- (e) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), a supervisee working in an exempt setting described in Section 4999.22 may obtain the required weekly direct supervisor contact via two-way, real-time videoconferencing. The supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with federal and state laws relating to confidentiality of patient health information.
- (f) Notwithstanding any other law, once the required number of experience hours are gained, associates and applicants for licensure shall receive a minimum of one hour of direct supervisor contact per week for each practice setting in which direct clinical counseling is performed. Once the required number of experience hours are gained, further supervision for nonclinical practice, as defined in paragraph (4) of subdivision (c) of Section 4999.46, shall be at the supervisor’s discretion.
- (g) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2026.

**§ 4999.46.3. SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: ACCEPTABLE SETTINGS; ACCEPTABLE SUPERVISION PRACTICES**

- (a) A clinical counselor trainee, associate, or applicant for licensure shall only perform mental health and related services as an employee or volunteer, and not as an independent contractor. The requirements of this chapter regarding hours of experience and supervision shall apply equally to employees and volunteers. A clinical counselor trainee, associate, or applicant for licensure shall not perform any services or gain any experience within the scope of practice of the profession, as defined in Section 4999.20, as an independent contractor. While an associate may be either a paid employee or a volunteer, employers are encouraged to provide fair remuneration.
- (1) If employed, an associate shall provide the board, upon application for licensure, with copies of the corresponding W-2 tax forms for each year of experience claimed.
  - (2) If volunteering, an associate shall provide the board, upon application for licensure, with a letter from their employer verifying the associate’s status as a volunteer during the dates the experience was gained.



- (b) A clinical counselor trainee shall not perform services in a private practice or professional corporation.
- (c) A trainee shall complete the required predegree supervised practicum or field study experience in a setting that meets all of the following requirements:
  - (1) Is not a private practice or a professional corporation.
  - (2) Lawfully and regularly provides mental health counseling or psychotherapy.
  - (3) Provides oversight to ensure that the clinical counselor trainee's work at the setting meets the experience and supervision requirements in this chapter and is within the scope of practice of the profession, as defined in Section 4999.20.
  - (4) Only experience gained in the position for which the clinical counselor trainee volunteers or is employed shall qualify as supervised practicum or field study experience.
- (d) (1) An associate may be credited with supervised experience completed in any setting that meets both of the following:
  - (A) Lawfully and regularly provides mental health counseling or psychotherapy.
  - (B) Provides oversight to ensure that the associate's work at the setting meets the experience and supervision requirements in this chapter and is within the scope of practice for the profession, as defined in Section 4999.20.
- (2) Only experience gained in the position for which the associate volunteers or is employed shall qualify as supervised experience.
- (3) An applicant for registration as an associate shall not be employed or volunteer in a private practice or professional corporation until they have been issued an associate registration by the board.
- (e) Any experience obtained under the supervision of a spouse, relative, or domestic partner shall not be credited toward the required hours of supervised experience. Any experience obtained under the supervision of a supervisor with whom the applicant has had or currently has a personal, professional, or business relationship that undermines the authority or effectiveness of the supervision shall not be credited toward the required hours of supervised experience.
- (f) A clinical counselor trainee, associate, or applicant for licensure shall not receive any remuneration from patients or clients and shall only be paid by their employer, if an employee.
- (g) A clinical counselor trainee, associate, or applicant for licensure shall have no proprietary interest in their employer's business and shall not lease or rent space, pay for furnishings, equipment, or supplies, or in any other way pay for the obligations of their employer.
- (h) A clinical counselor trainee, associate, or applicant for licensure who provides voluntary services in any lawful work setting and who only receives reimbursement for expenses actually incurred shall be considered an employee. The board may audit an applicant for licensure who receives reimbursement for expenses and the applicant for licensure shall have the burden of demonstrating that the payments received were for reimbursement of expenses actually incurred.
- (i) A clinical counselor trainee, associate, or applicant for licensure who receives a stipend or educational loan repayment from a program designed to encourage demographically underrepresented groups to enter the profession or to improve recruitment and retention in

underserved regions or settings shall be considered an employee. The board may audit an applicant who receives a stipend or educational loan repayment and the applicant shall have the burden of demonstrating that the payments were for the specified purposes.

- (j) A clinical counselor trainee or associate may provide services via telehealth that are in the scope of practice outlined in this chapter.
- (k) Each educational institution preparing applicants pursuant to this chapter shall consider requiring, and shall encourage, its students to undergo individual, marital, conjoint, family, or group counseling or psychotherapy, as appropriate. Each supervisor shall consider, advise, and encourage their associates and trainees regarding the advisability of undertaking individual, marital, conjoint, family, or group counseling or psychotherapy, as appropriate. Insofar as it is deemed appropriate and is desired by the applicant, educational institutions and supervisors are encouraged to assist the applicant to locate that counseling or psychotherapy at a reasonable cost.

#### **§ 4999.46.4. SUPERVISEES: LOCATION OF SERVICES; MAXIMUM NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS; OVERSIGHT AGREEMENT**

- (a) A clinical counselor trainee, associate, or applicant for licensure shall only perform mental health and related services at the places where their employer permits business to be conducted.
- (b) An associate who is employed by or volunteering in a private practice or a professional corporation shall be supervised by an individual who is both of the following:
  - (1) Is employed by or contracted by the associate's employer or is an owner of the private practice or professional corporation.
  - (2) Either provides psychotherapeutic services to clients for the associate's employer, or meets both of the following:
    - (A) The supervisor and the associate's employer have a written contract providing the supervisor the same access to the associate's clinical records provided to employees of that employer.
    - (B) The associate's clients authorize the release of their clinical records to the supervisor.
- (c) Supervisors of supervisees in a nonexempt setting shall not serve as individual or triadic supervisors for more than six supervisees at any time. Supervisees may be registered as associate marriage and family therapists, associate professional clinical counselors, associate clinical social workers, or any combination of these registrations.
- (d) A written oversight agreement, as specified by the board by regulation, shall be executed between the supervisor and employer when the supervisor is not employed by the supervisee's employer or is a volunteer. The supervisor shall evaluate the site or sites where the supervisee will be gaining experience to determine that the site or sites comply with the requirements of this chapter.

#### **§ 4999.46.5. AUDITS OF SUPERVISORS**

The board may audit the records of any supervisor to verify the completion of the supervisor qualifications specified by this chapter and by regulation. A supervisor shall maintain records of

completion of the required supervisor qualifications for seven years after termination of supervision and shall make these records available to the board for auditing purposes upon request.

#### **§ 4999.48. RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The board shall adopt regulations regarding the supervision of associates that may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Supervisor qualifications.
- (b) Continuing education requirements of supervisors.
- (c) Registration or licensing of supervisors, or both.
- (d) General responsibilities of supervisors.
- (e) The board's authority in cases of noncompliance or gross or repeated negligence by supervisors.

#### **§ 4999.50. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE; REQUIREMENTS**

- (a) The board may issue a professional clinical counselor license to any person who meets all of the following requirements:
  - (1) He or she has received a master's or doctoral degree described in Section 4999.32 or 4999.33, as applicable.
  - (2) He or she has completed at least 3,000 hours of supervised experience in the practice of professional clinical counseling.
  - (3) He or she provides evidence of a passing score, as determined by the board, on the examinations designated in Section 4999.53.
- (b) An applicant for licensure who has satisfied the requirements of this chapter shall be issued a license as a professional clinical counselor.

#### **§ 4999.51. CRIMINAL OFFENDER RECORD INFORMATION; REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE AND REGISTRATION**

An applicant for licensure as a professional clinical counselor or registration as an associate shall satisfy the following qualifications:

- (a) Not be subject to denial of licensure pursuant to Section 480.
- (b) (1) Not have been convicted of a crime in this or another state or in a territory of the United States that involves sexual abuse of children or who is required to register pursuant to Section 290 of the Penal Code or the equivalent in another state or territory.
- (2) A denial issued pursuant to this subdivision shall comply with the conditions for denial specified in Section 480.

(c) Have successfully passed a state and federal level criminal offender record information search conducted through the Department of Justice by submitting fingerprint images and other information to the Department of Justice for the purpose of obtaining records of state and federal convictions and arrests. The board shall request the subsequent arrest notification service on all applicants, pursuant to Section 11105.2 of the Penal Code.

**§ 4999.52. EXAMINATION; BOARD DETERMINATION; EXAMINATION ADMISSION DENIAL**

- (a) Every applicant for a license as a professional clinical counselor shall take one or more examinations, as determined by the board, to ascertain their knowledge, professional skills, and judgment in the utilization of appropriate techniques and methods of professional clinical counseling.
- (b) The examinations shall be given at least twice a year at a time and place and under supervision as the board may determine.
- (c) The board shall not deny any applicant admission to an examination who has submitted a complete application for examination admission if the applicant meets the educational and experience requirements of this chapter and has not committed any acts or engaged in any conduct that would constitute grounds to deny licensure.
- (d) The board shall not deny any applicant, whose application for licensure is complete, admission to the clinical examination, nor shall the board postpone or delay any applicant's clinical examination, solely upon the receipt by the board of a complaint alleging acts or conduct that would constitute grounds to deny licensure.
- (e) If an applicant for the examination specified by paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 4999.53, who has passed the California law and ethics examination, is the subject of a complaint or is under board investigation for acts or conduct that, if proven to be true, would constitute grounds for the board to deny licensure, the board shall permit the applicant to take this examination, but may notify the applicant that licensure will not be granted pending completion of the investigation.
- (f) Notwithstanding Section 135, the board may deny any applicant who has previously failed either the California law and ethics examination, or the examination specified by paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 4999.53, permission to retake either examination pending completion of the investigation of any complaints against the applicant.
- (g) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the board from denying an applicant admission to any examination or refusing to issue a license to any applicant when an accusation or statement of issues has been filed against the applicant pursuant to Section 11503 or 11504 of the Government Code, respectively, or the application has been denied in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 485.
- (h) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board may destroy all examination materials two years following the date of an examination.
- (i) If the examination specified by paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 4999.53 is not passed within seven years of an applicant for licensure's initial attempt, the applicant shall obtain a passing

score on the current version of the California law and ethics examination in order to be eligible to retake this examination.

- (j) A passing score on the clinical examination shall be accepted by the board for a period of seven years from the date the examination was taken.

### **§ 4999.53. REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS**

- (a) Effective January 1, 2016, a registrant or an applicant for licensure as a professional clinical counselor shall pass the following examinations as prescribed by the board:
  - (1) A California law and ethics examination.
  - (2) A clinical examination administered by the board, or the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination if the board finds that this examination meets the prevailing standards for validation and use of the licensing and certification tests in California.
- (b) Upon registration with the board, an associate professional clinical counselor shall, within the first year of registration, take an examination on California law and ethics.
- (c) A registrant or an applicant for licensure may take the clinical examination or the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination, as established by the board through regulation, only upon meeting all of the following requirements:
  - (1) Completion of all required supervised work experience.
  - (2) Completion of all education requirements.
  - (3) Passage of the California law and ethics examination.
- (d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

### **§ 4999.55. CALIFORNIA LAW AND ETHICS: EXAMINATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION**

- (a) Each applicant and registrant shall obtain a passing score on a board-administered California law and ethics examination in order to qualify for licensure.
- (b) A registrant shall take a board-administered California law and ethics examination before their registration renewal.
- (c) If an applicant fails the California law and ethics examination, they may retake the examination, upon payment of the required fees, without further application.
- (d) The board shall not issue a subsequent registration number unless the applicant has passed the California law and ethics examination.
- (e) A registrant shall complete a minimum of three hours of continuing education in the subject of California law and ethics during each renewal period in order to be eligible to renew their registration, regardless of whether or not they have passed the California law and ethics examination. The coursework shall be obtained from a board-accepted provider of continuing education, as specified in Section 4999.76.

## § 4999.60. OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS: LICENSURE BY CREDENTIAL

- (a) The board may issue a license to a person who, at the time of submitting an application for a license pursuant to this chapter, holds a license in another jurisdiction of the United States as a professional clinical counselor at the highest level for independent clinical practice if all of the following requirements are met:
- (1) The applicant's license in the other jurisdiction has been current, active, and unrestricted for at least two years immediately before the date the application was received by the board. The applicant shall disclose to the board for review any past restrictions or disciplinary action on an out-of-state license, and the board shall consider those actions in determining whether to issue a license to the applicant.
  - (2) The applicant's degree that qualified the applicant for the out-of-state license is a master's or doctoral degree that was obtained from an accredited or approved institution, as defined in Section 4999.12.
  - (3) The applicant complies with the fingerprint requirements established in Section 144.
  - (4) The applicant completes the coursework specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B) from an accredited or approved school, college, or university, as defined in Section 4999.12, or from a continuing education provider that is acceptable to the board, as defined in Section 4999.76. Undergraduate coursework shall not satisfy this requirement.
    - (A) A minimum of 12 hours of coursework in California law and professional ethics that includes, but is not limited to, instruction in advertising, scope of practice, scope of competence, treatment of minors, confidentiality, dangerous clients, psychotherapist-client privilege, recordkeeping, client access to records, state and federal laws relating to confidentiality of patient health information, dual relationships, child abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, online therapy, insurance reimbursement, civil liability, disciplinary actions and unprofessional conduct, ethics complaints and ethical standards, termination of therapy, standards of care, relevant family law, therapist disclosures to clients, the application of legal and ethical standards in different types of work settings, and licensing law and licensing process.
    - (B) At least one semester unit, or 15 hours, of instruction that includes an understanding of various California cultures and the social and psychological implications of socioeconomic position.
  - (5) The applicant obtains a minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting, as specified in Section 28, and any regulations promulgated thereunder.
  - (6) On and after January 1, 2021, the applicant shall show proof of completion of at least six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention using one of the methods specified in Section 4999.66.
  - (7) The applicant passes the board-administered California law and ethics examination specified in Section 4999.53. The clinical examination specified in Section 4999.53 shall be waived for an applicant qualifying under this section.
- (b) This section was developed based on an examination of the licensure requirements for professional clinical counselors on a national level. This section shall not be construed to apply to

any provisions under this division or Division 3 (commencing with Section 5000) other than this act.

#### **§ 4999.61. OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS: LICENSURE BY EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE**

- (a) This section applies to persons with education gained from an out-of-state school or experience gained outside of California who apply for licensure or registration who do not qualify for a license under Section 4999.60.
- (b) The board shall accept education gained from an out-of-state school for purposes of satisfying licensure or registration requirements if the education is substantially equivalent, as defined in Section 4999.62, and the applicant complies with subdivision (c) of Section 4999.40, if applicable.
- (c) The board shall accept experience gained outside of California for purposes of satisfying licensure or registration requirements if the experience is substantially equivalent to the experience required by this chapter. If the applicant has fewer than 3,000 hours of qualifying supervised experience, the board shall accept as qualifying supervised experience the amount of time the applicant held an active license in good standing in another state or country as a professional clinical counselor at the highest level for independent clinical practice at a rate of 100 hours per month, up to a maximum of 1,200 hours.
- (d) An applicant who obtained a license or registration in another state or country may qualify for licensure with the board without taking the clinical examination specified in Section 4999.53 if both of the following conditions are met:
  - (1) The applicant obtained a passing score on the clinical licensing examination set forth in regulation as accepted by the board.
  - (2) The applicant's license or registration in that state or country is active and in good standing at the time of the application and is not revoked, suspended, surrendered, denied, or otherwise restricted or encumbered.

#### **§ 4999.62. LICENSURE BY EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT EDUCATION**

- (a) This section applies to persons with education gained from an out-of-state school who apply for licensure or registration and who do not qualify for a license under Section 4999.60.
- (b) For purposes of Section 4999.61, education is substantially equivalent if all of the following requirements are met:
  - (1) The degree is obtained from an accredited or approved institution, as defined in Section 4999.12, and consists of, at a minimum, the following:
    - (A) (i) For an applicant who obtained a degree within the timeline prescribed by subdivision (a) of Section 4999.33 the degree shall contain no less than 60 graduate semester or 90 graduate quarter units of instruction.

- (ii) Up to 12 semester or 18 quarter units of instruction may be remediated, if missing from the degree. The remediation may occur while the applicant is registered as an associate.
- (B) For an applicant who obtained a degree within the timeline prescribed by subdivision (a) of Section 4999.32 the degree shall contain no less than 48 graduate semester or 72 graduate quarter units of instruction.
- (C) (i) Six semester or nine quarter units of supervised practicum or field study experience, including, but not limited to, a minimum of 280 hours of face-to-face supervised clinical experience counseling individuals, families, or groups.
- (ii) An out-of-state applicant who holds a valid license in good standing in another state or country as a professional clinical counselor at the highest level for independent clinical practice is exempt from the practicum requirement specified in clause (i).
- (D) The required areas of study listed in subparagraphs (A) to (M), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 4999.33.
- (i) (I) An applicant whose degree is deficient in no more than six of the required areas of study listed in subparagraphs (A) to (M), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 4999.33 may satisfy those deficiencies by successfully completing graduate level coursework at an accredited or approved institution, as defined in Section 4999.12. Coursework taken to meet any deficiencies shall be the equivalent of three semester units or four quarter units of study.
  - (II) Notwithstanding subclause (I), no applicant shall be deficient in the required areas of study specified in subparagraph (E) or (G) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 4999.33.
  - (ii) An applicant who completed a course in professional orientation, ethics, and law in counseling as required by subparagraph (I) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 4999.33 that did not contain instruction in California law and ethics shall complete a 12-hour course in California law and professional ethics that includes, but is not limited to, instruction in advertising, scope of practice, scope of competence, treatment of minors, confidentiality, dangerous clients, psychotherapist-client privilege, recordkeeping, client access to records, state and federal laws relating to confidentiality of patient health information, dual relationships, child abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, online therapy, insurance reimbursement, civil liability, disciplinary actions and unprofessional conduct, ethics complaints and ethical standards, termination of therapy, standards of care, relevant family law, therapist disclosures to clients, the application of legal and ethical standards in different types of work settings, and licensing law and the licensing process. The coursework may be from an accredited or approved school, college, or university, as defined in Section 4999.12, or from a continuing education provider that is acceptable to the board, as defined in Section 4999.76. Undergraduate coursework shall not satisfy this requirement. An applicant shall complete this coursework before registration as an associate.
  - (iii) An applicant who has not completed a course in professional orientation, ethics, and law in counseling as required by subparagraph (I) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 4999.33 shall complete this required coursework, including content in California



law and ethics. An applicant shall complete this coursework before registration as an associate.

(iv) An applicant who holds a valid license in good standing in another state or country as a professional clinical counselor at the highest level for independent clinical practice may complete any units and course content requirements required in this subparagraph not already completed in the applicant's education while registered as an associate, unless otherwise specified.

(2) The applicant completes any units required by subdivision (c) of Section 4999.33 not already completed in the applicant's education as follows:

(A) At least 15 semester units or 22.5 quarter units of advanced coursework to develop knowledge of specific treatment issues or special populations. This coursework is in addition to the course requirements described in subparagraph (D) of paragraph (1).

(B) Coursework shall be from an accredited or approved school, college, or university as defined in Section 4999.12.

(3) (A) The applicant completes the following coursework not already completed in the applicant's education:

(i) A minimum of 10 contact hours of training in human sexuality, as specified in Section 25 and any regulations promulgated thereunder, including the study of the physiological, psychological, and social cultural variables associated with sexual behavior, gender identity, and the assessment and treatment of psychosexual dysfunction.

(ii) A minimum of 15 contact hours of instruction in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, intervention strategies, and same-gender abuse dynamics.

(iii) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting as specified in Section 28 and any regulations promulgated thereunder.

(iv) A minimum of 10 contact hours of instruction in aging and long-term care, including biological, social, cognitive, and psychological aspects of aging. This coursework shall include instruction on the assessment and reporting of, as well as treatment related to, elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect.

(B) This coursework may be from an accredited or approved school, college, or university as defined in Section 4999.12, or from a continuing education provider that is described in Section 4999.76. Undergraduate coursework shall not satisfy this requirement.

(4) The applicant completes the following coursework not already completed in the applicant's education from an accredited or approved school, college, or university as defined in Section 4999.12, or from a continuing education provider that is described in Section 4999.76. Undergraduate coursework shall not satisfy this requirement.

(A) At least three semester units, or 45 hours, of instruction regarding the principles of mental health recovery-oriented care and methods of service delivery in recovery-oriented practice environments, including structured meetings with various

consumers and family members of consumers of mental health services to enhance understanding of their experiences of mental illness, treatment, and recovery.

(B) At least one semester unit, or 15 hours, of instruction that includes an understanding of various California cultures and the social and psychological implications of socioeconomic position.

(5) An applicant may complete any units and course content requirements required under paragraph (2), (3), or (4) not already completed in the applicant's education while registered with the board as an associate.

(6) On and after January 1, 2021, an applicant for licensure shall show proof of completion of at least six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention using one of the methods specified in Section 4999.66.

#### **§ 4999.64. REEXAMINATION**

(a) Effective January 1, 2016, an applicant who fails the examination specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 4999.53 may, within one year from the notification date of that failure, retake the examination as regularly scheduled without further application upon payment of the fee for the examination. Thereafter, the applicant shall not be eligible for further examination until he or she files a new application, meets all requirements in effect on the date of application, and pays all required fees.

(b) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

#### **§ 4999.66. REQUIRED COURSEWORK OR SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: SUICIDE RISK ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION**

(a) On or after January 1, 2021, an applicant for licensure as a professional clinical counselor shall show, as part of the application, that they have completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention. This requirement shall be met in one of the following ways:

(1) Obtained as part of their qualifying graduate degree program. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the registrar or training director of the educational institution or program from which the applicant graduated stating that the coursework required by this section is included within the institution's curriculum required for graduation at the time the applicant graduated, or within the coursework that was completed by the applicant.

(2) Obtained as part of their applied experience. Applied experience can be met in any of the following settings: practicum or associateship that meets the requirement of this chapter, formal postdoctoral placement that meets the requirements of Section 2911, or other qualifying supervised experience. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the director of training for the program or primary supervisor where the qualifying experience has occurred stating that the training required by this section is included within the applied experience.

(3) By taking a continuing education course that meets the requirements of Section 4999.76. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a certification of completion.

(b) As a one-time requirement, a licensee prior to the time of their first renewal after January 1, 2021, or an applicant for reactivation or reinstatement to an active license status on or after January 1, 2021, shall have completed a minimum of six hours of coursework or applied experience under supervision in suicide risk assessment and intervention, using one of the methods specified in subdivision (a). Proof of compliance with this section shall be certified under penalty of perjury that they are in compliance with this section and shall be retained for submission to the board upon request.

#### **§ 4999.67. REQUIRED TRAINING OR COURSEWORK: PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES VIA TELEHEALTH**

(a) On or after July 1, 2023, an applicant for licensure as a professional clinical counselor shall show, as part of the application, that they have completed a minimum of three hours of training or coursework in the provision of mental health services via telehealth, which shall include law and ethics related to telehealth. This requirement shall be met in one of the following ways:

(1) Obtained as part of their qualifying graduate degree program. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a written certification from the registrar or training director of the educational institution or program from which the applicant graduated stating that the coursework required by this section is included within the institution's curriculum required for graduation at the time the applicant graduated, or within the coursework that was completed by the applicant.

(2) Obtained by completing a continuing education course that meets the requirements of Section 4999.76. To satisfy this requirement, the applicant shall submit to the board a certification of completion.

(b) As a one-time requirement, a licensee before the time of their first renewal after July 1, 2023, or an applicant for reactivation or reinstatement to an active license status on or after July 1, 2023, shall have completed a minimum of three hours of training or coursework in the provision of mental health services via telehealth, which shall include law and ethics related to telehealth, using one of the methods specified in subdivision (a).

(c) Proof of compliance with subdivision (b) shall be certified under penalty of perjury that they are in compliance with this section and shall be retained for submission to the board upon request.

### **ARTICLE 4. PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **§ 4999.70. DISPLAY OF LICENSE**

A licensee shall display his or her license in a conspicuous place in his or her primary place of practice.

## **§ 4999.71. REQUIRED NOTICE TO CLIENTS**

- (a) Effective July 1, 2020, a licensee or registrant shall provide a client with a notice written in at least 12-point type prior to initiating psychotherapy services, or as soon as practicably possible thereafter, that reads as follows:

### **NOTICE TO CLIENTS**

The Board of Behavioral Sciences receives and responds to complaints regarding services provided within the scope of practice of professional clinical counselors. You may contact the board online at [www.bbs.ca.gov](http://www.bbs.ca.gov), or by calling (916) 574-7830.

- (b) The delivery of the notice required by this section to the client shall be documented.

## **§ 4999.72. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME**

Any licensed professional clinical counselor who owns a business using a fictitious business name shall not use any name that is false, misleading, or deceptive, and shall inform the patient, prior to the commencement of treatment, of the name and license designation of the owner or owners of the practice.

## **§ 4999.74. COUNSELING RELATIONSHIP AND PROCESS; DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT**

Licensed professional clinical counselors shall provide to each client accurate information about the counseling relationship and the counseling process.

## **§ 4999.75. CLIENT RECORDS: RETENTION**

- (a) A licensed professional clinical counselor shall retain a client's or patient's health service records for a minimum of seven years from the date therapy is terminated. If the client or patient is a minor, the client's or patient's health service records shall be retained for a minimum of seven years from the date the client or patient reaches 18 years of age. Health service records may be retained in either a written or an electronic format.
- (b) This section shall apply only to the records of a client or patient whose therapy is terminated on or after January 1, 2015.

## **§ 4999.76. CONTINUING EDUCATION**

- (a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (c), the board shall not renew any license pursuant to this chapter unless the applicant certifies to the board, on a form prescribed by the board, that the applicant has completed not less than 36 hours of approved continuing education in or relevant to the field of professional clinical counseling in the preceding two years, as determined by the board.
- (2) The board shall not renew any registration pursuant to this chapter unless the registrant certifies under penalty of perjury to the board, and on a form prescribed by the board, that they

have completed not less than three hours of continuing education in the subject of California law and ethics during the preceding year.

- (b) The board shall have the right to audit the records of any applicant to verify the completion of the continuing education requirement. Applicants shall maintain records of completed continuing education coursework for a minimum of two years and shall make these records available to the board for auditing purposes upon request.
- (c) The board may establish exceptions from the continuing education requirement of this section for good cause, as defined by the board.
- (d) The continuing education shall be obtained from one of the following sources:
  - (1) A school, college, or university that is accredited or approved, as defined in Section 4999.12. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as requiring coursework to be offered as part of a regular degree program.
  - (2) Other continuing education providers as specified by the board by regulation.
- (e) The board shall establish, by regulation, a procedure for identifying acceptable providers of continuing education courses, and all providers of continuing education, as described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (d), shall adhere to procedures established by the board. The board may revoke or deny the right of a provider to offer continuing education coursework pursuant to this section for failure to comply with this section or any regulation adopted pursuant to this section.
- (f) Training, education, and coursework by approved providers shall incorporate one or more of the following:
  - (1) Aspects of the discipline that are fundamental to the understanding or the practice of professional clinical counseling.
  - (2) Significant recent developments in the discipline of professional clinical counseling.
  - (3) Aspects of other disciplines that enhance the understanding or the practice of professional clinical counseling.
- (g) A system of continuing education for licensed professional clinical counselors shall include courses directly related to the diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of the client population being served.
- (h) The continuing education requirements of this section shall fully comply with the guidelines for mandatory continuing education established by the Department of Consumer Affairs pursuant to Section 166.

## **ARTICLE 5. ENFORCEMENT**

### **§ 4999.80. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS; BOARD DUTIES**

In order to carry out the provisions of this chapter, the board shall do all of the following:

- (a) Enforce laws designed to protect the public from incompetent, unethical, or unprofessional practitioners.

- (b) Investigate complaints concerning the conduct of any licensed professional clinical counselor.
- (c) Revoke, suspend, or fail to renew a license that it has authority to issue for just cause, as enumerated in rules and regulations of the board. The board may deny, suspend, or revoke any license granted under this chapter pursuant to Section 480, 481, 484, 490, 496, 498, or 499.

**§ 4999.82. ENGAGING IN THE PRACTICE; UNLAWFUL ACTS; LICENSURE REQUIREMENT**

It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in any of the following acts:

- (a) Engage in the practice of professional clinical counseling, as defined in Section 4999.20, without first having complied with the provisions of this chapter and without holding a valid license as required by this chapter.
- (b) Represent himself or herself by the title "licensed professional clinical counselor," "LPCC," "licensed clinical counselor," or "professional clinical counselor" without being duly licensed according to the provisions of this chapter.
- (c) Make any use of any title, words, letters, or abbreviations, that may reasonably be confused with a designation provided by this chapter to denote a standard of professional or occupational competence without being duly licensed.
- (d) Materially refuse to furnish the board information or records required or requested pursuant to this chapter.

**§ 4999.84. PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION**

It is the intent of the Legislature that any communication made by a person to a licensed professional clinical counselor in the course of professional services shall be deemed a privileged communication.

**§ 4999.86. VIOLATIONS OF CHAPTER PROVISIONS; MISDEMEANOR**

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, or by a fine not exceeding two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500), or by both that fine and imprisonment.

**§ 4999.88. ISSUANCE OF AN INJUNCTION TO RESTRAIN CONDUCT**

In addition to other proceedings provided in this chapter, whenever any person has engaged, or is about to engage, in any acts or practices that constitute, or will constitute, an offense against this chapter, the superior court in and for the county wherein the acts or practices take place, or are about to take place, may issue an injunction, or other appropriate order, restraining that conduct on application of the board, the Attorney General, or the district attorney of the county. The proceedings under this section shall be governed by Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 525) of Title 7 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

## § 4999.90. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The board may refuse to issue any registration or license, or may suspend or revoke the registration or license of any associate or licensed professional clinical counselor, if the applicant, licensee, or registrant has been guilty of unprofessional conduct. Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- (a) The conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a licensee or registrant under this chapter. The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence only of the fact that the conviction occurred. The board may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime in order to fix the degree of discipline or to determine if the conviction is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a licensee or registrant under this chapter. A conviction has the same meaning as defined in Section 7.5. The board may order any license or registration suspended or revoked, or may decline to issue a license or registration when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or, when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence. All actions pursuant to this subdivision shall be taken pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475).
- (b) Securing a license or registration by fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation on any application for licensure or registration submitted to the board, whether engaged in by an applicant for a license or registration, or by a licensee in support of any application for licensure or registration.
- (c) Administering to themselves any controlled substance or using any of the dangerous drugs specified in Section 4022, or any alcoholic beverage to the extent, or in a manner, as to be dangerous or injurious to the person applying for a registration or license or holding a registration or license under this chapter, or to any other person, or to the public, or, to the extent that the use impairs the ability of the person applying for or holding a registration or license to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by the registration or license. The board shall deny an application for a registration or license or revoke the license or registration of any person, other than one who is licensed as a physician and surgeon, who uses or offers to use drugs in the course of performing licensed professional clinical counseling services.
- (d) Gross negligence or incompetence in the performance of licensed professional clinical counseling services.
- (e) Violating, attempting to violate, or conspiring to violate any of the provisions of this chapter or any regulation adopted by the board.
- (f) Misrepresentation as to the type or status of a license or registration held by the person, or otherwise misrepresenting or permitting misrepresentation of the licensee's or registrant's education, professional qualifications, or professional affiliations to any person or entity.
- (g) Impersonation of another by any licensee, registrant, or applicant for a license or registration, or, in the case of a licensee or registrant, allowing any other person to use the licensee's or registrant's license or registration.
- (h) Aiding or abetting, or employing, directly or indirectly, any unlicensed or unregistered person to engage in conduct for which a license or registration is required under this chapter.
- (i) Intentionally or recklessly causing physical or emotional harm to any client.

- (j) The commission of any dishonest, corrupt, or fraudulent act substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a licensee or registrant.
- (k) Engaging in sexual relations with a client, or a former client within two years following termination of therapy, soliciting sexual relations with a client, or committing an act of sexual abuse, or sexual misconduct with a client, or committing an act punishable as a sexually related crime, if that act or solicitation is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a licensed professional clinical counselor.
- (l) Performing, or holding oneself out as being able to perform, or offering to perform, or permitting any trainee, applicant, or registrant under supervision to perform, any professional services beyond the scope of the license authorized by this chapter.
- (m) Failure to maintain confidentiality, except as otherwise required or permitted by law, of all information that has been received from a client in confidence during the course of treatment and all information about the client which is obtained from tests or other means.
- (n) Prior to the commencement of treatment, failing to disclose to the client or prospective client the fee to be charged for the professional services, or the basis upon which that fee will be computed.
- (o) Paying, accepting, or soliciting any consideration, compensation, or remuneration, whether monetary or otherwise, for the referral of professional clients. All consideration, compensation, or remuneration shall be in relation to professional clinical counseling services actually provided by the licensee. This subdivision does not prevent collaboration among two or more licensees in a case or cases. However, no fee shall be charged for that collaboration, except when disclosure of the fee has been made in compliance with subdivision (n).
- (p) Advertising in a manner that is false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive, as defined in Section 651.
- (q) Reproduction or description in public, or in any publication subject to general public distribution, of any psychological test or other assessment device, the value of which depends in whole or in part on the naivete of the subject, in ways that might invalidate the test or device.
- (r) Any conduct in the supervision of a registered associate, trainee, or applicant by any licensee that violates this chapter or any rules or regulations adopted by the board.
- (s) Performing or holding oneself out as being able to perform mental health services beyond the scope of one's competence, as established by one's education, training, or experience. This subdivision shall not be construed to expand the scope of the license authorized by this chapter.
- (t) Permitting a trainee, associate, or applicant under one's supervision or control to perform, or permitting the trainee, associate, or applicant to hold themselves out as competent to perform, mental health services beyond the trainee's, associate's, or applicant's level of education, training, or experience.
- (u) The violation of any statute or regulation governing the gaining and supervision of experience required by this chapter.
- (v) Failure to keep records consistent with sound clinical judgment, the standards of the profession, and the nature of the services being rendered.
- (w) Failure to comply with the child abuse reporting requirements of Section 11166 of the Penal Code.



- (x) Failing to comply with the elder and dependent adult abuse reporting requirements of Section 15630 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- (y) Repeated acts of negligence.
- (z) (1) Engaging in an act described in Section 261, 286, 287, or 289 of, or former Section 288a of, the Penal Code with a minor or an act described in Section 288 or 288.5 of the Penal Code regardless of whether the act occurred prior to or after the time the registration or license was issued by the board. An act described in this subdivision occurring prior to the effective date of this subdivision shall constitute unprofessional conduct and shall subject the licensee to refusal, suspension, or revocation of a license under this section.  
  
(2) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that protection of the public, and in particular minors, from sexual misconduct by a licensee is a compelling governmental interest, and that the ability to suspend or revoke a license for sexual conduct with a minor occurring prior to the effective date of this section is equally important to protecting the public as is the ability to refuse a license for sexual conduct with a minor occurring prior to the effective date of this section.
- (aa) Engaging in any conduct that subverts or attempts to subvert any licensing examination or the administration of an examination as described in Section 123.
- (ab) Revocation, suspension, or restriction by the board of a license, certificate, or registration to practice as a professional clinical counselor, clinical social worker, educational psychologist, or marriage and family therapist.
- (ac) Failing to comply with the procedures set forth in Section 2290.5 when delivering health care via telehealth.
- (ad) Willful violation of Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 123100) of Part 1 of Division 106 of the Health and Safety Code.

**§ 4999.91. DENIAL OF APPLICATION OR SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE OR REGISTRATION; GROUNDS**

The board may deny any application, or may suspend or revoke any license or registration issued under this chapter, for any of the following:

- (a) Denial of licensure, revocation, suspension, restriction, or any other disciplinary action imposed by this state or another state or territory of the United States, or by any other governmental agency, on a license, certificate, or registration to practice professional clinical counseling or any other healing art shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct. A certified copy of the disciplinary action decision or judgment shall be conclusive evidence of that action.
- (b) Revocation, suspension, or restriction by the board of a license, certificate, or registration to practice clinical social work, professional clinical counseling, marriage and family therapy, or educational psychology shall also constitute grounds for disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct under this chapter.

## ARTICLE 6. REVENUE

### § 4999.100. EXPIRATION OF ASSOCIATE REGISTRATION; RENEWAL

- (a) An associate registration shall expire one year from the last day of the month in which it was issued.
- (b) To renew a registration, the registrant, on or before the expiration date of the registration, shall do the following:
  - (1) Apply for a renewal on a form prescribed by the board.
  - (2) Pay a renewal fee prescribed by the board.
  - (3) Notify the board whether they have been convicted, as defined in Section 490, of a misdemeanor or felony, or whether any disciplinary action has been taken by any regulatory or licensing board in this or any other state, subsequent to the registrant's last renewal.
  - (4) Participate in the California law and ethics examination pursuant to Section 4999.53 each year until successful completion of this examination.
  - (5) Certify under penalty of perjury their compliance with the continuing education requirements set forth in Section 4999.76.
- (c) An expired registration may be renewed by completing all of the actions described in paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (b).
- (d) The associate registration may be renewed a maximum of five times. Registration shall not be renewed or reinstated beyond six years from the last day of the month during which it was issued, regardless of whether it has been revoked. When no further renewals are possible, an applicant may apply for and obtain a subsequent associate registration number if the applicant meets the educational requirements for registration in effect at the time of the application for a subsequent associate registration number and has passed the California law and ethics examination described in Section 4999.53. An applicant who is issued a subsequent associate registration number pursuant to this subdivision shall not be employed or volunteer in a private practice.

### § 4999.102. EXPIRATION OF LICENSURE; RENEWAL OF UNEXPIRED LICENSE

- (a) Licenses issued under this chapter shall expire no more than 24 months after the issue date. The expiration date of the original license shall be set by the board.
- (b) To renew an unexpired license described in subdivision (a), the licensee, on or before the expiration date of the license, shall do all of the following:
  - (1) Apply for a renewal on a form prescribed by the board.
  - (2) Pay a two-year renewal fee prescribed by the board.
  - (3) Certify compliance with the continuing education requirements set forth in Section 4999.76.
  - (4) Notify the board whether he or she has been convicted, as defined in Section 490, of a misdemeanor or felony, or whether any disciplinary action has been taken by any regulatory or licensing board in this or any other state, subsequent to the licensee's last renewal.

#### **§ 4999.104. RENEWAL OF EXPIRED LICENSE; TIME LIMIT; REQUIREMENTS**

Licenses issued under this chapter that have expired may be renewed at any time within three years of expiration. To renew an expired license described in this section, the licensee shall do all of the following:

- (a) File an application for renewal on a form prescribed by the board.
- (b) Pay a two-year renewal fee prescribed by the board.
- (c) Pay a delinquency fee.
- (d) Certify compliance with the continuing education requirements set forth in Section 4999.76.
- (e) Notify the board whether the licensee has been convicted, as defined in Section 490, of a misdemeanor or felony, or whether any disciplinary action has been taken by any regulatory or licensing board in this or any other state, subsequent to the licensee's last renewal.

#### **§ 4999.106. EXPIRED LICENSE; APPLICATION FOR NEW LICENSE**

A license that is not renewed within three years after its expiration may not be renewed, restored, reinstated, or reissued, except that a former licensee may apply for and obtain a new license if he or she complies with all of the following:

- (a) No fact, circumstance, or condition exists that, if the license were issued, would justify its revocation or suspension.
- (b) He or she takes and passes the current examinations required for licensing.
- (c) He or she submits an application for initial licensure.
- (d) He or she meets the requirements pursuant to Section 4999.51.

#### **§ 4999.108. SUSPENDED LICENSE; RENEWAL**

A suspended license is subject to expiration and shall be renewed as provided in this article, but that renewal does not entitle the licensee, while it remains suspended and until it is reinstated, to engage in the activity to which the license relates, or in any other activity or conduct in violation of the order or judgment by which it was suspended.

#### **§ 4999.110. REVOKED LICENSE; REINSTATEMENT**

A revoked license is subject to expiration as provided in this article, but it may not be renewed. If it is reinstated after its expiration, the licensee shall, as a condition precedent to its reinstatement, pay a reinstatement fee in an amount equal to the renewal fee in effect on the last regular renewal date before the date on which it is reinstated, plus the delinquency fee, if any, accrued at the time of its revocation.

#### **§ 4999.112. INACTIVE LICENSE STATUS**

- (a) A licensed professional clinical counselor may apply to the board to request that his or her license

be placed on inactive status. A licensee who holds an inactive license shall do all of the following:

- (1) Pay a biennial fee of one-half of the active renewal fee.
- (2) Be exempt from continuing education requirements.
- (3) Not engage in the practice of professional clinical counseling in this state.
- (4) Otherwise be subject to this chapter.

(b) A licensee on inactive status may have his or her license reactivated by complying with all of the following:

- (1) Submitting a request to the board.
- (2) Certifying that he or she has not committed any acts or crimes constituting grounds for denial of licensure.
- (3) Paying the remaining one-half of the renewal fee.
- (4) Completing the following continuing education requirements:
  - (A) Eighteen hours of continuing education is required within the two years preceding the date of the request for reactivation if the license will expire less than one year from the date of the request for reactivation.
  - (B) Thirty-six hours of continuing education is required within the two years preceding the date of the request for reactivation if the license will expire more than one year from the date of the request for reactivation.

#### **§ 4999.113. ISSUANCE OF A RETIRED LICENSE – LICENSED PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR**

- (a) The board shall issue, upon application and payment of the fee fixed by this chapter, a retired license to a professional clinical counselor who holds a license that is current and active or a license that is inactive, and whose license is not suspended, revoked, or otherwise punitively restricted by the board or subject to disciplinary action under this chapter.
- (b) The holder of a retired license issued pursuant to this section shall not engage in any activity for which an active professional clinical counselor license is required.
- (c) The holder of a retired license shall not be required to renew that license.
- (d) The holder of a retired license may apply to restore to active status his or her license to practice professional clinical counseling if that retired license was issued less than three years prior to the application date, and the applicant meets all of the following requirements:
  - (1) Has not committed an act or crime constituting grounds for denial of licensure.
  - (2) Pays the required renewal fee.
  - (3) Completes the required continuing education as specified in Section 4999.76.
  - (4) Complies with the fingerprint submission requirements established by the board in regulation.

- (e) An applicant requesting to restore his or her license pursuant to subdivision (d), whose license was issued in accordance with this section less than one year from the date of the application, shall complete 18 hours of continuing education as specified in Section 4999.76.
- (f) An applicant requesting to restore his or her license pursuant to subdivision (d), whose license was issued in accordance with this section one or more years from the date of application, shall complete 36 hours of continuing education as specified in Section 4999.76.
- (g) The holder of a retired license may apply to restore to active status his or her license to practice professional clinical counseling if that retired license was issued three or more years prior to the application date, and the applicant meets all of the following requirements:
  - (1) Has not committed an act or crime constituting grounds for denial of licensure.
  - (2) Applies for licensure and pays the required fees.
  - (3) Passes the examinations required for licensure.
  - (4) Complies with the fingerprint submission requirements established by the board in regulation.

**§ 4999.114. REVENUE; BOARD REPORT TO CONTROLLER**

The board shall report each month to the Controller the amount and source of all revenue received pursuant to this chapter and at the same time deposit the entire amount thereof in the State Treasury for credit to the Behavioral Sciences Fund.

**§ 4999.116. BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES FUND; APPROPRIATIONS; SURPLUSES**

- (a) The moneys credited to the Behavioral Sciences Fund under Section 4999.114 shall, upon appropriation by the Legislature, be used for the purposes of carrying out and enforcing the provisions of this chapter.
- (b) The board shall keep records that will reasonably ensure that funds expended in the administration of each licensing or registration category bear a reasonable relation to the revenue derived from each category, and shall so notify the department no later than May 31 of each year.
- (c) Surpluses, if any, may be used in a way so as to bear a reasonable relation to the revenue derived from each category, and may include, but not be limited to, expenditures for education and research related to each of the licensing or registration categories.

**§ 4999.118. LICENSEE OR REGISTRANT NAME CHANGE; BOARD NOTIFICATION**

A licensee or registrant shall give written notice to the board of a name change, giving both the old and new names. The written notice shall be submitted to the board within 30 days of the issuance of a new government-issued photographic identification. The licensee or registrant shall certify the information is correct by signing a statement under penalty of perjury. A copy of both of the following documents evidencing the change shall be submitted with the notice:

- (a) A current government-issued photographic identification.

(b) The legal document authorizing the name change, such as a court order or a marriage certificate.

## **§ 4999.120. FEE SCHEDULE**

(a) The board shall assess the following fees relating to the licensure of professional clinical counselors:

(1) The fee for the application for licensure shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of five hundred dollars (\$500).

(2) The fee for the application for associate registration shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300).

(3) (A) (i) The fee for the board-administered clinical examination, if the board chooses to adopt this examination in regulations, shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of five hundred dollars (\$500).

(ii) The fee for the California law and ethics examination shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300).

(B) An applicant who fails to appear for an examination, after having been scheduled to take the examination, shall forfeit the examination fees.

(C) The amount of the examination fees shall be based on the actual cost to the board of developing, purchasing, and grading each examination and the actual cost to the board of administering each examination. The written examination fees shall be adjusted periodically by regulation to reflect the actual costs incurred by the board.

(4) The fee for the issuance of a license shall be two hundred dollars (\$200). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of four hundred dollars (\$400).

(5) The fee for the annual renewal of an associate registration shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300).

(6) The fee for the two-year license renewal shall be two hundred dollars (\$200). The board may adopt regulations to set the fee at a higher amount, up to a maximum of four hundred dollars (\$400).

(7) The renewal delinquency fee shall be one-half of the fee for license renewal. A person who permits their license to expire shall be subject to the delinquency fee.

(8) The fee for issuance of a retired license shall be forty dollars (\$40).

(9) The fee for rescoring an examination shall be twenty dollars (\$20).

(10) The fee for issuance of a replacement license or registration shall be twenty dollars (\$20).

(11) The fee for issuance of a certificate or letter of good standing shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25).

(b) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2021.

#### **§ 4999.121. ADDITIONAL LICENSE RENEWAL FEE; MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER EDUCATION FUND**

(a) In addition to the fees charged pursuant to Section 4999.120 for the biennial renewal of a license pursuant to Section 4999.102, the board shall collect an additional fee of twenty dollars (\$20) at the time of renewal. The board shall transfer this amount to the Controller who shall deposit the funds in the Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund.

(b) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2018.

### **ARTICLE 7. PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR CORPORATIONS**

#### **§ 4999.123. DEFINITIONS**

A professional clinical counselor corporation is a corporation that is authorized to render professional services, as defined in Section 13401 of the Corporations Code, so long as that corporation and its shareholders, officers, directors, and employees who are rendering professional services are in compliance with the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act (Part 4 (commencing with Section 13400) of Division 3 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code), this article, and any other statute or regulation pertaining to that corporation and the conduct of its affairs. With respect to a professional clinical counselor corporation, the term “governmental agency” in the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act (Part 4 (commencing with Section 13400) of Division 3 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code) shall be construed to mean the Board of Behavioral Sciences.

#### **§ 4999.124. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

It shall constitute unprofessional conduct and a violation of this chapter for any person licensed under this chapter to violate, attempt to violate, directly or indirectly, or assist in, or abet the violation of, or conspire to violate, any provision or term of this article, the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act (Part 4 (commencing with Section 13400) of Division 3 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code), or any regulation adopted under those laws.

#### **§ 4999.125. NAME**

The name of a professional clinical counselor corporation and any name or names under which it may be rendering professional services shall contain the words “licensed professional clinical counselor” or “professional clinical counselor” and wording or abbreviations denoting a corporate existence. A professional clinical counselor corporation that conducts business under a fictitious business name shall not use any name that is false, misleading, or deceptive, and shall inform each patient, prior to commencement of treatment, that the business is conducted by a professional clinical counselor corporation.

#### **§ 4999.126. DIRECTORS, SHAREHOLDERS, AND OFFICERS; NECESSITY OF LICENSE**

Except as provided in Section 13403 of the Corporations Code, each director, shareholder, and

officer of a professional clinical counselor corporation shall be a licensed person, as defined in Section 13401 of the Corporations Code.

**§ 4999.127. INCOME FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES NOT TO ACCRUE TO DISQUALIFIED SHAREHOLDERS**

The income of a professional clinical counselor corporation attributable to professional services rendered while a shareholder is a disqualified person, as defined in Section 13401 of the Corporations Code, shall not in any manner accrue to the benefit of that shareholder or his or her shares in the professional clinical counselor corporation.

**§ 4999.128. CORPORATE UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

A professional clinical counselor corporation shall not perform or fail to perform any act the performance of which, or for which the failure to perform, would constitute unprofessional conduct under any statute, rule, or regulation. In the conduct of its practice, a professional clinical counselor corporation shall observe and be bound by any statute, rule, or regulation that applies to a licensed professional clinical counselor.

**§ 4999.129. RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The board may formulate and enforce any rule or regulation to carry out the purposes and objectives of this article, including as follows:

- (a) Any rule or regulation that requires that the articles of incorporation or bylaws of a professional clinical counselor corporation shall include a provision that requires the capital stock of the corporation owned by a disqualified person, as defined in Section 13401 of the Corporations Code, or a deceased person to be sold to the corporation or to the remaining shareholders of the corporation within the timeframe that the rule or regulation requires.
- (b) Any rule or regulation that requires that a professional clinical counselor corporation shall provide adequate security by insurance or otherwise for claims against the corporation by its patients arising out of the rendering of professional services.

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# CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

## TITLE 16. PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL REGULATIONS

### Division 18. Board of Behavioral Sciences (Originally Printed 12-05-1946)

#### ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### § 1800. DECLARATORY DECISIONS.

No decision or opinion issued by the Board is a declaratory decision under Government Code Sections 11465.10.-11465.70. unless the decision or opinion specifically states that it is a "Declaratory Decision".

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 11465.10-11465.70, Government Code.

##### § 1802. DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of the rules and regulations contained in this chapter, the term "board" means the Board of Behavioral Sciences; and the term "Code" means the Business and Professions Code.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 4990, Business and Professions Code.

##### § 1803. DELEGATION OF CERTAIN FUNCTIONS.

The power and discretion conferred by law upon the board to receive and file accusations; issue notices of hearing, statements to respondent and statements of issues; receive and file notices of defense; determine the time and place of hearings under Section 11508 of the Government Code; issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum; set and calendar cases for hearing, issue orders compelling an evaluation of a licensee's or registrant's physical or mental condition in accordance with Section 820 of the Business and Professions Code and perform other functions necessary to the efficient dispatch of the business of the board in connection with proceedings under the provisions of Section 11500 through 11528 of the Government Code, prior to the hearing of such proceedings; to approve settlement agreements for the revocation, surrender or interim suspension of a license or registration; and the certification and delivery or mailing of copies of decisions under Section 11518 of said code are hereby delegated to and conferred upon the executive officer, or, in his or her absence from the office of the board, the acting executive officer.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 820, 4990.04 and 4990.12, Business and Professions Code; and Sections 11415.60 and 11500-11528, Government Code.

##### § 1804. FILING OF ADDRESSES.

Each person or professional corporation regulated by the board shall maintain a current mailing address with the board and shall notify the board within thirty (30) days concerning any change of address giving both the old and new addresses.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60, 4990.11 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.07, 4990.08 and 4990.12, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1805. APPLICATIONS.**

Applications submitted to the board for registration or licensure shall be on a form prescribed by the board.

Note: Authority Cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20(a), Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.30, 4980.40, 4980.44, 4980.50, 4989.20, 4992, 4992.1, 4996.2, 4996.18, 4999.42, 4999.50 and 4999.53, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1805.01. DEFINITIONS.**

For purposes of this division, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Application for licensure" means the following:

- (1) The individual submits documentation of completed education and experience required for licensure to the Board for review; and,
- (2) By submitting this information, seeks to be made eligible to take the required examinations.

(b) "Registrant" means an individual who holds a current or delinquent associate registration.

Note: Authority Cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20(a), Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.03(b), 4980.30, 4980.40, 4980.44, 4984.01, 4989.20, 4992, 4996.2, 4996.28, 4999.45, 4999.46 and 4999.50, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1805.05. REEXAMINATION.**

- (a) A 90-day waiting period is required between attempts for applicants retaking a California law and ethics examination.
- (b) A 120-day waiting period is required between attempts for applicants retaking a clinical examination, except as indicated in subdivision (d).
- (c) A 180-day waiting period is required between attempts for applicants retaking the licensed educational psychologist examination.
- (d) Waiting periods for national examinations that are accepted by the board shall be determined by that national testing entity.
- (e) The Board's Executive Officer may allow for a lesser waiting period, as long as the integrity of the examination or examination security is not compromised.

Note: Authority Cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20(a), Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.50, 4984.72, 4989.22, 4992.1, 4996.4, 4999.52, and 4999.64, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1805.08. EXAMINATION RESCORING.**

Candidates may request a rescoring of any board-developed examination administered via paper-and-pencil by submitting the required fee, as specified in Business and Professions Code sections 4984.7(a)(5), 4989.68(a)(6), 4996.3(a)(5), or 4999.120(j), as applicable, along with a request that states the type of examination to be rescored, and the date the examination to be rescored was taken. The request shall be submitted in writing to the Board.

### § 1805.1. APPLICATION PROCESSING TIMES.

Maximum processing times for the board's various programs are set forth below. Processing times are based on the date the Board receives the application.

<i>Program</i>	Maximum time for notifying that application is complete or deficient
Associate Professional Clinical Counselor Registration	30 business days
LPCC Application for Licensure	60 business days
Associate Marriage and Family Therapist Registration	30 business days
MFT Application for Licensure	60 business days
Associate Clinical Social Worker Registration	30 business days
LCSW Application for Licensure	60 business days
LEP Examination Eligibility Application	60 business days
MFT Referral Service Registration	30 business days
Initial License Issuance	30 business days
All Renewals	30 business days

Note: Authority Cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4990.18 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code.

### § 1805.2. ADDITIONAL EXAMINATION TIME: ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE.

The board, in its sole discretion, may grant additional examination time to an applicant for whom English is his or her second language. To qualify for consideration, the applicant must submit a request for additional time stating that English is his or her second language, and provide one of the following:

- (a) A Test of English as a Foreign Language, Internet Based Test (TOEFL-iBT) certification score of 85 or below, sent by Educational Testing Service directly to the board. The TOEFL must have been taken within the previous two years prior to application.
- (b) Documentation from the qualifying master's degree program that the program had granted the applicant additional examination time or other allowance due to speaking English as a second language while he or she was enrolled in the program. Acceptable documentation includes, but is not limited to, a letter from the chair of the qualifying master's degree program, or from the educational institution's chief academic officer.
- (c) Documentation that the qualifying master's degree was obtained from an educational institution outside the United States, and that at least fifty percent of the coursework was presented in a language other than English. Acceptable documentation includes, but is not limited to, a letter from the chair of the qualifying master's degree program, or from the educational institution's chief academic officer.

If approved, the applicant will be allotted time—and-a-half (1.5x) when taking the required board-administered examination. Allowance of this option for a required national examination is subject to availability from the exam-administering entity.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.397, 4980.50, 4989.22, 4992.05, 4992.1, 4999.52 and 4999.53, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1806. ABANDONMENT OF APPLICATION.**

An application shall be deemed abandoned under any of the circumstances described in this section. An application submitted after a previous application has been abandoned shall be treated as a new application, requiring the applicant to pay any fees required, and to meet current requirements.

- (a) The applicant does not submit information required in order to correct the deficiencies specified in a deficiency letter within one (1) year from the date of the deficiency letter.
- (b) The applicant for licensure, as defined in section 1805.01(a), does not maintain an active licensure application. An applicant maintains an “active licensure application” by participating in a required examination, as defined below, at least once every 365 days.
  - (1) The initial 365-day examination participation period shall begin on the date the applicant was sent a notification approving his or her licensure application.
  - (2) Subsequent 365-day examination participation periods shall begin on the date the applicant most recently participated in a required examination.
  - (3) “Required examination” is defined as an initial attempt or retake of an examination required by section 4980.397, 4989.20, 4992.05, or 4999.53 of the Code.
- (c) The applicant fails to pay the initial license fee within one (1) year after notification by the board of successful completion of examination requirements.

An application submitted after a previous application has been abandoned shall be treated as a new application, requiring the applicant to pay any fees required, and to meet current requirements.

Note: Authority Cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20(a), Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.30, 4980.35, 4980.397(a), 4980.398, 4980.399, 4980.40, 4980.44, 4980.72, 4984.01, 4984.7, 4984.72, 4989.20, 4989.22(b), 4989.68, 4992, 4992.05(a), 4992.07, 4992.09, 4996.1, 4996.3, 4996.4, 4996.17, 4996.18, 4996.28, 4999.42, 4999.50, 4999.53, 4999.54, 4999.55, 4999.60, 4999.61, 4999.64, 4999.100, and 4999.120, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1807. HUMAN SEXUALITY TRAINING.**

The human sexuality training required of marriage and family therapists, clinical social workers, and professional clinical counselors by sections 25, 4980.41, 4980.81, 4996.2, 4996.17.2, 4999.32 and 4999.62 of the Code shall do both of the following:

- (a) Consist of a minimum of ten (10) hours of training or coursework.
- (b) Include the study of physiological, psychological, and social-cultural variables associated with sexual behavior, sexual dysfunctions, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender dysphoria.

## **§ 1807.2. CHILD ABUSE ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.**

All persons applying for a license as a marriage and family therapist, clinical social worker, or professional clinical counselor, or applying for first-time renewal of a license as an educational psychologist, shall, in addition to all other requirements for licensure, have completed coursework or training in child abuse assessment and reporting, and shall submit documentation to the board. The coursework or shall consist of not less than seven (7) hours and shall include training in each of the subject areas described in section 28 of the Code. The coursework or training shall have been completed within the five (5) years prior to the date the board receives the individual's application for licensure or renewal.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 28, 4980.36, 4980.41, 4980.72, 4980.78, 4980.81, 4989.34, 4996.2, 4996.17.1, 4996.17.2, 4999.32 and 4999.33, Business and Professions Code; and Sections 11164, 11165 and 11166, Penal Code.

## **§ 1807.3. ALCOHOLISM AND OTHER CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE DEPENDENCY TRAINING.**

- (a) The instruction and training in alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency required by sections 4980.41, 4996.2, 4996.17.2, and 4999.32 of the Code shall consist of not less than fifteen (15) hours of training or coursework and shall include each of the following areas:
- (1) The definition of alcoholism, substance abuse, and other chemical dependency, and the evaluation of the client.
  - (2) Medical aspects of alcoholism, substance abuse, and other chemical dependency.
  - (3) Current theories of the etiology of substance abuse.
  - (4) The role of persons and systems that support or compound the abuse.
  - (5) Major treatment approaches to alcoholism, substance abuse, and chemical dependency.
  - (6) Legal aspects of substance abuse.
  - (7) Knowledge of certain populations at risk with regard to substance abuse.
  - (8) Community resources offering assessment, treatment, and follow-up for the client and family.
  - (9) The process of referring affected persons.
  - (10) Prevention of substance abuse.
- (b) A licensed educational psychologist applying for a first-time license renewal shall have received not less than fifteen (15) hours of instruction and training in alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency as described in subsection (a).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.41, 4980.81, 4989.34, 4996.2, 4996.17.2 and 4999.32, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1810.5. ACCEPTABLE TRAINING PROVIDERS.**

- (a) The training courses listed below shall have been obtained from one of the providers listed in subsection (b):

- (1) Human sexuality training required by section 1807.
- (2) Child abuse assessment and reporting training required by section 1807.2.
- (3) Alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency training required by section 1807.3.
- (4) California law and ethics training required of out-of-state marriage and family therapist, clinical social worker, and professional clinical counselor applicants required by sections 4980.72, 4980.78, 4980.81, 4996.17.1, 4996.17.2, 4999.60 and 4999.62 of the Code.
- (5) Crisis or trauma counseling training required by section 4999.32 of the Code.

(b) The above training courses shall have been obtained from any of the following providers:

- (1) An educational institution, including an extension program offered by such an institution, accredited by a regional or national institutional accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States Department of Education.
- (2) An educational institution, including an extension program offered by such an institution, approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education.
- (3) A continuing education provider accepted by the board pursuant to section 1887.4.3.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 25, 28, 4980.36, 4980.41, 4980.72, 4980.78, 4980.81, 4989.34, 4996.2, 4996.17.1, 4996.17.2, 4999.32, 4999.33, 4999.60 and 4999.62, Business and Professions Code; and Sections 11165 and 11166, Penal Code.

## **§ 1811. ADVERTISING.**

(a) All persons or referral services regulated by the board who advertise their services shall include all of the following information in any advertisement:

- (1) The full name of the licensee, registrant, or registered referral service as filed with the board.
- (2) The complete title of the license or registration held or an acceptable abbreviation, as follows:
  - (A) Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, or MFT, or LMFT.
  - (B) Licensed Educational Psychologist or LEP.
  - (C) Licensed Clinical Social Worker or LCSW.
  - (D) Registered Associate Marriage and Family Therapist or Registered Associate MFT. The abbreviation "AMFT" shall not be used in an advertisement unless the title "registered associate marriage and family therapist" appears in the advertisement.
  - (E) Registered Associate Clinical Social Worker or Registered Associate CSW. The abbreviation "ASW" shall not be used in an advertisement unless the title "registered associate clinical social worker" appears in the advertisement.
  - (F) Registered MFT Referral Service.
  - (G) Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor or LPCC.
  - (H) Registered Associate Professional Clinical Counselor or Registered Associate PCC. The abbreviation "APCC" shall not be used in an advertisement unless the title "registered associate professional clinical counselor" appears in the advertisement.

- (3) The license or registration number.
- (b) Registrants must include the name of his or her employer in an advertisement, or if not employed, the name of the entity for which he or she volunteers.
- (c) Licensees may use the words “psychotherapy” or “psychotherapist” in an advertisement provided that all the applicable requirements of subsection (a) are met.
- (d) It is permissible for a person to include academic credentials in advertising as long as the degree is earned, and the representations and statements regarding that degree are true and not misleading and are in compliance with Section 651 of the Code. For purposes of this subdivision, “earned” shall not mean an honorary or other degree conferred without actual study in the educational field.
- (e) The board may issue citations and fines containing a fine and an order of abatement for any violation of Section 651 of the Code.
- (f) For the purposes of this section, “acceptable abbreviation” means the abbreviation listed in subsection (a)(2) of this Section.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 137, 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 125.9, 137, 650.4, 651, 4980.03, 4980.09, 4980.44, 4982, 4989.49, 4989.54, 4992.2, 4992.3, 4999.12, 4999.12.5 and 4999.90, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1812. SUBSTANTIAL RELATIONSHIP CRITERIA**

- (a) For purposes of denial, suspension, or revocation of a license pursuant to Section 141, Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475), or Section 4982, Section 4989.54, Section 4992.3, or Section 4999.90 of the Code, a crime, professional misconduct, or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a person holding a license under Chapters 13, 13.5, 14, and 16 of Division 2 of the Code if to a substantial degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of a person holding a license to perform the functions authorized by the license in a manner consistent with the public health, safety or welfare. For purposes of this section, “license” shall mean license or registration.
- (b) In making the substantial relationship determination required under subsection (a) for a crime, the board shall consider all of the following criteria:
  - (1) The nature and gravity of the offense.
  - (2) The number of years that have elapsed since the date of the offense.
  - (3) The nature and duties of a marriage and family therapist, educational psychologist, clinical social worker, or professional clinical counselor.
- (c) For purposes of subsection (a), a substantially related crime, professional misconduct, or act shall include, but is not limited to, the following:
  - (1) Any violation of Article 6, Chapter 1, Division 2 (commencing with section 650) of the Code.
  - (2) Any violation of the provisions of Chapter 13 (commencing with section 4980), Chapter 13.5 (commencing with section 4989.10), Chapter 13.7 (commencing with section 4990), Chapter

14 (commencing with section 4991), or Chapter 16 (commencing with section 4999.10) of Division 2 of the Code.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 141, 480, 481, 490, 493, 4982, 4989.54, 4992.3, and 4999.90, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1813. CRITERIA FOR REHABILITATION - DENIAL OF LICENSURE**

- (a) For purposes of this section, “license” shall mean license or registration.
- (b) When considering the denial of a license under Section 480 of the Code on the ground that the applicant has been convicted of a crime, the board shall consider whether the applicant made a showing of rehabilitation if the applicant completed the criminal sentence at issue without a violation of parole or probation. In making this determination, the board shall consider the following criteria:
- (1) The nature and gravity of the crime(s).
  - (2) The length(s) of the applicable parole or probation period(s).
  - (3) The extent to which the applicable parole or probation period was shortened or lengthened, and the reason(s) the period was modified.
  - (4) The terms or conditions of parole or probation and the extent to which they bear on the applicant’s rehabilitation.
  - (5) The extent to which the terms or conditions of parole or probation were modified, and the reason(s) for modification.
- (c) If the applicant has not completed the criminal sentence at issue without a violation of parole or probation, the board determines that the applicant did not make the showing of rehabilitation based on the criteria in subsection (b), the denial is based on professional misconduct, or the denial is based on one or more of the grounds specified in Article 2 of Chapter 13 of Division 2 (commencing with section 4982) of the Code, Article 5 of Chapter 13.5 of Division 2 (commencing with section 4989.54) of the Code, Article 2 of Chapter 13.7 of Division 2 (commencing with section 4990.28) of the Code, Article 2 of Chapter 14 of Division 2 (commencing with section 4992.3) of the Code, or Article 5 of Chapter 16 of Division 2 (commencing with section 4999.80) of the Code, the board shall apply the following criteria in evaluating an applicant’s rehabilitation:
- (1) The nature and gravity of the act(s), professional misconduct, or crime(s) under consideration as grounds for denial.
  - (2) Evidence of any act(s), professional misconduct, or crime(s) committed subsequent to the act(s), professional misconduct, or crime(s) under consideration as grounds for denial .
  - (3) The time that has elapsed since commission of the act(s), professional misconduct, or crime(s) referred to in paragraph (1) or (2).
  - (4) Whether the applicant has complied with any terms of probation, parole, restitution, or any



other sanctions lawfully imposed against the applicant.

(5) The criteria in subsection (b)(1) through (5), as applicable.

(6) Evidence, if any, of rehabilitation submitted by the applicant.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 141, 480, 481, 482, 488, 493, 4982, 4989.54, 4992.3, and 4999.90, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1814. CRITERIA FOR REHABILITATION - SUSPENSIONS OR REVOCATIONS**

(a) For purposes of this section, “license” shall mean license or registration. “Licensee” shall mean licensee or registrant.

(b) When considering the suspension or revocation of a license under Section 490 of the Code on the ground that the holder of the license has been convicted of a crime, the board shall consider whether the licensee made a showing of rehabilitation if the licensee completed the criminal sentence at issue without a violation of parole or probation. In making this determination, the board shall consider the following criteria:

(1) The nature and gravity of the crime(s).

(2) The length(s) of the applicable parole or probation period(s).

(3) The extent to which the applicable parole or probation period was shortened or lengthened, and the reason(s) the period was modified.

(4) The terms or conditions of parole or probation and the extent to which they bear on the licensee’s rehabilitation.

(5) The extent to which the terms or conditions of parole or probation were modified, and the reason(s) for the modification.

(c) If the licensee has not completed the criminal sentence at issue without a violation of parole or probation, the board determines that the licensee did not make the showing of rehabilitation based on the criteria in subsection (b), the suspension or revocation is based on a disciplinary action as described in Section 141 of the Code, or the suspension or revocation is based on one or more of the grounds specified in Article 2 of Chapter 13 of Division 2 (commencing with section 4982) of the Code, Article 5 of Chapter 13.5 of Division 2 (commencing with section 4989.54) of the Code, Article 2 of Chapter 13.7 of Division 2 (commencing with section 4990.28) of the Code, Article 2 of Chapter 14 of Division 2 (commencing with section 4992.3) of the Code, or Article 5 of Chapter 16 of Division 2 (commencing with section 4999.80) of the Code, the board shall apply the following criteria in evaluating the licensee’s or rehabilitation:

(1) The nature and gravity of the act(s), disciplinary action(s), or crime(s) under consideration as grounds for suspension or revocation.

(2) Evidence of any act(s), disciplinary action(s), or crimes committed subsequent to the act(s) or crime(s) under consideration as grounds for suspension or revocation.

- (3) The time that has elapsed since commission of the act(s), disciplinary action(s), or crime(s) referred to in paragraph (1) or (2).
  - (4) Whether the licensee has complied with any terms of probation, parole, restitution or any other sanctions lawfully imposed against the licensee.
  - (5) The criteria in subsection (b)(1) through (5), as applicable.
  - (6) If applicable, evidence of dismissal proceedings pursuant to Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code.
  - (7) Evidence, if any, concerning the degree to which a false statement relative to application for licensure may have been unintentional, inadvertent or immaterial.
  - (8) Efforts made by the applicant either to correct a false statement once made on an application or to conceal the truth concerning facts required to be disclosed.
  - (9) Evidence, if any, of rehabilitation submitted by the licensee.
- (d) When considering a petition for reinstatement of a license or registration under the provisions of Section 4990.30 of the Code, the board shall evaluate evidence of rehabilitation submitted by the petitioner considering those criteria specified in Section 1813 of this article.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 141, 481, 482, 488,- 490,493, , 4982, 4989.54, 4992.3, and 4999.90, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1815. FINGERPRINT SUBMISSION.**

- (a) All licensees and registrants who have not previously submitted fingerprints as a condition of licensure or registration or for whom an electronic record of the licensee's fingerprints does not exist in the Department of Justice's criminal offender record identification database shall successfully complete a state and federal level criminal offender record information search conducted through the Department of Justice by the licensee's or registrant's renewal date that occurs on or after October 31, 2009, or as directed by the board.
- (b) Failure of a licensee or registrant to comply with subdivision (a) is grounds for disciplinary action by the board against the license or registration.
- (c) Licensees and registrants shall retain, for at least three years, as evidence of their having complied with subdivision (a) either a receipt showing that he or she has electronically transmitted his or her fingerprint images to the Department of Justice or, for those licensees or registrants who did not use an electronic fingerprinting system, a receipt evidencing that the licensee's or registrant's fingerprints were taken.
- (d) Licensees and registrants shall pay, as directed by the Board, the actual cost of compliance with subdivision (a).
- (e) As a condition of petitioning the board for reinstatement of a revoked or surrendered license or registration, an applicant shall comply with subsection (a).

- (f) The board may waive the requirements of this section for licensees or registrants who are actively serving in the United States military. The board may not return a license or registration to active status until the licensee or registrant has complied with subdivision (a).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4990.16, 4990.18, 4990.20 and 4996.6, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4982(a), 4989.54(a), 4992.3(a), 4996.6, and 4999.90(a), Business and Professions Code; and Sections 11105(b)(10), and 11105(e), Penal Code.

### **§ 1815.5. STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR TELEHEALTH.**

- (a) All persons engaging in the practice of marriage and family therapy, educational psychology, clinical social work, or professional clinical counseling via telehealth, as defined in Section 2290.5 of the Code, with a client who is physically located in this State must have a valid and current license or registration issued by the Board.
- (b) All psychotherapy services offered by board licensees and registrants via telehealth fall within the jurisdiction of the board just as traditional face-to-face services do. Therefore, all psychotherapy services offered via telehealth are subject to the board's statutes and regulations.
- (c) Upon initiation of telehealth services, a licensee or registrant shall do the following:
- (1) Obtain informed consent from the client consistent with Section 2290.5 of the Code.
  - (2) Inform the client of the potential risks and limitations of receiving treatment via telehealth.
  - (3) Provide the client with his or her license or registration number and the type of license or registration.
  - (4) Document reasonable efforts made to ascertain the contact information of relevant resources, including emergency services, in the patient's geographic area.
- (d) Each time a licensee or registrant provides services via telehealth, he or she shall do the following:
- (1) Verbally obtain from the client and document the client's full name and address of present location, at the beginning of each telehealth session.
  - (2) Assess whether the client is appropriate for telehealth, including, but not limited to, consideration of the client's psychosocial situation.
  - (3) Utilize industry best practices for telehealth to ensure both client confidentiality and the security of the communication medium.
- (e) A licensee or registrant of this state may provide telehealth services to clients located in another jurisdiction only if the California licensee or registrant meets the requirements to lawfully provide services in that jurisdiction, and delivery of services via telehealth is allowed by that jurisdiction.
- (f) Failure to comply with these provisions shall be considered unprofessional conduct.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 2290.5, 4980, 4989.50, 4996, 4999.30, and 4999.82, Business and Professions Code.

**§ 1815.8. DOCUMENTATION OF SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: DECEASED OR INCAPACITATED SUPERVISOR.**

(a) The board will accept satisfactory proof of completed hours of supervised experience that has not been signed by the supervisor, if the supervisor is deceased or incapacitated. Satisfactory proof includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

- (1) Evidence that the supervisor is deceased or incapacitated.
- (2) All supervision documentation which had previously been signed by the supervisor.
- (3) Documentation from the employer verifying the employment of the supervisor and supervisee; or, if the supervisor was not employed by the supervisee's employer or was a volunteer, the written oversight agreement executed between the supervisor and the supervisee's employer.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4990.20 and 4980.60, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.03, 4980.35, 4980.43, 4980.43.4, 4996.20, 4996.23, 4996.23.3, 4999.12, 4999.46, 4999.46.4 and 4999.48, Business and Professions Code.

## ARTICLE 2. FEES

### § 1816. RENEWAL FEES.

- (a) The annual renewal fee for associate marriage and family therapist registration is one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).
- (b) The annual renewal fee for associate clinical social worker registration is one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).
- (c) The annual renewal fee for associate professional clinical counselors is one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).
- (d) The biennial active renewal fee for a licensed marriage and family therapist is two hundred dollars (\$200.00).
- (e) The biennial active renewal fee for a licensed educational psychologist is two hundred dollars (\$200.00).
- (f) The biennial active renewal fee for a licensed clinical social worker is two hundred dollars (\$200.00).
- (g) The biennial active renewal fee for a licensed professional clinical counselor is two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

Note: Authority Cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20(a), Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4984.7, 4989.68, 4996.3, and 4999.120, Business and Professions Code.

### § 1816.1. INITIAL LICENSE AND REGISTRATION FEES.

- (a) The fee for initial issuance of the marriage and family therapist license shall be two hundred dollars (\$200.00).
- (b) The fee for initial issuance of the licensed educational psychologist license shall be two hundred dollars (\$200.00).
- (c) The fee for initial issuance of the licensed clinical social worker license shall be two hundred dollars (\$200.00).
- (d) The fee for initial issuance of the licensed professional clinical counselor license shall be two hundred dollars (\$200.00).
- (e) The application fee for an associate professional clinical counselor registration shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).
- (f) The application fee for an associate marriage and family therapist registration shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150).
- (g) The application fee for an associate clinical social worker registration shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150).

Note: Authority Cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20(a), Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4984.7, 4989.68, 4996.3, and 4999.120, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1816.2. EXAMINATION FEES.**

- (a) The licensed clinical social worker California law and ethics examination fee shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).
- (b) The licensed marriage and family therapist California law and ethics examination fee shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).
- (c) The board administered licensed marriage and family therapist clinical examination fee shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).
- (d) The licensed educational psychologist written examination fee shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).
- (e) The licensed professional clinical counselor California law and ethics examination shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).

Note: Authority Cited: 4980.60 and 4990.20(a), Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4984.7, 4989.68, 4996.3, and 4999.120, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1816.4. FEES FOR APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE.**

- (a) The fee for the licensed marriage and family therapist application for licensure shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).
- (b) The fee for the licensed clinical social worker application for licensure shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).
- (c) The fee for the licensed educational psychologist application for licensure shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).
- (d) The fee for the licensed professional clinical counselor application for licensure shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).

Note: Authority Cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20 (a), Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4984.7, 4989.68, 4996.3, and 4999.120, Business and Professions Code.

## ARTICLE 3. LICENSED PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELORS

### § 1820. SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.

- (a) When a written oversight agreement is required by section 4999.46.4 of the Code, the agreement shall contain the following provisions and shall be executed as described below.
- (1) The written oversight agreement shall be executed and signed prior to commencement of supervision.
  - (2) The agreement shall contain a statement from the supervisor agreeing to ensure that the extent, kind, and quality of counseling performed by the supervisee is consistent with the supervisee's training, education, and experience, and is appropriate in extent, kind, and quality.
  - (3) The agreement shall contain an acknowledgment by the supervisee's employer that the employer:
    - (A) Is aware of the licensing requirements that must be met by the supervisee and that the employer agrees not to interfere with the supervisor's legal and ethical obligations to ensure compliance with those requirements;
    - (B) Agrees to provide the supervisor access to clinical records of the clients counseled by the supervisee; and
    - (C) Is aware that the supervisor will be providing clinical guidance and direction to the supervisee in order to ensure compliance with the standards of practice of the profession, which include legal requirements and professional codes of ethics, and agrees not to interfere with this process.
  - (4) The supervisor shall provide the signed agreement to the supervisee upon completion or termination of supervision. The supervisee shall submit the agreement to the board upon application for licensure.
- (b) Supervisors shall complete and submit a self-assessment report pertaining to the licensee's qualifications to be a supervisor, as specified in section 1821.
- (c) (1) Except as specified in subsection (c)(2), within 60 days of the commencement of any supervision, the supervisor and supervisee shall sign a supervision agreement, as specified in subsection (c)(3), under penalty of perjury. The original signed supervisory agreement shall be retained by the supervisee and submitted to the board with the supervisee's application for licensure.
- (2) A supervisor and a supervisee who are in a supervisory relationship that existed prior to January 1, 2022 are not required to complete a supervision agreement. The supervisee shall instead submit the previously required signed supervisor responsibility statement with the application for licensure.
  - (3) The supervision agreement shall include all of the following:

- (A) The licensee's qualifications to be a supervisor as specified in section 1821 and in section 4999.12 of the Code.
- (B) The supervisor affirms an understanding of the requirements pertaining to registration of the supervisee, acceptable supervision practices, work settings, supervisee employment, and oversight of supervisees as specified in sections 4999.46, 4999.46.1, 4999.46.2, 4999.46.3, and 4999.46.4 of the Code.
- (C) The supervisor affirms an understanding of the requirements pertaining to direct supervisor contact as specified in section 4999.46.2 of the Code.
- (D) The supervisor affirms an understanding of the supervision documentation required by this section and the board's right to audit a supervisor's compliance with the requirements specified in this article and in the Code.

(E) The supervisee affirms an understanding of all of the following:

1. Requirements pertaining to registration as an associate as specified in section 4999.46 of the Code.
2. The supervisee's supervisor must hold a current and active California license that is not under suspension or probation while supervising in order for hours to count toward licensure as specified in section 1821 and in section 4999.12 of the Code.
3. Requirements pertaining to documentation of completed supervised experience as specified in this section.
4. Prohibited practices pertaining to employment and supervisory relationships as specified in section 4999.46.3 of the Code.
5. The age limit pertaining to experience hours as specified in section 4999.46 of the Code.

(F) A supervisory plan that describes the goals and objectives of supervision and whereby the supervisor affirms an understanding of the responsibilities pertaining to monitoring and evaluating the supervisee as specified in section 1821 and in section 4999.12 of the Code. This plan shall be developed collaboratively by the supervisor and supervisee.

(d) Supervisees shall maintain a weekly log of all hours of experience gained toward licensure. The log of hours must be signed by the supervisor on a weekly basis. The supervisee shall retain the signed logs until such time as the supervisee is licensed by the board. The board shall have the right to require an applicant for licensure to submit all or such portions of the logs as it deems necessary to verify hours of experience. The log shall include all of the following:

- (1) The name and address of the supervisee's work setting.
- (2) Hours of experience gained per category as listed in sections 4999.46(c)(3), 4999.46(c)(5), and 4999.46.2(b) of the Code per week.
- (3) Total hours gained per week and in each category overall.

(e) Completed hours of experience shall be documented at the completion or termination of



supervision. Such documentation shall be submitted to the board by the supervisee upon application for licensure and shall include all of the following:

- (1) The supervisor's telephone number and license information.
- (2) The supervisee's employer's name, address, and telephone number.
- (3) Whether the supervisee's work setting complies with sections 4999.46.3 and 4999.46.4 of the Code.
- (4) Documentation of employment or volunteer status, as specified in section 4999.46.3 of the Code.
- (5) The applicant's accumulated hours of experience broken down by category as set forth in subsection (d)(2).
- (6) The amount and type of supervision provided to the applicant.
- (7) The dates during which the experience was gained.
- (8) The supervisor's signature under penalty of perjury.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4990.20 and 4999.48, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4999.12, 4999.46, 4999.46.1, 4999.46.2, 4999.46.3, 4999.46.4, 4999.48 and 4999.50, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1820.3. PLACEMENT BY TEMPORARY STAFFING AGENCIES.**

- (a) A "temporary staffing agency" is defined as an agency that locates positions for individuals seeking temporary work and fills vacancies for agencies seeking individuals to perform work on a temporary basis.
- (b) A "contracting agency" is defined as an agency where a supervisee has been placed by a temporary staffing agency.
- (c) The following provisions apply to a supervisee who has been placed by a temporary staffing agency:
  - (1) The supervisee shall only perform mental health and related services at the places where the contracting agency permits business to be conducted.
  - (2) The written oversight agreement required by section 1820 shall be between the contracting agency and the supervisor when the supervisor is not an employee of the contracting agency or is a volunteer. In cases where the supervisor is an employee of the contracting agency, no written agreement shall be required.
- (d) A supervisee who has been placed by a temporary staffing agency is subject to 4999.46.3(a) of the Code regardless of whether a supervisee is employed by the temporary agency or the contracting agency.

## **§ 1821. REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPERVISORS.**

- (a) Any person supervising an associate or an applicant for associate registration as described in section 4999.46(b) of the Code (hereinafter "supervisor") within California shall comply with the requirements set forth in this section.
- (1) The supervisor possesses and maintains a current and active California license as specified in section 4999.12(h) of the Code and meets all other qualifications specified in section 4999.12(h) of the Code.
  - (2) A supervisor who is not a licensed professional clinical counselor, shall have sufficient experience, training, and education in professional clinical counseling to competently practice professional clinical counseling in California. A supervisor who is a licensed educational psychologist shall only supervise the provision of educationally related mental health services consistent with the scope of practice of an educational psychologist.
  - (3) The supervisor shall be competent in the areas of clinical practice and techniques being supervised and shall keep informed of developments in professional clinical counseling and in California law governing the practice of professional clinical counseling.
  - (4) The supervisor shall self-monitor for and address supervision dynamics such as, but not limited to, countertransference-, intrapsychic-, interpersonal-, or trauma-related issues that may affect supervision.
  - (5) The supervisor will immediately notify the supervisee of any disciplinary action, including revocation or suspension, even if stayed, probation terms, inactive license status, or any lapse in licensure that affects the supervisor's ability or right to practice or supervise.
  - (6) The supervisor has had sufficient experience, training, and education in the area of clinical supervision to competently supervise associates. Persons licensed by the board who provide supervision shall complete the minimum supervision training or coursework specified in section 1821.3.
  - (7) The supervisor knows and understands the laws and regulations pertaining to both the supervision of associates and the experience required for licensure as a professional clinical counselor.
  - (8) The supervisor shall monitor and evaluate the extent, kind, and quality of counseling performed by the supervisee as specified in sections 4999.12(m) and 4999.46.1 of the Code.
  - (9) The supervisor shall complete an assessment of the ongoing strengths and limitations of the supervisee at least once a year and at the completion or termination of supervision. The supervisor shall provide the supervisee with a copy of all assessments.
  - (10) The supervisor shall establish written procedures for supervisees to contact the supervisor or,

in the supervisor's absence, procedures for contacting an alternative on-call supervisor to assist supervisees in handling crises and emergencies. The supervisor shall provide these procedures to the supervisee prior to the commencement of supervision.

- (b) A supervisor shall give at least one (1) week's prior written notice to a supervisee of the supervisor's intent not to sign for any further hours of experience for such person. A supervisor who has not provided such notice shall sign for hours of experience obtained in good faith where such supervisor actually provided the required supervision.
- (c) The supervisor shall obtain from each supervisee for whom supervision will be provided the name, address, and telephone number of the supervisee's most recent supervisor and employer.
- (d) A supervisor shall complete and sign under penalty of perjury a self-assessment report and submit it to the board as described in this subsection:
  - (1) The supervisor self-assessment report shall include all of the following:
    - (A) The licensee's qualifications to be a supervisor as specified in this section and in section 4999.12 of the Code.
    - (B) The supervisor's telephone number. The telephone number shall be considered confidential and not subject to public disclosure.
    - (C) The supervisor's email address, if the supervisor has an email address. The email address shall be considered confidential and not subject to public disclosure.
    - (D) The date the licensee initially began supervising and, for licensees who have previously served as a board-qualified supervisor but have not supervised for the past two (2) years, the date the licensee resumed supervising.
    - (E) The date the supervisor completed the training or coursework required by section 1821.3, and the length of the course(s) taken.
    - (F) The supervisor affirms an understanding of all of the following:
      - 1. The supervisor's license must meet the supervisor qualifications set forth in this section and in section 4999.12 of the Code for a supervisee's experience hours to be credited toward licensure.
      - 2. The supervisee notification requirement set forth in subsection (a)(5) of this section.
      - 3. The requirements set forth in section 4999.46.4 of the Code pertaining to the maximum number of supervisees.
      - 4. The board's right to audit records pertaining to supervisor qualifications in accordance with section 4999.46.5 of the Code.
      - 5. The requirement to complete a supervision agreement for each supervisee as specified in section 1820.

(2) The supervisor self-assessment report shall be submitted to the board as follows:

- (A) A licensee who is supervising one or more associates as of January 1, 2022 shall submit a self-assessment report to the board, which shall be received by January 1, 2023.
- (B) Licensees not supervising an associate as of January 1, 2022 shall submit a self-assessment report to the board, which shall be received within 60 days of the commencement of supervision.

(e) Upon written request of the board, the supervisor shall provide to the board any documentation which verifies the supervisor's compliance with the requirements set forth in this section.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4990.20 and 4999.48, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4989.14, 4999.12, 4999.46, 4999.46.1, 4999.46.2, 4999.46.3, 4999.46.4 and 4999.46.5, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1821.1. SUBSTITUTE SUPERVISORS.**

- (a) When it becomes necessary for a supervisee to obtain supervision temporarily from a substitute supervisor, the substitute supervisor shall meet all supervisor qualifications required by the Code and in this article.
- (b) The substitute supervisor and the supervisee shall sign the supervision agreement required by section 1820, the substitute supervisor and supervisee's employer shall sign a written oversight agreement if required by section 1820, and the substitute supervisor shall sign the weekly log specified in section 1820.
- (c) If the substitute supervisor will be supervising for 30 consecutive calendar days or less:
  - (1) A new supervisory plan, as specified in section 1820(c)(3)(F), is not required. The substitute supervisor shall follow the supervisee's pre-existing supervisory plan.
  - (2) The experience gained during this period may be verified, as specified in section 1820(e), by the regular supervisor.
- (d) If the substitute supervisor will be supervising for more than 30 consecutive calendar days, a new supervisory plan shall be required, and the substitute supervisor shall verify the supervisee's experience gained during that time.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4990.20 and 4999.48, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4999.12 and 4999.46.4, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1821.2. SUPERVISION OF EXPERIENCE GAINED OUTSIDE OF CALIFORNIA.**

- (a) Experience gained outside of California must have been supervised in accordance with the following criteria:
  - (1) At the time of supervision, the supervisor was licensed or certified by the state or jurisdiction in which the supervision occurred and possessed a current and active license or certification that was not under suspension or probation.

- (2) The supervisor must have been licensed or certified by that state or jurisdiction for at least two (2) of the past five (5) years immediately prior to acting as a supervisor, as either a professional clinical counselor, clinical social worker, psychologist, physician certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, marriage and family therapist or similarly titled marriage and family practitioner, or other equivalent license or certification that allows the practitioner to independently provide clinical mental health services.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4990.20 and 4999.48, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4999.12 and 4999.61, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1821.3. SUPERVISOR TRAINING AND COURSEWORK.**

Persons licensed by the board who provide supervision shall complete, at a minimum, supervision training or coursework as follows:

- (a) Except as provided in subsection (d), licensees who commence supervision for the first time in California shall obtain fifteen (15) hours in supervision training or coursework obtained from a government agency or from a continuing education provider specified as acceptable by the board in Article 8. If taken from an acceptable continuing education provider, the training or coursework may apply towards the continuing education requirements set forth in sections 4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22, and 4999.76 of the Code.
- (1) The training or coursework content shall include, but not be limited to, current best practices and current industry standards, which include legal requirements, professional codes of ethics, and research focused on supervision regarding the following:
- (A) Competencies necessary for new supervisors;
  - (B) Goal setting and evaluation;
  - (C) The supervisor-supervisee relationship;
  - (D) California law and ethics, including legal and ethical issues related to supervision;
  - (E) Cultural variables, including, but not limited to, race, gender, social class, and religious beliefs;
  - (F) Contextual variables, such as treatment modalities, work settings, and use of technology;
  - (G) Supervision theories and literature; and
  - (H) Documentation and record keeping of the supervisee's client files, as well as documentation of supervision.
- (2) If taken from a government agency or from an acceptable continuing education provider, the training or coursework shall have been taken within two (2) years prior to commencing supervision, or within 60 days after commencing supervision.
- (3) If taken at a master's or higher level from an accredited or approved postsecondary institution as defined in section 4999.12 of the Code, the training or coursework shall have been taken within four (4) years prior to commencing supervision, or within 60 days after commencing supervision.

- (b) Except as provided in subsection (d), a licensee who previously served as a board-qualified supervisor but has not supervised for the past two (2) years shall take six (6) hours of supervision training or coursework within 60 days of resuming supervision.
- (c) Except as provided in subsection (d), supervisors shall complete a minimum of six (6) hours of continuing professional development in supervision during each subsequent renewal period while providing supervision. This shall consist of one or more of the following activities, for which records of completion shall be maintained as specified in section 4999.46.5 of the Code:
- (1) Training or coursework specific to the topic of supervision, obtained from a government agency or from an acceptable continuing education provider. If taken from an acceptable continuing education provider, it may apply towards the continuing education requirements set forth in sections 4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22, and 4999.76 of the Code.
  - (2) Teaching a supervision course described in subsection (c)(1).
  - (3) Authoring research directly focused on supervision that has been published professionally. This may include, but is not limited to, quantitative or qualitative research, literature reviews, peer reviewed journals or books, monographs, or other industry or academic published work. This shall not include personal opinion papers, editorials, or blogs.
  - (4) Collaboration with another licensee who also serves as a board-qualified supervisor through the use of mentoring or consultation. Documentation of attendance shall consist of a log signed by both parties.
  - (5) Attendance at supervisor peer discussion groups with other licensees who also serve as board-qualified supervisors. Documentation of attendance shall consist of a letter or certificate from the group leader or facilitator.
- (d)(1) In lieu of subsections (a), (b), and (c), the board shall accept a valid and active approved supervisor certification from one of the following entities:
- (A) The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT)
  - (B) The American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work (ABECSW)
  - (C) The California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT)
  - (D) The Center for Credentialing and Education (CCE)
- (2) The board shall accept an approved supervisor certification from another entity if the licensee can demonstrate that the certification requirements of that entity meet or exceed those of any one of the entities specified in subsection (d)(1).
- (e) The board shall not deny hours of experience gained towards licensure due to the supervisor's failure to complete the training, coursework, or continuing professional development requirements in this section.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4990.20 and 4999.48, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4999.12 and 4999.48, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1822.50. EXAMINATIONS.**

- (a) The written examinations shall test for minimum acceptable competency to practice professional clinical counseling without causing harm to the public health, safety or welfare, and shall consist of the following:
- (1) A California law and ethics examination designed to assess the applicant's knowledge of-and ability to apply legal and ethical standards relating to the practice of professional clinical counseling.
  - (2) A clinical examination designed to assess an applicant's knowledge of psychotherapeutic principles and methods in treatment and their application, and the ability to make judgments about appropriate techniques, methods and objectives as applicable to the professional clinical counselor scope of practice.
- (b) The clinical examination as described in subsection (a)(2) shall be the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4990.20(a), Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4999.52, 4999.53, and 4999.55, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1822.51. ELIGIBILITY FOR LAW AND ETHICS EXAMINATION.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, eligibility to take the California law and ethics examination requires an applicant to, at minimum, meet one of the following:

- (a) The applicant holds a current, delinquent or cancelled associate registration, submits a request and pays the fee to take the examination.
- (1) When a registrant who holds a current or delinquent registration takes the examination and does not pass during his or her one-year renewal cycle, the registrant shall complete a 12-hour course on California law and ethics as specified in section 4999.55(e) of the Code, in order to be eligible to take the examination during the next renewal cycle.
- (b) The applicant currently has an approved application for licensure.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4990.20(a), Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4999.52, 4999.53, 4999.55, and 4999.100, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1822.52. TIME FRAMES - LAW & ETHICS EXAMINATION.**

- (a) An applicant for licensure shall take the California law and ethics examination during the following time frames in accordance with section 1806:
- (1) Within one year from the date the applicant was notified of initial eligibility to take the examination.
  - (2) Within one year from the date the applicant was notified of failing the examination.
- (b) Registrants shall take the California law and ethics examination during the following time frames:

- (1) A registrant whose associate registration is issued on or after January 1, 2016 shall take the examination prior to the registration's first expiration date, and shall continue to take the examination a minimum of once during each renewal cycle until passed.
- (2) A registrant whose associate registration was issued prior to January 1, 2016, shall take the examination a minimum of once during each renewal cycle until passed.
- (3) Should a registrant fail to take the examination as specified in (1) or (2) above, he or she will not be permitted to renew his or her registration until the examination has been taken, except during the grace period specified in section 4999.55(c) of the Code.
- (4) Registrants who are eligible to retake the California law and ethics examination may do so after the required waiting period upon submission of the following:
  - (A) A request to take the examination including the required fee.
  - (B) If required, proof of completion of the 12-hour California law and ethics course as described in section 4999.55(e) of the Code.

(c) A registrant who has an approved application for licensure shall be subject to subdivisions (a) and (b).

Note: Authority cited: Section 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4999.52, 4999.53, 4999.55 and 4999.100, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1823. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.**

As used in Section 4999.90 of the code, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Failure to provide to the board, as authorized by law, copies of records within 15 days of receipt of the request or within the time specified in the request, whichever is later, unless the licensee or registrant is unable to provide the records within this time period for good cause. Good cause includes, but is not limited to, physical inability to access the records in the time allowed due to illness or travel, or inability to obtain the necessary patient release authorization, if applicable. This subsection shall not apply to a licensee or registrant who does not have access to, and control over, medical records.
- (b) Failure to cooperate and participate in any board investigation pending against the licensee or registrant. This subsection shall not be construed to deprive a licensee, registrant, or a consumer of any rights or privilege guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, or any other constitutional or statutory rights or privileges. This subsection shall not be construed to require a licensee or registrant to cooperate with a request that would require the licensee, registrant, or a consumer to waive any constitutional or statutory rights or privilege or to comply with a request for information or other matters within an unreasonable period of time in light of the time constraints of the licensee's or registrant's practice. Any exercise by a licensee or registrant of any constitutional or statutory rights or privilege shall not be used against the licensee or registrant in a regulatory or disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or registrant.
- (c) Failure to report to the board within 30 days any of the following:



(1) A conviction of any felony or misdemeanor, which is not subject to Health & Safety Code sections 11357 (b), (c), (d), (e), or 11360 (b). A conviction includes any verdict of guilty, or plea of guilty or no contest.

(2) Any disciplinary action taken by another licensing entity or authority of this state or of another state or an agency of the federal government or the United States military.

(d) Failure to provide, within 30 days of a request, documentation to the Board regarding the arrest of the licensee or registrant, except for records of convictions or arrests protected under Penal Code section 1000.4, or Health and Safety Code sections 11361.5 and 11361.7.

(e) Failure or refusal to comply with a court order, issued in the enforcement of a subpoena, mandating the release of records to the board.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4990.20 and 4999.48, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4990.20, 4999.48, and 4999.90, Business and Professions Code; Section 1000.4, Penal Code; and Sections 11357, 11360, 11361.5 and 11361.7, Health and Safety Code.

## ARTICLE 4. LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

### § 1829.1. REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS.

- (a) The written examinations shall test for minimum acceptable competency to practice marriage and family therapy without causing harm to the public health, safety or welfare, and shall consist of the following:
- (1) A California law and ethics examination designed to assess the applicant's knowledge of-and ability to apply legal and ethical standards relating to the practice of marriage and family therapy.
  - (2) A clinical examination designed to assess an applicant's knowledge of psychotherapeutic principles and methods in treatment and their application, and the ability to make judgments about appropriate techniques, methods and objectives as applicable to the marriage and family therapist scope of practice.
- (b) The clinical examination as described in subsection (a)(2) shall be a board administered examination.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.40 and 4980.60, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.397, 4980.398, 4980.399 and 4980.50, Business and Professions Code.

### § 1829.2. ELIGIBILITY FOR LAW AND ETHICS EXAMINATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, eligibility to take the California law and ethics examination requires an applicant to, at minimum, meet one of the following:

- (a) The applicant holds a current, delinquent or cancelled associate registration, submits a request and pays the fee to take the examination.
  - (1) When a registrant who holds a current or delinquent registration takes the examination and does not pass during his or her one-year renewal cycle, the registrant shall complete a 12-hour course on California law and ethics as specified in section 4980.399(e) of the Code, in order to be eligible to take the examination during the next renewal cycle.
- (b) The applicant currently has an approved application for licensure.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20(a), Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.397, 4980.398, 4980.399, 4980.50, and 4984.01, Business and Professions Code.

### § 1829.3. TIME FRAMES - LAW & ETHICS EXAMINATION.

- (a) An applicant for licensure shall take the California law and ethics examination during the following time frames in accordance with section 1806:
- (1) Within one year from the date the applicant was notified of initial eligibility to take the examination.
  - (2) Within one year from the date the applicant was notified of failing the examination.

(b) Registrants shall take the California law and ethics examination during the following time frames:

- (1) A registrant whose associate registration is issued on or after January 1, 2016 shall take the examination prior to the registration's first expiration date, and shall continue to take the examination a minimum of once during each renewal cycle until passed.
- (2) A registrant whose associate registration was issued prior to January 1, 2016, shall take the examination a minimum of once during each renewal cycle until passed.
- (3) Should a registrant fail to take the examination as specified in (1) or (2) above, he or she will not be permitted to renew his or her registration until the examination has been taken, except during the grace period specified in section 4980.399(c) of the Code.
- (4) Registrants who are eligible to retake the California law and ethics examination may do so after the required waiting period upon submission of the following:
  - (A) A request to take the examination including the required fee.
  - (B) If required, proof of completion of the 12-hour California law and ethics course as described in section 4980.399(e) of the Code.

(c) A registrant who has an approved application for licensure shall be subject to subdivisions (a) and (b).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20(a), Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.397, 4980.398, 4980.399, 4980.50, and 4984.01, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1833. SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.**

- (a) When a written oversight agreement is required by section 4980.43.4 of the Code, the agreement shall contain the following provisions and shall be executed as described below.
- (1) The written oversight agreement shall be executed and signed prior to commencement of supervision.
  - (2) The agreement shall contain a statement from the supervisor agreeing to ensure that the extent, kind, and quality of counseling performed by the supervisee is consistent with the supervisee's training, education, and experience, and is appropriate in extent, kind, and quality.
  - (3) The agreement shall contain an acknowledgment by the supervisee's employer that the employer:
    - (A) Is aware of the licensing requirements that must be met by the supervisee and that the employer agrees not to interfere with the supervisor's legal and ethical obligations to ensure compliance with those requirements;
    - (B) Agrees to provide the supervisor access to clinical records of the clients counseled by the supervisee; and
    - (C) Is aware that the supervisor will be providing clinical guidance and direction to the supervisee in order to ensure compliance with the standards of practice of the profession,

which include legal requirements and professional codes of ethics, and agrees not to interfere with this process.

- (4) The supervisor shall provide the signed agreement to the supervisee upon completion or termination of supervision. The supervisee shall submit the agreement to the board upon application for licensure.
- (b) Supervisors shall complete and submit a self-assessment report pertaining to the licensee's qualifications to be a supervisor, as specified in section 1833.1.
- (c)(1) Except as specified in subsection (c)(2), within 60 days of the commencement of any supervision, the supervisor and supervisee shall sign a supervision agreement, as specified in subsection (c)(3), under penalty of perjury. The original signed supervisory agreement shall be retained by the supervisee and submitted to the board with the supervisee's application for licensure.
- (2) A supervisor and a supervisee who are in a supervisory relationship that existed prior to January 1, 2022 shall complete a supervisory plan as required by subsection (c)(3)(F), but are not required to complete a supervision agreement. The supervisee shall instead submit the previously required signed supervisor responsibility statement with the application for licensure.
- (3) The supervision agreement shall include all of the following:
  - (A) The licensee's qualifications to be a supervisor as specified in section 1833.1 and in section 4980.03 of the Code.
  - (B) The supervisor affirms an understanding of the requirements pertaining to registration of the supervisee, acceptable supervision practices, work settings, supervisee employment, and oversight of supervisees as specified in sections 4980.43, 4980.43.1, 4980.43.2, 4980.43.3, and 4980.43.4 of the Code.
  - (C) The supervisor affirms an understanding of the requirements pertaining to direct supervisor contact as specified in section 4980.43.2 of the Code.
  - (D) The supervisor affirms an understanding of the supervision documentation required by this section and the board's right to audit a supervisor's compliance with the requirements in this article and in the Code.
  - (E) The supervisee affirms an understanding of all of the following:
    1. Requirements pertaining to registration as an associate as specified in section 4980.43 of the Code.
    2. The supervisee's supervisor must hold a current and active California license that is not under suspension or probation while supervising in order for hours to count toward licensure as specified in section 1833.1 and in section 4980.03 of the Code.
    3. Requirements pertaining to documentation of completed supervised experience as

specified in this section.

4. Prohibited practices pertaining to employment and supervisory relationships as specified in section 4980.43.3 of the Code.

5. The age limit pertaining to experience hours as specified in section 4980.43 of the Code.

(F) A supervisory plan that describes the goals and objectives of supervision and whereby the supervisor affirms an understanding of the responsibilities pertaining to monitoring and evaluating the supervisee as specified in section 1833.1 and in section 4980.43.1 of the Code. This plan shall be developed collaboratively by the supervisor and supervisee.

(d) Supervisees shall maintain a weekly log of all hours of experience gained toward licensure. The log of hours shall be signed by the supervisor on a weekly basis. The supervisee shall retain the signed logs until such time as the supervisee is licensed by the board. The board shall have the right to require an applicant for licensure to submit all or such portions of the logs as it deems necessary to verify hours of experience. The log shall include all of the following:

(1) The name and address of the supervisee's work setting.

(2) Hours of experience gained per category as listed in sections 4980.43(c)(8), 4980.43(c)(10), and 4980.43.2(b) of the Code per week.

(3) Total hours gained per week and in each category overall.

(e) Completed hours of experience shall be documented at the completion or termination of supervision. Such documentation shall be submitted to the board by the supervisee upon application for licensure and shall include all of the following:

(1) The supervisor's telephone number and license information.

(2) The supervisee's employer's name, address, and telephone number.

(3) Whether the supervisee's work setting complies with sections 4980.43.3 and 4980.43.4 of the Code.

(4) If the supervisee was an associate at the time the experience was gained, documentation of employment or volunteer status, as specified in section 4980.43.3 of the Code.

(5) The applicant's accumulated hours of experience broken down by category as set forth in subsection (d)(2).

(6) The amount and type of supervision provided to the applicant.

(7) The dates during which the experience was gained.

(8) The supervisor's signature under penalty of perjury.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.35, 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.03, 4980.35, 4980.40, 4980.42, 4980.43, 4980.43.4 and 4980.44, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1833.05. PLACEMENT BY TEMPORARY STAFFING AGENCIES.**

- (a) A “temporary staffing agency” is defined as an agency that locates positions for individuals seeking temporary work and fills vacancies for agencies seeking individuals to perform work on a temporary basis.
- (b) A “contracting agency” is defined as an agency where a supervisee has been placed by a temporary staffing agency.
- (c) The following provisions apply to a supervisee who has been placed by a temporary staffing agency:
  - (1) The supervisee shall only perform mental health and related services at the places where the contracting agency permits business to be conducted.
  - (2) The written oversight agreement required by section 1833 shall be between the contracting agency and the supervisor when the supervisor is not an employee of the contracting agency or is a volunteer. In cases where the supervisor is an employee of the contracting agency, no written agreement shall be required.
- (d) A supervisee who has been placed by a temporary staffing agency is subject to 4980.43.3(a) of the Code regardless of whether a supervisee is employed by the temporary agency or the contracting agency.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.43.3 and 4980.60, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1833.1. REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPERVISORS.**

- (a) Any person supervising a trainee, an associate, or an applicant for associate registration as described in section 4980.43(b) of the Code (hereinafter "supervisor") within California shall comply with the requirements below.
  - (1) The supervisor possesses and maintains a current and active California license as specified in section 4980.03(g) of the Code and meets all other qualifications specified in section 4980.03(g) of the Code.
  - (2) A supervisor who is not a licensed marriage and family therapist shall have sufficient experience, training, and education in marriage and family therapy to competently practice marriage and family therapy in California. A supervisor who is a licensed educational psychologist shall only supervise the provision of educationally related mental health services consistent with the scope of practice of an educational psychologist.
  - (3) The supervisor shall be competent in the areas of clinical practice and techniques being supervised and shall keep informed of developments in marriage and family therapy and in California law governing the practice of marriage and family therapy.

- (4) The supervisor shall self-monitor for and address supervision dynamics such as, but not limited to, countertransference-, intrapsychic-, interpersonal-, or trauma-related issues that may affect supervision.
  - (5) The supervisor will immediately notify the supervisee of any disciplinary action, including revocation or suspension, even if stayed, probation terms, inactive license status, or any lapse in licensure that affects the supervisor's ability or right to practice or supervise.
  - (6) The supervisor has had sufficient experience, training, and education in the area of clinical supervision to competently supervise trainees or associates. Persons licensed by the board who provide supervision shall complete the minimum supervision training or coursework specified in section 1834.
  - (7) The supervisor knows and understands the laws and regulations pertaining to both the supervision of trainees and associates and the experience required for licensure as a marriage and family therapist.
  - (8) The supervisor shall monitor and evaluate the extent, kind, and quality of counseling performed by the supervisee as specified in section 4980.43.1(b) of the Code.
  - (9) The supervisor shall complete an assessment of the ongoing strengths and limitations of the supervisee at least once a year and at the completion or termination of supervision. The supervisor shall provide the supervisee with a copy of all assessments.
  - (10) The supervisor shall establish written procedures for supervisees to contact the supervisor or, in the supervisor's absence, procedures for contacting an alternative on-call supervisor to assist supervisees in handling crises and emergencies. The supervisor shall provide these procedures to the supervisee prior to the commencement of supervision.
- (b) A supervisor shall give at least one (1) week's prior written notice to a supervisee of the supervisor's intent not to sign for any further hours of experience for such person. A supervisor who has not provided such notice shall sign for hours of experience obtained in good faith where such supervisor actually provided the required supervision.
  - (c) The supervisor shall obtain from each supervisee for whom supervision will be provided the name, address, and telephone number of the supervisee's most recent supervisor and employer.
  - (d) A supervisor shall complete and sign under penalty of perjury a self-assessment report and submit it to the board as described in this subsection:
    - (1) The supervisor self-assessment report shall include all of the following:
      - (A) The licensee's qualifications to be a supervisor as specified in this section and in section 4980.03 of the Code.
      - (B) The supervisor's telephone number. The telephone number shall be considered confidential and not subject to public disclosure.
      - (C) The supervisor's email address, if the supervisor has an email address. The email address

shall be considered confidential and not subject to public disclosure.

- (D) The date the licensee initially began supervising and, for licensees who have previously served as a board-qualified supervisor but have not supervised for the past two (2) years, the date the licensee resumed supervising.
- (E) The date the supervisor completed the training or coursework required by section 1834, and the length of the course(s) taken.
- (F) The supervisor affirms an understanding of all of the following:
  - 1. The supervisor's license must meet the supervisor qualifications set forth in this section and in section 4980.03 of the Code for a supervisee's experience hours to be credited toward licensure.
  - 2. The supervisee notification requirement set forth in subsection (a)(5) of this section.
  - 3. The requirements set forth in section 4980.43.4 of the Code pertaining to the maximum number of supervisees.
  - 4. The board's right to audit records pertaining to supervisor qualifications in accordance with section 4980.43.5 of the Code.
  - 5. The requirement to complete a supervision agreement for each supervisee as specified in section 1833.

(2) The supervisor self-assessment report shall be submitted to the board as follows:

- (A) A licensee who is supervising one or more trainees or associates as of January 1, 2022 shall submit a self-assessment report to the board, which shall be received by January 1, 2023.
- (B) Licensees not supervising a trainee or associate as of January 1, 2022 shall submit a self-assessment report to the board, which shall be received within 60 days of the commencement of supervision.

(e) Upon written request of the board, the supervisor shall provide to the board any documentation which verifies the supervisor's compliance with the requirements set forth in this section.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.35, 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.03, 4980.42, 4980.43, 4980.43.1, 4980.43.2, 4980.43.3, 4980.43.4, 4980.43.5 and 4989.14, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1833.1.5. SUBSTITUTE SUPERVISORS.**

- (a) When it becomes necessary for a supervisee to obtain supervision temporarily from a substitute supervisor, the substitute supervisor shall meet all supervisor qualifications required by the Code and in this article.
- (b) The substitute supervisor and the supervisee shall sign the supervision agreement required by section 1833, the substitute supervisor and supervisee's employer shall sign a written oversight



agreement if required by section 1833, and the substitute supervisor shall sign the weekly log required by section 1833.

- (c) If the substitute supervisor will be supervising for 30 consecutive calendar days or less:
- (1) A new supervisory plan as specified in section 1833(c)(3)(F) is not required. The substitute supervisor shall follow the supervisee's pre-existing supervisory plan.
  - (2) The experience gained during this period may be verified as specified in section 1833(e) by the regular supervisor.
- (d) If the substitute supervisor will be supervising for more than 30 consecutive calendar days, a new supervisory plan shall be required, and the substitute supervisor shall verify the supervisee's experience gained during that time.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.35, 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.03, 4980.35 and 4980.43.4, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1833.2. SUPERVISION OF EXPERIENCE GAINED OUTSIDE OF CALIFORNIA.**

- (a) Experience gained outside of California must have been supervised in accordance with the following criteria:
- (1) At the time of supervision, the supervisor was licensed or certified by the state or jurisdiction in which the supervision occurred and possessed a current and active license or certification that was not under suspension or probation.
  - (2) The supervisor must have been licensed or certified by that state or jurisdiction, for at least two (2) of the past five (5) years immediately prior to acting as a supervisor, as either a psychologist, clinical social worker, physician certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, professional clinical counselor, marriage and family therapist or similarly titled marriage and family practitioner, or other equivalent license or certification that allows the practitioner to independently provide clinical mental health services.
  - (3) In a state or jurisdiction which does not license or certify marriage and family therapists or similarly titled marriage and family practitioners, experience may be obtained under the supervision of a person who at the time of supervision held a clinical membership in the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists for at least two years and who maintained such membership throughout the period of supervision.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.03, 4980.35 and 4980.74, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1834. SUPERVISOR TRAINING AND COURSEWORK.**

Persons licensed by the board who provide supervision shall complete, at a minimum, supervision training or coursework as follows:

- (a) Except as provided in subsection (d), licensees who commence supervision for the first time in California shall obtain fifteen (15) hours in supervision training or coursework obtained from a government agency or from a continuing education provider specified as acceptable by the board in Article 8. If taken from an acceptable continuing education provider, the training may apply towards the continuing education requirements set forth in sections 4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22, and 4999.76 of the Code.
- (1) The training or coursework content shall include, but not be limited to, current best practices and current industry standards, which include legal requirements, professional codes of ethics, and research focused on supervision regarding the following:
- (A) Competencies necessary for new supervisors;
  - (B) Goal setting and evaluation;
  - (C) The supervisor-supervisee relationship;
  - (D) California law and ethics, including legal and ethical issues related to supervision;
  - (E) Cultural variables, including, but not limited to, race, gender, social class, and religious beliefs;
  - (F) Contextual variables, such as treatment modalities, work settings, and use of technology;
  - (G) Supervision theories and literature; and
  - (H) Documentation and record keeping of the supervisee's client files, as well as documentation of supervision.
- (2) If taken from a government agency or from an acceptable continuing education provider, the training or coursework shall have been taken within two (2) years prior to commencing supervision, or within 60 days after commencing supervision.
- (3) If taken at a master's or higher level from an accredited or approved postsecondary institution as defined in section 4980.03 of the Code, the training or coursework shall have been taken within four (4) years prior to commencing supervision, or within 60 days after commencing supervision.
- (b) Except as provided in subsection (d), a licensee who previously served as a board-qualified supervisor but has not supervised for the past two (2) years shall take six (6) hours of supervision training or coursework within 60 days of resuming supervision.
- (c) Except as provided in subsection (d), supervisors shall complete a minimum of six (6) hours of continuing professional development in supervision during each subsequent renewal period while providing supervision. This shall consist of one or more of the following activities, for which records of completion shall be maintained as specified in section 4980.43.5 of the Code:
- (1) Training or coursework specific to the topic of supervision, obtained from a government agency or from an acceptable continuing education provider. If taken from an acceptable continuing

education provider, it may apply towards the continuing education requirements set forth in sections 4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22, and 4999.76 of the Code.

(2) Teaching a supervision course described in subsection (c)(1).

(3) Authoring research directly focused on supervision that has been published professionally. This may include, but is not limited to, quantitative or qualitative research, literature reviews, peer reviewed journals or books, monographs, or other industry or academic published work. This shall not include personal opinion papers, editorials, or blogs.

(4) Collaboration with another licensee who also serves as a board-qualified supervisor through the use of mentoring or consultation. Documentation of attendance shall consist of a log signed by both parties.

(5) Attendance at supervisor peer discussion groups with other licensees who also serve as board-qualified supervisors. Documentation of attendance shall consist of a letter or certificate from the group leader or facilitator.

(d)(1) In lieu of subsections (a), (b), and (c), the board shall accept a valid and active approved supervisor certification from one of the following entities:

(A) The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT)

(B) The American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work (ABECSW)

(C) The California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT)

(D) The Center for Credentialing and Education (CCE)

(2) The board shall accept an approved supervisor certification from another entity if the licensee can demonstrate that the certification requirements of that entity meet or exceed those of any one of the entities specified in subsection (d)(1).

(e) The board shall not deny hours of experience gained towards licensure due to the supervisor's failure to complete the training, coursework, or continuing professional development requirements in this section.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.03 and 4980.35, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1845. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.**

As used in section 4982 of the code, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Performing or holding himself or herself out as able to perform professional services beyond his or her field or fields of competence as established by his or her education, training and/or experience.

- (b) Permitting a trainee or associate under his or her supervision or control to perform or permitting the trainee or associate to hold himself or herself out as competent to perform professional services beyond the trainee's or associate's level of education, training and/or experience.
- (c) Failing to comply with the child abuse reporting requirements of Penal Code section 11166.
- (d) Failing to comply with the elder and dependent adult abuse reporting requirements of Welfare and Institutions Code section 15630.
- (e) Failure to provide to the board, as authorized by law, copies of records within 15 days of receipt of the request or within the time specified in the request, whichever is later, unless the licensee or registrant is unable to provide the records within this time period for good cause. Good cause includes, but is not limited to, physical inability to access the records in the time allowed due to illness or travel, or inability to obtain the necessary patient release authorization, if applicable. This subsection shall not apply to a licensee or registrant who does not have access to, and control over, medical records.
- (f) Failure to cooperate and participate in any board investigation pending against the licensee or registrant. This subsection shall not be construed to deprive a licensee, registrant, or a consumer of any rights or privilege guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, or any other constitutional or statutory rights or privileges. This subsection shall not be construed to require a licensee or registrant to cooperate with a request that would require the licensee, registrant, or a consumer to waive any constitutional or statutory rights or privilege or to comply with a request for information or other matters within an unreasonable period of time in light of the time constraints of the licensee's or registrant's practice. Any exercise by a licensee or registrant of any constitutional or statutory rights or privilege shall not be used against the licensee or registrant in a regulatory or disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or registrant.
- (g) Failure to report to the board within 30 days any of the following:
  - (1) A conviction of any felony or misdemeanor, which is not subject to Health & Safety Code sections 11357(b), (c), (d), (e) or 11360(b). A conviction includes any verdict of guilty, or plea of guilty or no contest.
  - (2) Any disciplinary action taken by another licensing entity or authority of this state or of another state or an agency of the federal government or the United States military.
- (h) Failure to provide, within 30 days of a request, documentation to the Board regarding the arrest of the licensee or registrant, except for records of convictions or arrests protected under Penal Code section 1000.4, or Health and Safety Code sections 11361.5 and 11361.7.
- (i) Failure or refusal to comply with a court order, issued in the enforcement of a subpoena, mandating the release of records to the board.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4980.60, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.03, 4980.60 and 4982, Business and Professions Code; Sections 1000.4 and 11166, Penal Code; Sections 11357, 11360, 11361.5 and 11361.7, Health and Safety Code; and Section 15630, Welfare and Institutions Code.

**§ 1846. ASSOCIATE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS.**

The registration of each associate shall expire at midnight one year from the last day of the month in which the registration was issued.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4980.60, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.03 and 4984.01, Business and Professions Code.

## ARTICLE 4.5. PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS

### § 1850.6. NAME OF CORPORATION.

The wording or abbreviation denoting corporate existence shall be limited to one of the following: "Professional Corporation," "Prof. Corp.," "Corporation," "Corp.," "Incorporated," or "Inc."

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4987.7, 4998.2 and 4999.125, Business and Professions Code.

### § 1850.7. SHARES: OWNERSHIP AND TRANSFER.

- (a) The shares of a marriage and family therapist, licensed clinical social worker, or licensed professional clinical counselor corporation may be issued or transferred only to the issuing corporation or to an appropriately licensed person in accordance with Section 13401.5 of the Corporations Code.
- (b) Where there are two or more shareholders in a corporation and one of its shareholders dies, or becomes a disqualified person as defined in Section 13401(d) of the Corporations Code, for a period exceeding ninety (90) days, his or her shares shall be sold and transferred to a licensed person or to the issuing corporation, on such terms as are agreed upon. Such sale or transfer shall not be later than six (6) months after any such death and not later than ninety (90) days after the date the shareholder became a disqualified person.
- (c) A corporation and its shareholders may, but need not, agree that shares sold to it by a person who becomes a disqualified person may be resold to such person if and when the person again ceases to become a disqualified person.
- (d) The restrictions of subdivision (a) and, if appropriate, subdivision (b) of this section shall be set forth in the corporation's by-laws or articles of incorporation.
- (e) The income of the corporation attributable to professional, licensed services rendered while a shareholder is a disqualified person shall not in any manner accrue to the benefit of such shareholder or the person's shares.
- (f) The share certificates of the corporation shall contain either:
  - (1) An appropriate legend setting forth the restriction of subdivision (a) where appropriate, and where applicable, the restriction of subdivision (b), or
  - (2) An appropriate legend stating that ownership and transfer of the shares are restricted and specifically referring to an identified section of the by-laws or articles of incorporation of the corporation wherein the restrictions are set forth.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60, 4988.2 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4987.8, 4988, 4998.3, 4998.4, 4999.126 and 4999.127, Business and Professions Code; and Sections 13401, 13401.5, 13403 and 13407, Corporations Code.

## ARTICLE 5. LICENSED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

### § 1854. APPROVED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

Educational institutions approved by the board are defined as a college or university accredited by a regional or national institutional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. The board shall accept a degree deemed equivalent to that required by section 4989.20 of the code by a foreign educational credentials evaluation service that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4990.20(a), Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 4989.20(a)(1), Business and Professions Code.

### § 1856. EXPERIENCE EQUIVALENT TO THREE (3) YEARS FULL-TIME EXPERIENCE AS CREDENTIALLED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST.

- (a) No more than one year of experience will be granted for any 12 month period.
- (b) Part time experience may be accumulated provided that the experience is obtained within six (6) calendar years.
- (c) Experience as a credentialed school psychologist employed by a parochial or private school may, at the board's discretion, be deemed equivalent to experience as a credentialed school psychologist in the public schools.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4990.20(a), Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 4989.20, Business and Professions Code.

### § 1858. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.

As used in Section 4989.54 of the code, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Impersonates a licensee or allows another person to use his or her license.
- (b) Permits a person under his or her supervision or control to perform or permits such person to hold himself or herself out as competent to perform professional services beyond the level of education, training and/or experience of that person.
- (c) Failure to provide to the board, as authorized by law, copies of records within 15 days of receipt of the request or within the time specified in the request, whichever is later, unless the licensee or registrant is unable to provide the records within this time period for good cause. Good cause includes, but is not limited to, physical inability to access the records in the time allowed due to illness or travel, or inability to obtain the necessary patient release authorization, if applicable. This subsection shall not apply to a licensee or registrant who does not have access to, and control over, medical records.
- (d) Failure to cooperate and participate in any board investigation pending against the licensee or registrant. This subsection shall not be construed to deprive a licensee, registrant, or a consumer of any rights or privilege guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, or any other constitutional or statutory rights or privileges. This subsection shall not be construed to require a licensee or registrant to cooperate with a request that would require the licensee, registrant, or a consumer to waive any constitutional or statutory rights or privilege or to comply with

a request for information or other matters within an unreasonable period of time in light of the time constraints of the licensee's or registrant's practice. Any exercise by a licensee or registrant of any constitutional or statutory rights or privilege shall not be used against the licensee or registrant in a regulatory or disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or registrant.

(e) Failure to report to the board within 30 days any of the following:

(1) A conviction of any felony or misdemeanor, which is not subject to Health & Safety Code sections 11357 (b), (c), (d), (e), or 11360 (b). A conviction includes any verdict of guilty, or plea of guilty or no contest.

(2) Any disciplinary action taken by another licensing entity or authority of this state or of another state or an agency of the federal government or the United States military.

(f) Failure to provide, within 30 days of a request, documentation to the Board regarding the arrest of the licensee or registrant, except for records of convictions or arrests protected under Penal Code section 1000.4, or Health and Safety Code sections 11361.5 and 11361.7.

(g) Failure or refusal to comply with a court order, issued in the enforcement of a subpoena, mandating the release of records to the board.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4989.18, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4989.18 and 4989.54, Business and Professions Code; Section 1000.4, Penal Code; and Sections 11357, 11360, 11361.5 and 11361.7, Health and Safety Code.



## ARTICLE 6. LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS

### § 1869. SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE: REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.

- (a) When a written oversight agreement is required by section 4996.23.3 of the Code, the agreement shall contain the following provisions and shall be executed as described below.
- (1) The written oversight agreement shall be executed and signed prior to the commencement of supervision.
  - (2) The agreement shall contain a statement from the supervisor agreeing to ensure that the extent, kind, and quality of counseling performed by the supervisee is consistent with the supervisee's training, education, and experience, and is appropriate in extent, kind, and quality.
  - (3) The agreement shall contain an acknowledgment by the supervisee's employer that the employer:
    - (A) Is aware of the licensing requirements that must be met by the supervisee and that the employer agrees not to interfere with the supervisor's legal and ethical obligations to ensure compliance with those requirements;
    - (B) Agrees to provide the supervisor access to clinical records of the clients counseled by the supervisee; and
    - (C) Is aware that the supervisor will be providing clinical guidance and direction to the supervisee in order to ensure compliance with the standards of practice of the profession, which include legal requirements and professional codes of ethics, and agrees not to interfere with this process.
  - (4) The supervisor shall provide the signed agreement to the supervisee upon completion or termination of supervision. The supervisee shall submit the agreement to the board upon application for licensure.
- (b) Supervisors shall complete and submit a self-assessment report pertaining to the licensee's qualifications to be a supervisor, as specified in section 1870.
- (c)(1) Except as provided in subsection (c)(2), within 60 days of the commencement of any supervision, the supervisor and supervisee shall sign a supervision agreement, as specified in subsection (c)(3), under penalty of perjury. The original signed supervisory agreement shall be retained by the supervisee and submitted to the board with the supervisee's application for licensure.
- (2) A supervisor and a supervisee who are in a supervisory relationship that existed prior to January 1, 2022 are not required to complete a supervision agreement. The supervisee shall instead submit the previously required signed supervisor responsibility statement with the application for licensure.

(3) The supervision agreement shall include all of the following:

- (A) The licensee's qualifications to be a supervisor as specified in section 1870 and in section 4996.20 of the Code.
- (B) The supervisor affirms an understanding of the requirements pertaining to registration of the supervisee, acceptable supervision practices, work settings, supervisee employment, and oversight of supervisees as specified in sections 4996.18, 4996.23, 4996.23.2, and 4996.23.3 of the Code.
- (C) The supervisor affirms an understanding of the requirements pertaining to direct supervisor contact as specified in section 4996.23.1 of the Code.
- (D) The supervisor affirms an understanding of the supervision documentation required by this section and the board's right to audit a supervisor's compliance with the requirements specified in this article and in the Code.
- (E) The supervisee affirms an understanding of all of the following:
  - 1. Requirements pertaining to registration as an associate as specified in section 4996.18 of the Code.
  - 2. The supervisee's supervisor must hold a current and active California license that is not under suspension or probation while supervising in order for hours to count toward licensure as specified in section 1870 and in section 4996.20 of the Code.
  - 3. Requirements pertaining to documentation of completed supervised experience as specified in this section.
  - 4. Prohibited practices pertaining to employment and supervisory relationships as specified in section 4996.23.2 of the Code.
  - 5. The age limit pertaining to experience hours as specified in section 4996.23 of the Code.
- (F) A supervisory plan that describes the goals and objectives of supervision and whereby the supervisor affirms an understanding of the responsibilities pertaining to monitoring and evaluating the supervisee as specified in section 1870 and in section 4996.20 of the Code. This plan shall be developed collaboratively by the supervisor and supervisee.

(d) Supervisees shall maintain a weekly log of all hours of experience gained toward licensure. The log shall be signed by the supervisor on a weekly basis. The supervisee shall retain the signed logs until such time as the supervisee is licensed by the board. The board shall have the right to require an applicant for licensure to submit all or such portions of the logs as it deems necessary to verify hours of experience. The log shall include all of the following:

- (1) The name and address of the supervisee's work setting
- (2) Hours of experience gained per category as listed in sections 4996.23(d)(2), 4996.23(d)(3), and 4996.23.1(b) of the Code per week.

(3) Total hours gained per week and in each category overall.

(e) Completed hours of experience shall be documented at the completion or termination of supervision. Such documentation shall be submitted to the board by the supervisee upon application for licensure and shall include all of the following:

(1) The supervisor's telephone number and license information.

(2) The supervisee's employer's name, address, and telephone number.

(3) Whether the supervisee's work setting complies with section 4996.23.2 of the Code.

(4) Documentation of employment or volunteer status, as specified in section 4996.23.2 of the Code.

(5) The applicant's accumulated hours of experience broken down by category as specified in subsection (d)(2).

(6) The amount and type of supervision provided to the applicant.

(7) The dates during which the experience was gained.

(8) The supervisor's signature under penalty of perjury.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4996.18, 4996.20, 4996.23, 4996.23.1, 4996.23.2 and 4996.23.3, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1869.3. PLACEMENT BY TEMPORARY STAFFING AGENCIES.**

(a) A "temporary staffing agency" is defined as an agency that locates positions for individuals seeking temporary work and fills vacancies for agencies seeking individuals to perform work on a temporary basis.

(b) A "contracting agency" is defined as an agency where a supervisee has been placed by a temporary staffing agency.

(c) The following provisions apply to a supervisee who has been placed by a temporary staffing agency:

(1) The supervisee shall only perform mental health and related services at the places where the contracting agency permits business to be conducted.

(2) The written oversight agreement required by section 1869 shall be between the contracting agency and the supervisor when the supervisor is not an employee of the contracting agency or is a volunteer. In cases where the supervisor is an employee of the contracting agency, no written agreement shall be required.

(d) A supervisee who has been placed by a temporary staffing agency is subject to 4996.23.2(a) of the Code regardless of whether a supervisee is employed by the temporary agency or the

contracting agency.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4996.23.2 and 4996.23.3, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1870. REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPERVISORS.**

- (a) Any person supervising an associate or an applicant for associate registration as described in sections 4996.23(a) and (b) of the Code (hereinafter called "supervisor") within California shall comply with the requirements set forth below.
- (1) The supervisor possesses and maintains a current and active California license as specified in section 4996.20(a) of the Code and meets all other qualifications specified in section 4996.20(a) of the Code.
  - (2) A supervisor who is not a licensed clinical social worker shall have sufficient experience, training, and education in clinical social work to competently practice clinical social work in California.
  - (3) The supervisor shall be competent in the areas of clinical practice and techniques being supervised and shall keep informed of developments in clinical social work and in California law governing the practice of clinical social work.
  - (4) The supervisor shall self-monitor for and address supervision dynamics such as, but not limited to, countertransference-, intrapsychic-, interpersonal-, or trauma related issues that may affect supervision.
  - (5) The supervisor immediately notify the supervisee of any disciplinary action, including revocation, suspension (even if stayed), probation terms, inactive license, or any lapse in licensure, that affects the supervisor's ability or right to practice or supervise.
  - (6) A supervisor who is a licensed educational psychologist shall only supervise the provision of educationally related mental health services consistent with the scope of practice of an educational psychologist.
  - (7) The supervisor has had sufficient experience, training, and education in the area of clinical supervision to competently supervise associates. Persons licensed by the board who provide supervision shall complete the minimum supervision training or coursework specified in section 1871.
  - (8) The supervisor knows and understands the laws and regulations pertaining to both supervision of associates and the experience required for licensure as a clinical social worker.
  - (9) The supervisor shall monitor and evaluate the extent, kind, and quality of counseling performed by the supervisee as specified in section 4996.20(b) of the Code.
  - (10) The supervisor shall complete an assessment of the ongoing strengths and limitations of the supervisee at least once a year and at the completion or termination of supervision. The supervisor shall provide the supervisee with a copy of all assessments.

- (11) The supervisor shall establish written procedures for supervisees to contact the supervisor, or, in the supervisor's absence, procedures for contacting an alternative on-call supervisor to assist supervisees in handling crises and emergencies. The supervisor shall provide these procedures to the supervisee prior to the commencement of supervision.
- (b) A supervisor shall give at least one (1) week's written notice to a supervisee of the supervisor's intent not to sign for any further hours of experience for such person. A supervisor who has not provided such notice shall sign for hours of experience obtained in good faith where such supervisor actually provided the required supervision.
- (c) The supervisor shall obtain from each supervisee for whom supervision will be provided the name, address, and telephone number of the supervisee's most recent supervisor and employer.
- (d) A supervisor shall complete and sign under penalty of perjury a self-assessment report and submit it to the board as described in this subsection:
- (1) The supervisor self-assessment report shall include all of the following:
- (A) The licensee's qualifications to be a supervisor as specified in this section and in section 4996.20 of the Code.
  - (B) The supervisor's telephone number. The telephone number shall be considered confidential and not subject to public disclosure.
  - (C) The supervisor's email address, if the supervisor has an email address. The email address shall be considered confidential and not subject to public disclosure.
  - (D) The date the licensee initially began supervising, and for licensees who have previously served as a board-qualified supervisor but have not supervised for the past two (2) years, the date the licensee resumed supervising.
  - (E) The date the supervisor completed the training or coursework required by section 1871, and the length of the course(s) taken.
  - (F) The supervisor affirms an understanding of all of the following:
    - 1. The supervisor's license must meet the supervisor qualifications set forth in this section and in section 4996.20 of the Code, for a supervisee's experience hours to be credited toward licensure.
    - 2. The supervisee notification requirement set forth in subsection (a)(5) of this section.
    - 3. The requirements set forth in section 4996.23.3 of the Code pertaining to the maximum number of supervisees.
    - 4. The board's right to audit records pertaining to supervisor qualifications in accordance with section 4996.21 of the Code.
    - 5. The requirement to complete a supervision agreement for each supervisee as specified in section 1869.
- (2) The supervisor self-assessment report shall be submitted to the board as follows:
- (A) A licensee who is supervising one or more associates as of January 1, 2022 shall submit a

self-assessment report to the board, which shall be received by January 1, 2023.

(B) Licensees not supervising an associate as of January 1, 2022 shall submit a self-assessment report to the board, which shall be received within 60 days of the commencement of supervision.

(e) Upon written request of the board, the supervisor shall provide to the board any documentation which verifies the supervisor's compliance with the requirements set forth in this section.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4989.14, 4996.18, 4996.20, 4996.23, 4996.23.1, 4996.23.2 and 4996.23.3, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1870.3. SUBSTITUTE SUPERVISORS.**

(a) When it becomes necessary for a supervisee to obtain supervision temporarily from a substitute supervisor, the substitute supervisor shall meet all supervisor qualifications required by the Code and in this article.

(b) The substitute supervisor and the supervisee shall sign the supervision agreement required by section 1869, the substitute supervisor and supervisee's employer shall sign a written oversight agreement if required by section 1869, and the substitute supervisor shall sign the weekly log specified in section 1869.

(c) If the substitute supervisor will be supervising for 30 consecutive calendar days or less:

(1) A new supervisory plan as specified in section 1869(c)(3)(F) is not required. The substitute supervisor shall follow the supervisee's pre-existing supervisory plan.

(2) The experience gained during this period may be verified as specified in section 1869(e) by the regular supervisor.

(d) If the substitute supervisor will be supervising for more than 30 consecutive calendar days, a new supervisory plan shall be required, and the substitute supervisor shall verify the supervisee's experience gained during that time.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4996.20 and 4996.23.3, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1870.5. SUPERVISION OF EXPERIENCE GAINED OUTSIDE OF CALIFORNIA.**

(a) Experience gained outside of California must have been supervised in accordance with the following criteria:

(1) At the time of supervision, the supervisor was licensed or certified by the state or jurisdiction in which the supervision occurred, and possessed a current and active license or certification that was not under suspension or probation.

(2) The supervisor must have been licensed or certified by that state or jurisdiction for at least two (2) of the past five (5) years immediately prior to acting as a supervisor, as either a psychologist, clinical social worker, physician certified in psychiatry by the American Board of

Psychiatry and Neurology, professional clinical counselor, marriage and family therapist or similarly titled marriage and family practitioner, or other equivalent license or certification that allows the practitioner to independently provide clinical mental health services.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4996.17.2 and 4996.20, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1871. SUPERVISOR TRAINING AND COURSEWORK.**

Persons licensed by the board who provide supervision shall complete, at a minimum, supervision training or coursework as follows:

- (a) Except as provided in subsection (d), licensees who commence supervision for the first time in California shall obtain fifteen (15) hours in supervision training or coursework obtained from a government agency or from a continuing education provider specified as acceptable by the board in Article 8. If taken from an acceptable continuing education provider, the training or coursework may apply towards the continuing education requirements set forth in sections 4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22, and 4999.76 of the Code.
  - (1) The training or coursework content shall include, but not be limited to, current best practices and current industry standards, which include legal requirements, professional codes of ethics, and research focused on supervision regarding the following:
    - (A) Competencies necessary for new supervisors;
    - (B) Goal setting and evaluation;
    - (C) The supervisor-supervisee relationship;
    - (D) California law and ethics, including legal and ethical issues related to supervision;
    - (E) Cultural variables, including, but not limited to, race, gender, social class, and religious beliefs;
    - (F) Contextual variables, such as treatment modality, work settings, and use of technology;
    - (G) Supervision theories and literature; and
    - (H) Documentation and record keeping of the supervisee's client files, as well as documentation of supervision.
  - (2) If taken from a government agency or from an acceptable continuing education provider, the training or coursework shall have been taken within two (2) years prior to commencing supervision, or within 60 days after commencing supervision.
  - (3) If taken at a master's or higher level from an accredited or approved postsecondary institution as defined in section 4996.18(b)(3) of the Code, the training or coursework shall have been taken within four (4) years prior to commencing supervision, or within 60 days after commencing supervision.

- (b) Except as provided in subsection (d), a licensee who previously served as a board-qualified supervisor but has not supervised for the past two (2) years shall take six (6) hours of supervision training or coursework within 60 days of resuming supervision.
- (c) Except as provided in subsection (d), supervisors shall complete a minimum of six (6) hours of continuing professional development in supervision during each subsequent renewal period while providing supervision. This shall consist of one or more of the following activities, for which records of completion shall be maintained as specified in section 4996.21 of the Code:
- (1) Training or coursework specific to the topic of supervision, obtained from a government agency or from an acceptable continuing education provider. If taken from an acceptable continuing education provider, it may apply towards the continuing education requirements set forth in sections 4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22, and 4999.76 of the Code.
  - (2) Teaching a supervision course described in subsection (c)(1).
  - (3) Authoring research directly focused on supervision that has been published professionally. This may include, but is not limited to, quantitative or qualitative research, literature reviews, peer reviewed journals or books, monographs, or other industry or academic published work. This shall not include personal opinion papers, editorials, or blogs.
  - (4) Collaboration with another licensee who also serves as a board-qualified supervisor through the use of mentoring or consultation. Documentation of attendance shall consist of a log signed by both parties.
  - (5) Attendance at supervisor peer discussion groups with other licensees who also serve as board-qualified supervisors. Documentation of attendance shall consist of a letter or certificate from the group leader or facilitator.
- (d)(1) In lieu of subsections (a), (b), and (c), the board shall accept a valid and active approved supervisor certification from one of the following entities:
- (A) The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT)
  - (B) The American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work (ABECSW)
  - (C) The California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT)
  - (D) The Center for Credentialing and Education (CCE)
- (2) The board shall accept an approved supervisor certification from another entity if the licensee can demonstrate that the certification requirements of that entity meet or exceed those of any one of the entities specified in subsection (d)(1).
- (e) The board shall not deny hours of experience gained towards licensure due to the supervisor's failure to complete the training, coursework, or continuing professional development requirements in this section.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 4996.20, Business and Professions Code.



### **§ 1877.1. REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS.**

- (a) The written examinations shall test for minimum acceptable competency to practice clinical social work without causing harm to the public health, safety or welfare, and shall consist of the following:
- (1) A California law and ethics examination designed to assess the applicant's knowledge of-and ability to apply legal and ethical standards relating to the practice of clinical social work.
  - (2) A clinical examination designed to assess an applicant's knowledge of psychosocial principles and methods in treatment and their application, and the ability to make judgments about appropriate techniques, methods and objectives as applicable to the clinical social worker scope of practice.
- (b) The clinical examination as described in subsection (a)(2) shall be the Association of Social Work Boards Clinical Examination.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4992.1, 4992.05, 4992.07 and 4992.09, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1877.2. ELIGIBILITY FOR LAW AND ETHICS EXAMINATION.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, eligibility to take the California law and ethics examination requires an applicant to, at minimum, meet one of the following:

- (a) The applicant holds a current, delinquent or cancelled associate registration, submits a request and pays the fee to take the examination.
- (1) When a registrant who holds a current or delinquent registration takes the examination and does not pass during his or her one-year renewal cycle, the registrant shall complete a 12-hour course on California law and ethics as specified in section 4992.09(e) of the Code, in order to be eligible to take the examination during the next renewal cycle.
- (b) The applicant currently has an approved application for licensure.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4990.20(a), Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4992.05, 4992.07, 4992.09, 4992.1 and 4996.28, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1877.3. TIME FRAMES - LAW & ETHICS EXAMINATION.**

- (a) An applicant for licensure shall take the California law and ethics examination during the following time frames in accordance with section 1806:
- (1) Within one year from the date the applicant was notified of initial eligibility to take the examination.
  - (2) Within one year from the date the applicant was notified of failing the examination.
- (b) Registrants shall take the California law and ethics examination during the following time frames:

- (1) A registrant whose associate registration is issued on or after January 1, 2016 shall take the examination prior to the registration's first expiration date, and shall continue to take the examination a minimum of once during each renewal cycle until passed.
  - (2) A registrant whose associate registration was issued prior to January 1, 2016, shall take the examination a minimum of once during each renewal cycle until passed.
  - (3) Should a registrant fail to take the examination as specified in (1) or (2) above, he or she will not be permitted to renew his or her registration until the examination has been taken, except during the grace period specified in section 4992.09(c) of the Code.
  - (4) Registrants who are eligible to retake the California law and ethics examination may do so after the required waiting period upon submission of the following:
    - (A) A request to take the examination including the required fee.
    - (B) If required, proof of completion of the 12-hour California law and ethics course as described in section 4992.09(e) of the Code.
- (c) A registrant who has an approved application for licensure shall be subject to subdivisions (a) and (b).

Note: Authority cited: Section 4990.20(a), Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4992.05, 4992.07, 4992.09, 4992.1, 4996.4 and 4996.28, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1880. UNLICENSED ASSISTANTS.**

An unlicensed person employed under Section 4996.15 of the Code to perform limited social work functions shall inform each patient or client prior to performing any such functions that he or she is not a licensed clinical social worker and is under the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, licensed professional clinical counselor, or a licensed psychologist or a licensed psychiatrist, whichever is applicable.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 4996.15, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1881. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.**

As used in Section 4992.3 of the code, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Misrepresents the type or status of license held by such person or otherwise misrepresents or permits the misrepresentation of his or her professional qualifications or affiliations.
- (b) Impersonates a licensee or who allows another person to use his or her license.
- (c) Aids or abets an unlicensed person to engage in conduct requiring a license.
- (d) Intentionally or recklessly causes physical or emotional harm to a client.

- (e) Commits any dishonest, corrupt, or fraudulent act which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a licensee.
- (f) Has sexual relations with a client, or who solicits sexual relations with a client, or who commits an act of sexual abuse, or who commits an act of sexual misconduct, or who commits an act punishable as a sexual related crime if such act or solicitation is substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.
- (g) Performs or holds himself or herself out as able to perform professional services beyond his or her field or fields of competence as established by his or her education, training and/or experience.
- (h) Permits a person under his or her supervision or control to perform or permits such person to hold himself or herself out as competent to perform professional services beyond the level of education, training and/or experience of that person.
- (i) Fails to maintain the confidentiality, except as otherwise required or permitted by law, of all information that has been received from a client during the course of treatment and all information about the client which is obtained from tests or other such means.
- (j) Prior to the commencement of treatment, fails to disclose to the client, or prospective client, the fee to be charged for the professional services, or the basis upon which such fee will be computed.
- (k) Advertises in a manner which is false or misleading.
- (l) Reproduces or describes in public or in publications subject to general public distribution, any psychological test or other assessment device, the value of which depends in whole or in part on the naivete of the subject, in ways that might invalidate such test or device. The licensee shall limit access to such test or device to persons with professional interest who are expected to safeguard their use.
- (m) Commits an act or omission which falls sufficiently below that standard of conduct of the profession as to constitute an act of gross negligence.
- (n) Pays, accepts or solicits any consideration, compensation or remuneration for the referral of professional clients. All consideration, compensation or remuneration must be in relation to professional counseling services actually provided by the licensee. Nothing in this section shall prevent collaboration among two or more licensees in a case or cases. However, no fee shall be charged for such collaboration except when disclosure of such fee is made in compliance with subparagraph (j) above.
- (o) Fails to comply with the child abuse reporting requirements of Penal Code Section 11166.
- (p) Fails to comply with the elder and dependent adult abuse reporting requirements of Welfare and Institution Code Section 15630.
- (q) Failure to provide to the board, as authorized by law, copies of records within 15 days of receipt of the request or within the time specified in the request, whichever is later, unless the licensee or registrant is unable to provide the records within this time period for good cause. Good cause includes, but is not limited to, physical inability to access the records in the time allowed due to illness or travel, or inability to obtain the necessary patient release authorization, if applicable. This

subsection shall not apply to a licensee or registrant who does not have access to, and control over, medical records.

- (r) Failure to cooperate and participate in any board investigation pending against the licensee or registrant. This subsection shall not be construed to deprive a licensee, registrant, or a consumer of any rights or privilege guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, or any other constitutional or statutory rights or privileges. This subsection shall not be construed to require a licensee or registrant to cooperate with a request that would require the licensee, registrant, or a consumer to waive any constitutional or statutory rights or privilege or to comply with a request for information or other matters within an unreasonable period of time in light of the time constraints of the licensee's or registrant's practice. Any exercise by a licensee or registrant of any constitutional or statutory rights or privilege shall not be used against the licensee or registrant in a regulatory or disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or registrant.
- (s) Failure to report to the board within 30 days any of the following:
  - (1) A conviction of any felony or misdemeanor, which is not subject to Health & Safety Code sections 11357 (b), (c), (d), (e), or 11360 (b). A conviction includes any verdict of guilty, or plea of guilty or no contest.
  - (2) Any disciplinary action taken by another licensing entity or authority of this state or of another state or an agency of the federal government or the United States military.
- (t) Failure to provide, within 30 days of a request, documentation to the Board regarding the arrest of the licensee or registrant, except for records of convictions or arrests protected under Penal Code section 1000.4, or Health and Safety Code sections 11361.5 and 11361.7.
- (u) Failure or refusal to comply with a court order, issued in the enforcement of a subpoena, mandating the release of records to the board.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4990.20, 4992.3, 4992.33 and 4996.11, Business and Professions Code; Sections 1000.4 and 11166, Penal Code; Sections 11357, 11360, 11361.5 and 11361.7, Health and Safety Code; and Section 15630, Welfare and Institutions Code.

## **ARTICLE 7. CITATIONS AND FINES**

### **§ 1886. AUTHORITY TO ISSUE CITATIONS AND FINES.**

The executive officer of the board is authorized to determine when and against whom a citation will be issued and to issue citations containing orders of abatement and fines for violations by a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT), licensed educational psychologist (LEP), licensed clinical social worker (LCSW), licensed professional clinical counselor (LPCC), associate marriage and family therapist, associate clinical social worker, or associate professional clinical counselor of the statutes and regulations enforced by the Board of Behavioral Sciences.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 125.9, 148, 149, 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 125.9, 148 and 149, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1886.10. CITATIONS FOR UNLICENSED PRACTICE.**

The executive officer of the board is authorized to determine when and against whom a citation will be issued and to issue citations containing orders of abatement and fines against persons, as defined in Section 302(d) of the Code, who are performing or who have performed services for which a license is required under the statutes and regulations enforced by the Board of Behavioral Sciences. Each citation issued for unlicensed activity shall contain an order of abatement. Where appropriate, the executive officer shall levy a fine for such unlicensed activity in accordance with section 1886.40 of these regulations. The provisions of sections 1886 through 1886.80 shall apply to the issuance of citations for unlicensed activity under this section. The sanction authorized under this section shall be separate from and in addition to any other civil or criminal remedies.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 125.9, 148, 149, 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 125.9, 148, 149 and 302(d), Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1886.20. CITATION FORMAT.**

A citation shall be issued whenever any fine is levied or any order of abatement is issued. Each citation shall be in writing and shall describe with particularity the nature and facts of each violation, including a reference to the statute(s) or regulation(s) alleged to have been violated. The citation shall inform the cited person of the right to contest the citation. The citation shall be served upon the cited person personally or by certified mail in accordance with the provisions of Section 11505(c) of the Government Code.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 125.9, 148, 149, 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 125.9, 148 and 149, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1886.30. CITATION FACTORS.**

In assessing an administrative fine or issuing an order of abatement, the executive officer of the board shall give due consideration to the following factors:

- (a) The gravity of the violation.
- (b) The good or bad faith exhibited by the cited person.
- (c) The history of previous violations of the same or similar nature.
- (d) Evidence that the violation was or was not willful.
- (e) The extent to which the cited person has cooperated with the board's investigation.
- (f) The extent to which the cited person has mitigated or attempted to mitigate any damage or injury caused by the violation.
- (g) Any other factors as justice may require.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 125.9, 148, 149, 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 125.9, 148 and 149, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1886.40. AMOUNT OF FINES.**

- (a) For purposes of this section, a “citable offense” is defined as any violation of the statutes and regulations enforced by the Board of Behavioral Sciences, including Chapters 13, 13.5, 14, and 16 of Division Two of the Business and Professions Code and Title 16, Division 18, California Code of Regulations.
- (b) The executive officer of the board may assess fines for citable offenses which shall not exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for each investigation except as otherwise provided in this section. The executive officer shall not impose any duplicate fines for the same violation.
- (c) The executive officer of the board may assess fines for citable offenses which shall not exceed five thousand (\$5,000) for each investigation if the violation or count includes one or more of the following circumstances:
- (1) The cited person has a history of two or more prior citations for similar violations, except for citations withdrawn or dismissed after appeal.
  - (2) The citation involves multiple violations that demonstrate a willful disregard of the statutes or regulations.
  - (3) The citation is for a violation or violations involving a minor, elder or dependent adult, or a person with a physical or mental disability as defined in Section 12926 of the Government Code.
  - (4) The citation involves unlicensed practice.
  - (5) The citation involves an unlawful or unauthorized breach of confidentiality.
  - (6) The citation is for failure to submit fingerprints to the Department of Justice as required by the Board.
- (d) The executive officer of the board may assess fines which shall not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each violation or count if the violation or count involves fraudulent billing submitted to an insurance company, the Medi-Cal program, or Medicare.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 125.9, 148, 149, 4980.60, and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 123, 125, 125.9, 136, 141, 148, 149, 480, 651, 654.2, 703, 728, 4980, 4980.02, 4980.30, 4980.43, 4980.44, 4980.45, 4980.46, 4980.48, 4982, 4982.25, 4984, 4987.7, 4987.8, 4988, 4988.1, 4989.10, 4989.12, 4989.14, 4989.20, 4989.22, 4989.24, 4989.26, 4989.28, 4989.34, 4992.3, 4992.36, 4996, 4996.5, 4996.7, 4996.8, 4996.9, 4996.16, 4996.18, 4996.19, 4996.22, 4996.23, 4998.2, 4998.3, 4998.4, 4999.20, 4999.24, 4999.30, 4999.32, 4999.33, 4999.42, 4999.44, 4999.45, 4999.46, 4999.54, 4999.58, 4999.60, and 4999.76, Business and Professions Code; and Section 15630, Welfare and Institutions Code.

## **§ 1886.50. EXCEPTIONS.**

A citation shall not be issued in any of the following circumstances:

- (a) The violation is of such a nature and/or severity that revocation of the license or restrictions on the cited person are necessary in order to ensure consumer protection.
- (b) The cited person failed to comply with any requirement of any previous citation, including any order of abatement or fine.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 125.9, 148, 149, 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 125.9, 148 and 149, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1886.60. COMPLIANCE WITH CITATION/ORDER OF ABATEMENT.**

- (a) If a cited person who has been issued an order of abatement is unable to complete the correction within the time set forth in the citation because of conditions beyond his or her control after the exercise of reasonable diligence, the cited person may request an extension of time in which to complete the correction from the executive officer of the board. Such a request shall be in writing and shall be made within the time set forth for abatement.
- (b) If a citation is not contested, or if the citation is contested and the cited person does not prevail, failure to abate the violation or to pay the assessed fine within the time allowed shall constitute a violation and a failure to comply with the citation or order of abatement.
- (c) Failure to timely comply with an order of abatement or pay an assessed fine may result in disciplinary action being taken by the board or other appropriate judicial action being taken against the cited person.
- (d) If a fine is not paid after a citation has become final, the fine shall be added to the cited person's license or registration renewal fee. A license or registration shall not be renewed without payment of the renewal fee and fine.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 125.9, 148, 149, 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 125.9, 148 and 149, Business and Professions Code; and Section 11505(c), Government Code.

## **§ 1886.70. CONTESTED CITATIONS AND REQUEST FOR A HEARING OR INFORMAL CITATION CONFERENCE.**

- (a) If a cited person wishes to contest the citation, assessment of the administrative fine, or order of abatement, the cited person shall, within thirty (30) days after service of the citation, file in writing a request for an administrative hearing to the executive officer regarding the acts charged in the citation, as provided for in subdivision (b)(4) of Section 125.9 of the Code.
- (b) In addition to or instead of requesting an administrative hearing, as provided for in subdivision (b)(4) of Section 125.9 of the Code, the cited person may, within 30 days after service of the citation, contest the citation by submitting a written request for an informal citation conference to the executive officer or his/her designee.
- (c) Upon receipt of a written request for an informal citation conference, the executive officer or his/her designee shall, within 60 days, hold an informal citation conference with the cited person. The cited person may be accompanied and represented at the informal conference by an attorney or other authorized representative.
- (d) If an informal citation conference is held, the request for an administrative hearing shall be deemed to be withdrawn and the executive officer or his/her designee may affirm, modify or dismiss the citation, including any fine levied or order of abatement issued, at the conclusion of the informal citation conference. If affirmed or modified, the citation originally issued shall be considered withdrawn and an affirmed or modified citation, including reasons for the decision, shall be issued. The affirmed or modified citation shall be mailed to the cited person and his/her counsel, if any, within 10 days from the date of the informal citation conference.

(e) If a cited person wishes to contest an affirmed or modified citation, the cited person shall, within 30 days after service of the citation, contest the affirmed or modified citation by submitting a written request for an administrative hearing, as provided for in subdivision (b)(4) of Section 125.9 of the Code, to the executive officer or his or her designee. An informal citation conference shall not be held on affirmed or modified citations.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 125.9, 148, 149, 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 125.9, 148 and 149, Business and Professions Code.

#### **§ 1886.80. DISCONNECTION OF TELEPHONE SERVICE.**

Nothing in this section shall preclude the board from using the provisions of Section 149 of the Code in addition to any citation issued to an unlicensed person.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 125.9, 148, 149, 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 125.9, 148 and 149, Business and Professions Code.

### **ARTICLE 8. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS, LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS, LICENSED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS, AND LICENSED PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELORS**

#### **§ 1887. DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this article:

- (a) A continuing education "course" means a form of systematic learning at least one hour in length. This may include, but is not limited to, academic studies, extension studies, lectures, conferences, seminars, workshops, written, audio, or visual instruction or activities, including interactive video instruction and activities electronically transmitted from another location, that have been verified and approved by the continuing education provider.
- (b) A "provider" means an organization, institution, association, university, or other person or entity assuming full responsibility for the course offered.
- (c) A "renewal period" means the two-year period that spans from the first day after the license's prior expiration date to the current license expiration date.
- (d) An "approval agency" means an organization recognized by the board that evaluates and approves providers of continuing education, ensures courses offered by its providers meet the board's continuing education requirements, and monitors the quality of each approved continuing education course.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22 and 4999.76, Business and Professions Code.



## **§ 1887.1. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS AND LICENSE RENEWAL.**

- (a) Except as provided in section 1887.2, a licensee shall certify in writing, when applying for license renewal, by signing a statement under penalty of perjury that during the preceding renewal period the licensee has completed thirty-six (36) hours of continuing education credit as set forth in sections 4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22, and 4999.76 of the Code.
- (b) A licensee who falsifies or makes a material misrepresentation of fact when applying for license renewal or who cannot verify completion of continuing education by producing a record of course completion, upon request by the board, is subject to disciplinary action under sections 4982(b), 4989.54 (b), 4992.3(b), and 4999.90(b) of the Code.
- (c) Individuals who hold dual licensure with the board may apply the same continuing education course to both licenses if the subject matter of the course relates to each license's scope of practice.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.54, 4982, 4989.34, 4989.54, 4992.3, 4996.22, 4999.76 and 4999.90, Business and Professions Code.

## **§ 1887.2. TEMPORARY WAIVERS OF AND EXEMPTIONS FROM CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.**

- (a) A licensee is exempt from the continuing education requirement if their license is inactive pursuant to sections 4984.8, 4989.44, 4997, or 4999.112 of the Code, or retired pursuant to section 4984.41, 4989.45, 4997.1, or 4999.113 of the Code.
- (b) A licensee may submit a written request for a temporary waiver from the continuing education requirement for the licensee's current renewal period, for any of the reasons listed in subsection (c) below. The request shall be on a form entitled "Request for Temporary Continuing Education (CE) Waiver – Licensee Application," Form No. 37A-635 (Revised 08/2022), hereby incorporated by reference. The request must be submitted to the board in writing at least sixty (60) days prior to the license expiration date.
- (c) The board shall grant a temporary waiver of continuing education if the licensee can provide evidence, as specified in subsections (d) and (e) below, that one of the following occurred:
  - (1) For at least one year during the licensee's current license renewal period, the licensee had a physical or mental disability or medical condition that did both of the following:
    - (A) Substantially limited one or more life activities as verified by the documentation required in subsection (d), and
    - (B) Caused the licensee's earned income, whether earned as an employee, independent contractor, or while self-employed, to drop below the substantial gainful activity amount for non-blind individuals during that year, as set forth by the Social Security Administration per section 404.1574(b)(2) of the Social Security Act.
  - (2) For at least one year during the licensee's current license renewal period, the licensee was the

primary caregiver for an immediate family member, including a domestic partner, who had a total physical or mental disability. A “total physical or mental disability” means that the family member is both unable to work and unable to perform activities of daily living without substantial assistance, such as eating, bathing, dressing, housework, shopping, or meal preparation.

- (d) The licensee’s or immediate family member’s physical or mental disability or medical condition must be verified by a licensed physician or psychologist with expertise in the area of the physical or mental disability or medical condition. Verification of the physical or mental disability or medical condition must be submitted by the licensee on a form entitled “Request for Temporary Continuing Education (CE) Waiver – Verification of Disability or Medical Condition,” Form No. 37A-636 (Revised 08/2022), hereby incorporated by reference. Form No. 37A-636 must include an attached copy of the family member’s written authorization for release of their protected health information for the limited purpose of the licensee’s request for a temporary waiver of continuing education when the licensee is the family member’s primary caregiver.
- (e) A licensee shall provide proof of all income earned from work activity during the one-year period of the licensee’s disability. If the licensee did not earn any work income, the licensee shall provide proof of receiving disability payments, or provide other evidence demonstrating that the licensee did not earn any income from work activity.
- (f) The board will notify the licensee whether or not the waiver is granted within thirty (30) days after the request is received. If the request for waiver is denied, the licensee is responsible for completing the full amount of continuing education required for license renewal, if renewing in an active status. If the request for waiver is approved, it shall be valid for the current renewal period only.
- (g) Licensees granted a temporary waiver shall not be exempt from completing the six (6) hours of continuing education in law and ethics required by section 1887.3.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.54, 4984.8, 4984.41, 4989.34, 4989.44, 4989.45, 4996.22, 4997, 4997.1, 4999.76, 4999.112 and 4999.113, Business and Professions Code; and Sections 12926 and 12944, Government Code.

### **§ 1887.3. CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND CREDIT FOR SPECIFIED ACTIVITIES.**

- (a) During each renewal period, a licensee shall accrue at least thirty-six (36) hours of continuing education coursework as defined in section 1887.4.0.
- (b) A marriage and family therapist, clinical social worker, and professional clinical counselor licensee shall take a continuing education course in the characteristics and methods of assessment and treatment of people living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) during their first renewal period after the effective date of these regulations. The course shall be at least seven (7) hours in length and its content shall comply with the requirements of section 32 of the Code. This is a one-time requirement for all licensees. Equivalent HIV and AIDS courses taken prior to the effective date of these regulations, or proof of equivalent teaching or practice experience, may be submitted to the board for approval in lieu of this requirement; however, this coursework or experience shall not be credited as hours towards

the continuing education requirements.

- (c) Any person renewing a license shall complete a minimum of six (6) hours of continuing education in the subject of law and ethics for each renewal period. The six (6) hours shall be considered part of the thirty-six (36) hour continuing education requirement. A course on law and ethics completed by a supervisor in order to fulfill the supervisor training requirement pursuant to Article 3, 4 or 6 shall not be accepted toward meeting the minimum six (6) hours of law and ethics training but shall count toward the 36-hour continuing education requirement.
- (d) A licensee may not claim the same course more than once per license type during a single renewal period for hours of continuing education credit.
- (e) If a licensee teaches a course provided by a board-accepted provider, the licensee may claim credit for the course, receiving the same amount of hours of continuing education credit as a licensee who attended the course. The licensee may only claim the course one time during a single renewal period. A maximum of 18 hours of continuing education may be met by teaching courses during a single renewal period.
- (f) A licensee who takes a course as a condition of probation resulting from disciplinary action by the board may not apply the course as credit towards the continuing education requirement.
- (g) A licensee who attends a Board of Behavioral Sciences enforcement case review training shall be credited with up to six (6) hours of continuing education in the renewal cycle during which the case review training was attended. The continuing education hours earned by attending a board enforcement case review training may only be used to satisfy the law and ethics portion of the continuing education requirement.
- (h) A licensee who acts as a Board of Behavioral Sciences subject matter expert (SME) for an enforcement case review shall be credited with six (6) hours of continuing education in the renewal cycle during which the enforcement case review was performed. The continuing education hours earned by acting as a board enforcement case SME may only be used to satisfy the law and ethics portion of the continuing education requirement.
- (i) A licensee who participates in a Board of Behavioral Sciences examination development workshop shall be credited with six (6) hours of continuing education in the renewal cycle during which the examination development workshop was attended. The continuing education hours earned by participating in a board examination development workshop may only be used to satisfy the law and ethics portion of the continuing education requirement.
- (j) A licensee who completes a Board of Behavioral Sciences occupational analysis survey in full shall be credited with six (6) hours of continuing education for the renewal cycle during which the survey was completed.
- (k) A licensee who participates in a mental health professional organization's law and ethics review committee shall be credited with up to six (6) hours of continuing education in the renewal cycle during which the participation occurred. The continuing education earned by participating in a professional organization's law and ethics review committee may only be used to satisfy the law and ethics portion of the continuing education requirement.

- (l) Documentation of completion for the activities specified in subsections (g) through (j) shall consist of a letter or certificate issued by the board. For subsection (k), documentation of completion shall consist of a letter or certificate from the professional organization. Licensees shall maintain records of completed activities for a minimum of two years and shall make these records available to the board for auditing purposes upon request.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 29, 32, 4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22 and 4999.76, Business and Professions Code.

#### **§ 1887.4.0. CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE CONTENT.**

- (a) Courses shall meet the requirements set forth in sections 4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22, and 4999.76 of the Code.
- (b) The content of the course shall:
- (1) Be relevant to the profession's scope of practice;
  - (2) Be supported by evidence-based practice;
  - (3) Be consistent with the profession's current standards of care;
  - (4) Be consistent with the profession's ethical, legal, statutory, and regulatory standards; and,
  - (5) Do one or both of the following:
    - (A) Demonstrate credibility through support from mental health practices, current educational standards, and current research; or
    - (B) Be directly related to the profession's ethical, legal, statutory or regulatory standards.
- (c) Each continuing education course shall have both of the following:
- (1) A syllabus that contains a general outline of the main points for each topic, one or more educational goals, and specific learning objectives that are measurable and serve as a basis for an evaluation of the effectiveness of the course; and,
  - (2) A mechanism that allows each participant to evaluate the continuing education course.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22 and 4999.76, Business and Professions Code.

#### **§ 1887.4.1. BOARD-RECOGNIZED APPROVAL AGENCIES.**

- (a) The following are board-recognized approval agencies:
- (1) American Psychological Association (APA)
  - (2) Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)
  - (3) California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT)
  - (4) California Psychological Association (CPA)
  - (5) National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)
  - (6) National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
  - (7) National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC)

- (b) The board may recognize another entity as an approval agency if the entity can demonstrate in writing the following:
  - (1) The entity is an organization that represents a licensed health care profession.
  - (2) The entity has a documented Code of Ethics.
  - (3) The entity has documented procedures for maintaining a continuing education approval program, including, but not limited to:
    - (A) Maintaining and managing records and data related to continuing education programs.
    - (B) Monitoring and approving continuing education providers and courses.
  - (4) The entity has policies to avoid a conflict of interest between any provider and approval functions.
  - (5) The entity has the capacity to evaluate courses to ensure compliance with section 1887.4.0.
- (c) Upon written confirmation from the board that the entity has been recognized, the entity may advertise that it has been recognized by the board.
- (d) Failure of the entity to substantially comply with the provisions as set forth in section 1887.4.2 shall constitute cause for revocation of recognition by the board.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22 and 4999.76, Business and Professions Code.

#### **§ 1887.4.2. APPROVAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.**

Each board-recognized approval agency shall:

- (a) Evaluate each continuing education provider seeking approval in accordance with the requirements of section 1887.4.3.
- (b) Maintain a list of the names and addresses of persons responsible for the provider's continuing education program. The approval agency shall require that any change in the responsible person shall be reported to the approval agency within 15 days of the effective date of the change.
- (c) Provide the board with the name, address and responsible party of each provider upon request.
- (d) Respond to complaints from the board, providers, or licensees concerning activities of any of its approved providers or their courses.
- (e) Conduct periodic reviews of courses offered by providers approved by the agency to determine compliance with the agency's requirements and requirements of the board and, upon request, report the findings of such reviews to the board.
- (f) Ensure that the continuing education coursework offered by its providers meets the continuing education requirements of the board.
- (g) Establish a procedure for reconsideration of its decision that a provider or a provider's course does not meet statutory or regulatory criteria.

### **§ 1887.4.3. ACCEPTABLE CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.**

- (a) A continuing education provider shall be one of the following:
- (1) An accredited or approved postsecondary institution that meets the requirements set forth in sections 4980.54(f)(1), 4989.34, 4996.22(d)(1), or 4999.76(d) of the Code;
  - (2) A board-recognized approval agency or a continuing education provider that has been approved or registered by a board-recognized approval agency for continuing education; or
  - (3) A professional association that is recognized by the board as a continuing education provider. The following professional associations are recognized by the board as continuing education providers:
    - (A) American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT)
    - (B) American Counseling Association (ACA)
    - (C) California Association for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (CALPCC)
    - (D) California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT)
    - (E) California Association of School Psychologists (CASP)
    - (F) California Counseling Association (CCA)
    - (G) California Psychological Association (CPA)
    - (H) California Society for Clinical Social Work (CSCSW)
    - (I) National Association of Social Workers-California Chapter (NASW-CA)
- (b) Each provider shall ensure that each continuing education course complies with the requirements of section 1887.4.0.
- (c) Each provider shall furnish each licensee a record of course completion as defined in section 1887.11.0.
- (d) Each provider shall maintain records of completion of their continuing education courses for four (4) years as defined in section 1887.12(b). Credit hours awarded shall be in compliance with section 1887.5.
- (e) Each provider shall have a methodology for determining the credit hours awarded for the completion of continuing education courses.
- (f) No provider shall discriminate against any individual or group with respect to any service, program or activity on the basis of gender, race, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, or age, or other prohibited basis.
- (g) No provider shall promote or advocate for a single modality of treatment that is discriminatory or likely to harm clients based upon current accepted standards of practice.
- (h) Each provider must be able to demonstrate that their programs train licensees to treat any client in an ethical and clinically sound manner consistent with the code of ethics of their accrediting agency, approval agency, or professional association.

- (i) Each provider must have written policies and procedures for grievance resolution and must respond to grievances from course attendees, regulatory boards, or their governing accreditation agency in a timely manner.
- (j) When a provider works with another party on the development, distribution, and/or presentation of a continuing education course (joint sponsorship), there shall be procedures to identify and document the functions of each participating party.
- (k) Each provider is responsible for meeting all applicable local, state and federal standards, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 (2008).
- (l) Each provider shall submit all documents related to an audit of course material to the approval agency or the board upon written request.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22 and 4999.76, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1887.5. HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT.**

- (a) One hour of instruction is equal to one hour of continuing education credit.
- (b) One academic quarter unit is equal to ten (10) hours of continuing education credit.
- (c) One academic semester unit is equal to fifteen (15) hours of continuing education credit.

Note: Authority Cited: Sections 4980.60, 4989.34, 4990.20, and 4999.76, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22, and 4999.76, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1887.11.0. RECORDS OF COURSE COMPLETION.**

Upon completion of a course, a provider shall issue a record of course completion to a licensee (e.g., letter verifying attendance, certificate, grade slip, transcript) containing the following information:

- (a) Name of licensee and license number or other identification number;
- (b) Course title;
- (c) Provider name and address;
- (d) Board-recognized approval agency name, or a statement that the provider is an entity recognized by the board to provide continuing education pursuant to section 1887.4.3;
- (e) Date of course;
- (f) Number of hours of continuing education credit; and
- (g) Signature of course instructor, provider, or provider designee.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22 and 4999.76, Business and Professions Code.

### **§ 1887.12. LICENSEE AND PROVIDER COURSE RECORDS.**

- (a) A licensee shall maintain records of course completion for a period of at least two (2) years from

the date of license renewal for which the course was completed.

- (b) A provider shall maintain records related to continuing education courses for a period of at least four (4) years. Records shall include:
- (1) syllabi for all courses;
  - (2) the time and location of all courses;
  - (3) course advertisements;
  - (4) course instructors' vitae or resumes;
  - (5) attendance rosters with the names and license numbers of licensees who attended the courses;
  - (6) sign-in sheets; and
  - (7) records of course completion issued to licensees who attended the courses.
- (c) The board may audit the course records of a provider to ensure compliance with the board's continuing education requirements.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4980.60, 4989.34, 4990.20 and 4999.76, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22 and 4999.76, Business and Professions Code.



## ARTICLE 9. DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES

### § 1888. UNIFORM STANDARDS RELATED TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES

- (a) In reaching a decision on a disciplinary action under the Administrative Procedure Act (Government Code Section 11400 et seq.), the Board of Behavioral Sciences shall consider the “Uniform Standards Related to Substance Abuse and Disciplinary Guidelines” [Rev. December 2020] which are hereby incorporated by reference. The Disciplinary Guidelines apply to all disciplinary matters; the Uniform Standards Related to Substance Abuse apply to cases of substance abuse. Deviation from the Disciplinary Guidelines, including the standard terms of probation, is appropriate where the Board in its sole discretion determines that the facts of the particular case warrant such a deviation – for example: the presence of mitigating or aggravating factors; the age of the case; evidentiary problems.
- (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), if the conduct found to be a violation involves drugs and/or alcohol, the violation is a substance abuse violation for purposes of Section 315 of the Code. If the licensee or registrant does not rebut that the violation is a substance abuse violation, then the Uniform Standards Related to Substance Abuse shall apply without deviation.
- (c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Board from imposing additional terms or conditions of probation in any order that the Board determines would provide greater public protection.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 315, 315.2, 315.4, 4980.60 and 4990.20, Business and Professions Code; and Section 11400.20, Government Code. Reference: Sections 315, 315.2, 315.4, 480, 4982, 4989.54, 4992.3, and 4999.90, Business and Professions Code; and Sections 11400.20 and 11425.50(e), Government Code.

### § 1888.1. REQUIRED ACTIONS AGAINST REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS

- (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, if an individual is required to register as a sex offender pursuant to Section 290 of the Penal Code, or the equivalent in another state or territory, or military or federal law, the board shall:
  - (1) Deny an application by the individual for licensure and registration, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, if the crime meets the conditions for denial specified in Section 480 of the Business and Professions Code.
  - (2) Revoke the license or registration of the individual, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and shall not stay the revocation nor place the license or registration on probation.
  - (3) Deny any petition to reinstate or reissue the individual’s license or registration.
- (b) This section shall not apply to any of the following:

- (1) An individual who has been relieved under Section 290.5 of the Penal Code of his or her duty to register as a sex offender, or whose duty to register has otherwise been formally terminated under California law or the law of the jurisdiction that required registration.
- (2) An individual who is required to register as a sex offender pursuant to Section 290 of the Penal Code solely because of a misdemeanor conviction under Section 314 of the Penal Code, provided, however, that nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit the board from exercising its discretion to deny or discipline a license or registration under any other provision of state law based upon the licensee's or registrant's conviction under Section 314 of the Penal Code.
- (3) Any administrative proceeding that is fully adjudicated prior to the effective date of this regulation. A petition for reinstatement of a revoked or surrendered license or registration shall be considered a new proceeding for purposes of this paragraph, and the prohibition in subsection (a) against reinstating a license or registration shall govern.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4990.20, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 480, 4980.40, 4989.24, 4990.30, 4996.2, 4999.42, and 4999.51, Business and Professions Code.

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## MISCELLANEOUS CALIFORNIA CODE SECTIONS

The following sections of law are NOT provided in this handbook, but may also apply: Business and Professions Code Sections 7.5, 23.7, 23.8, 29.5, 30, 31, 114, 119, 121, 121.5, 123, 123.5, 125, 125.3, 125.5, 125.6, 125.7, 125.8, 134, 135.5, 140, 141, 149, 166, 475, 476, 477, 478, 480, 481, 482, 484, 485, 486, 487, 490, 490.5, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 498, 499, 650, 650.4, 651, 652, 654.3, 683, 685, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 726, 728, 729, 810, 820, 821, 822, 823, 17500, 17500.1, 17500.5, 17535, 17535.5, and 17536. Code sections may be found at the California Legislative Information [website](#).

### BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE

#### § 25. TRAINING IN HUMAN SEXUALITY

Any person applying for a license, registration, or the first renewal of a license, after the effective date of this section, as a licensed marriage and family therapist, a licensed clinical social worker, a licensed psychologist, or a licensed professional clinical counselor shall, in addition to any other requirements, show by evidence satisfactory to the agency regulating the business or profession, that they have completed training in human sexuality as a condition of licensure. The training shall be creditable toward continuing education requirements as deemed appropriate by the agency regulating the business or profession, and the course shall not exceed more than 50 contact hours.

The Board of Psychology shall exempt from the requirements of this section any persons whose field of practice is such that they are not likely to have use for this training.

“Human sexuality” as used in this section means the study of a human being as a sexual being and how a human being functions with respect thereto.

The content and length of the training shall be determined by the administrative agency regulating the business or profession and the agency shall proceed immediately upon the effective date of this section to determine what training, and the quality of staff to provide the training, is available and shall report its determination to the Legislature on or before July 1, 1977.

If a licensing board or agency proposes to establish a training program in human sexuality, the board or agency shall first consult with other licensing boards or agencies that have established or propose to establish a training program in human sexuality to ensure that the programs are compatible in scope and content.

#### § 27. PUBLIC INFORMATION

(a) Each entity specified in subdivisions (c), (d), and (e) shall provide on the internet information regarding the status of every license issued by that entity in accordance with the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1 of the Government Code) and the Information Practices Act of 1977 (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 1798) of Title 1.8 of Part 4 of Division 3 of the Civil Code). The public information to be provided on the internet shall include information on suspensions and revocations of licenses issued by the entity and other

related enforcement action, including accusations filed pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code) taken by the entity relative to persons, businesses, or facilities subject to licensure or regulation by the entity. The information may not include personal information, including home telephone number, date of birth, or social security number. Each entity shall disclose a licensee's address of record. However, each entity shall allow a licensee to provide a post office box number or other alternate address, instead of the licensee's home address, as the address of record. This section shall not preclude an entity from also requiring a licensee, who has provided a post office box number or other alternative mailing address as the licensee's address of record, to provide a physical business address or residence address only for the entity's internal administrative use and not for disclosure as the licensee's address of record or disclosure on the internet.

- (b) In providing information on the internet, each entity specified in subdivisions (c) and (d) shall comply with the Department of Consumer Affairs' guidelines for access to public records.
- (c) Each of the following entities within the Department of Consumer Affairs shall comply with the requirements of this section:
  - (1) The Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists shall disclose information on its registrants and licensees.
  - (2) The Bureau of Automotive Repair shall disclose information on its licensees, including automotive repair dealers, smog check stations, smog check inspectors and repair technicians, and vehicle safety systems inspection stations and technicians.
  - (3) The Bureau of Household Goods and Services shall disclose information on its licensees, registrants, and permitholders.
  - (4) The Cemetery and Funeral Bureau shall disclose information on its licensees, including cemetery brokers, cemetery salespersons, cemetery managers, crematory managers, cemetery authorities, crematories, cremated remains disposers, embalmers, funeral establishments, and funeral directors.
  - (5) The Professional Fiduciaries Bureau shall disclose information on its licensees.
  - (6) The Contractors State License Board shall disclose information on its licensees and registrants in accordance with Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3. In addition to information related to licenses as specified in subdivision (a), the board shall also disclose information provided to the board by the Labor Commissioner pursuant to Section 98.9 of the Labor Code.
  - (7) The Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education shall disclose information on private postsecondary institutions under its jurisdiction, including disclosure of notices to comply issued pursuant to Section 94935 of the Education Code.
  - (8) The California Board of Accountancy shall disclose information on its licensees and registrants.
  - (9) The California Architects Board shall disclose information on its licensees, including architects and landscape architects.

- (10) The State Athletic Commission shall disclose information on its licensees and registrants.
- (11) The State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology shall disclose information on its licensees.
- (12) The Acupuncture Board shall disclose information on its licensees.
- (13) The Board of Behavioral Sciences shall disclose information on its licensees and registrants.
- (14) The Dental Board of California shall disclose information on its licensees.
- (15) The California State Board of Optometry shall disclose information on its licensees and registrants.
- (16) The Board of Psychology shall disclose information on its licensees, including psychologists and registered psychological associates.
- (17) The Veterinary Medical Board shall disclose information on its licensees, registrants, and permitholders.

- (d) The State Board of Chiropractic Examiners shall disclose information on its licensees.
- (e) The Structural Pest Control Board shall disclose information on its licensees, including applicators, field representatives, and operators in the areas of fumigation, general pest and wood destroying pests and organisms, and wood roof cleaning and treatment.
- (f) "Internet" for the purposes of this section has the meaning set forth in paragraph (6) of subdivision (f) of Section 17538.

**§ 27.5. CONFIDENTIALITY OF FORMER NAME; ALLOWABLE CIRCUMSTANCES**

- (a) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, if a board within the Department of Consumer Affairs receives government-issued documentation, as described in subdivision (b), from a licensee or registrant demonstrating that the licensee's or registrant's legal name or gender has been changed, the board, upon request by the licensee or registrant, shall update the individual's license or registration by replacing references to the former name or gender on the license or registration, as applicable, with references to the current name or gender.
- (2) (A) If the board operates an online license verification system, upon request by a licensee or registrant whose name or gender was updated pursuant to paragraph (1), the board shall replace references to the licensee's or registrant's former name or gender with the individual's current name or gender, as applicable, on the publicly viewable information displayed on the internet about the licensee or registrant. The licensee's or registrant's former name or gender, as applicable, shall not be published online.
- (B) Notwithstanding any other law, for licensees or registrants subject to subparagraph (A) who were previously subject to an enforcement action referencing the individual's former name or gender, as applicable, the board shall not post enforcement records online, but shall instead post online a statement stating that the individual previously was subject to enforcement action and directing the public to contact the board for more information about the licensee's or registrant's prior enforcement action. The board shall ensure compliance with the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1 of the Government Code) in implementing this section, including, but not limited to,

responding to a request for records within 10 days from receipt of the request, as specified in Section 7922.535 of the Government Code.

- (C) If a public search of the online license verification system is performed using a licensee's or registrant's former name that was replaced pursuant to subparagraph (A), the board shall post an online statement directing the public to contact the board for more information about the licensee or registrant.
- (3) If requested by the licensee or registrant, the board shall reissue the license created by the board and conferred upon the licensee or registrant by the board. A board shall not charge a higher fee for reissuing a document with an updated legal name or gender than the fee it regularly charges for reissuing a document with other updated information.
- (b) (1) The documentation identified in either of the following is required to demonstrate a legal name change of a licensee or registrant:
  - (A) A certified court order issued pursuant to a proceeding authorized by subdivision (b) of Section 1277 of the Code of Civil Procedure and a copy of the certificate issued under the Secretary of State's Safe at Home program authorized by Chapter 3.1 (commencing with Section 6205) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code reflecting the licensee's or registrant's updated name.
  - (B) A certified court order issued pursuant to a proceeding authorized by Section 1277.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure or Article 7 (commencing with Section 103425) of Chapter 11 of Part 1 of Division 102 of the Health and Safety Code reflecting the licensee's or registrant's updated name.
- (2) Any of the following documents are sufficient to demonstrate a gender change of a licensee or registrant:
  - (A) State-issued driver's license or identification card.
  - (B) Birth certificate.
  - (C) Passport.
  - (D) Social security card.
  - (E) Court order indicating a gender change from a court of this state, another state, the District of Columbia, any territory of the United States, or any foreign court.
- (c) Notwithstanding any other law, all records related to a request by a licensee or registrant for a board to update the individual's license or registration pursuant to this section, including, but not limited to, all documentation described in subdivision (b), are confidential and not subject to public inspection or disclosure.

## **§ 28. TRAINING FOR CHILD, ELDER AND DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING; LICENSING PREREQUISITES**

- (a) The Legislature finds that there is a need to ensure that professionals of the healing arts who have demonstrable contact with victims and potential victims of child, elder, and dependent adult abuse, and abusers and potential abusers of children, elders, and dependent adults are provided with

adequate and appropriate training regarding the assessment and reporting of child, elder, and dependent adult abuse that will ameliorate, reduce, and eliminate the trauma of abuse and neglect and ensure the reporting of abuse in a timely manner to prevent additional occurrences.

- (b) The Board of Psychology and the Board of Behavioral Sciences shall establish required training in the area of child abuse assessment and reporting for all persons applying for initial licensure and renewal of a license as a psychologist, clinical social worker, professional clinical counselor, or marriage and family therapist. This training shall be required one time only for all persons applying for initial licensure or for licensure renewal.
- (c) All persons applying for initial licensure or renewal of a license as a psychologist, clinical social worker, professional clinical counselor, or marriage and family therapist shall, in addition to all other requirements for licensure or renewal, have completed coursework or training in child abuse assessment and reporting that meets the requirements of this section, including detailed knowledge of the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 11164) of Chapter 2 of Title 1 of Part 4 of the Penal Code). The training shall meet all of the following requirements:
  - (1) Be obtained from one of the following sources:
    - (A) An accredited or approved educational institution, as defined in Sections 2902, 4980.36, 4980.37, 4996.18, and 4999.12, including extension courses offered by those institutions.
    - (B) A continuing education provider as specified by the responsible board by regulation.
    - (C) A course sponsored or offered by a professional association or a local, county, or state department of health or mental health for continuing education and approved or accepted by the responsible board.
  - (2) Have a minimum of seven contact hours.
  - (3) Include the study of the assessment and method of reporting of sexual assault, neglect, severe neglect, general neglect, willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment, corporal punishment or injury, and abuse in out-of-home care. The training shall also include physical and behavioral indicators of abuse, crisis counseling techniques, community resources, rights and responsibilities of reporting, consequences of failure to report, caring for a child's needs after a report is made, sensitivity to previously abused children and adults, and implications and methods of treatment for children and adults.
  - (4) An applicant shall provide the appropriate board with documentation of completion of the required child abuse training.
- (d) The Board of Psychology and the Board of Behavioral Sciences shall exempt an applicant who applies for an exemption from this section and who shows to the satisfaction of the board that there would be no need for the training in the applicant's practice because of the nature of that practice.
- (e) It is the intent of the Legislature that a person licensed as a psychologist, clinical social worker, professional clinical counselor, or marriage and family therapist have minimal but appropriate training in the areas of child, elder, and dependent adult abuse assessment and reporting. It is not intended that, by solely complying with this section, a practitioner is fully trained in the subject of treatment of child, elder, and dependent adult abuse victims and abusers.

- (f) The Board of Psychology and the Board of Behavioral Sciences are encouraged to include coursework regarding the assessment and reporting of elder and dependent adult abuse in the required training on aging and long-term care issues prior to licensure or license renewal.

## **§ 29. CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY AND EARLY INTERVENTION TRAINING; CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

- (a) The Board of Psychology and the Board of Behavioral Sciences shall consider adoption of continuing education requirements including training in the area of recognizing chemical dependency and early intervention for all persons applying for renewal of a license as a psychologist, clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or professional clinical counselor.
- (b) Prior to the adoption of any regulations imposing continuing education relating to alcohol and other chemical dependency, the boards are urged to consider coursework to include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following topics:
- (1) Historical and contemporary perspectives on alcohol and other drug abuse.
  - (2) Extent of the alcohol and drug abuse epidemic and its effects on the individual, family, and community.
  - (3) Recognizing the symptoms of alcoholism and drug addiction.
  - (4) Making appropriate interpretations, interventions, and referrals.
  - (5) Recognizing and intervening with affected family members.
  - (6) Learning about current programs of recovery, such as 12 step programs, and how therapists can effectively utilize these programs.

## **§ 32. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; AIDS TRAINING IN CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIED LICENSES**

- (a) The Legislature finds that there is a need to ensure that professionals of the healing arts who have or intend to have significant contact with patients who have, or are at risk to be exposed to, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) are provided with training in the form of continuing education regarding the characteristics and methods of assessment and treatment of the condition.
- (b) A board vested with the responsibility of regulating the following licensees shall consider including training regarding the characteristics and method of assessment and treatment of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) in any continuing education or training requirements for those licensees: chiropractors, medical laboratory technicians, dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, physicians and surgeons, podiatrists, registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses, psychologists, physician assistants, respiratory therapists, acupuncturists, marriage and family therapists, licensed educational psychologists, clinical social workers, and professional clinical counselors.



## **§ 114. REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSE: ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY**

- (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, any licensee or registrant of any board, commission, or bureau within the department whose license expired while the licensee or registrant was on active duty as a member of the California National Guard or the United States Armed Forces, may, upon application, reinstate his or her license or registration without examination or penalty, provided that all of the following requirements are satisfied:
- (1) His or her license or registration was valid at the time he or she entered the California National Guard or the United States Armed Forces.
  - (2) The application for reinstatement is made while serving in the California National Guard or the United States Armed Forces, or not later than one year from the date of discharge from active service or return to inactive military status.
  - (3) The application for reinstatement is accompanied by an affidavit showing the date of entrance into the service, whether still in the service, or date of discharge, and the renewal fee for the current renewal period in which the application is filed is paid.
- (b) If application for reinstatement is filed more than one year after discharge or return to inactive status, the applicant, in the discretion of the licensing agency, may be required to pass an examination.
- (c) If application for reinstatement is filed and the licensing agency determines that the applicant has not actively engaged in the practice of his or her profession while on active duty, then the licensing agency may require the applicant to pass an examination.
- (d) Unless otherwise specifically provided in this code, any licensee or registrant who, either part time or full time, practices in this state the profession or vocation for which he or she is licensed or registered shall be required to maintain his or her license in good standing even though he or she is in military service.

For the purposes in this section, time spent by a licensee in receiving treatment or hospitalization in any veterans' facility during which he or she is prevented from practicing his or her profession or vocation shall be excluded from said period of one year.

### **§ 114.3. WAIVER OF RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS: ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY**

- (a) Notwithstanding any other law, every board, as defined in Section 22, within the department shall waive the renewal fees, continuing education requirements, and other renewal requirements as determined by the board, if any are applicable, for a licensee or registrant called to active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces or the California National Guard if all of the following requirements are met:
- (1) The licensee or registrant possessed a current and valid license with the board at the time the licensee or registrant was called to active duty.
  - (2) The renewal requirements are waived only for the period during which the licensee or registrant is on active duty service.

(3) Written documentation that substantiates the licensee or registrant's active duty service is provided to the board.

- (b) For purposes of this section, the phrase "called to active duty" shall have the same meaning as "active duty" as defined in Section 101 of Title 10 of the United States Code and shall additionally include individuals who are on active duty in the California National Guard, whether due to proclamation of a state of insurrection pursuant to Section 143 of the Military and Veterans Code or due to a proclamation of a state extreme emergency or when the California National Guard is otherwise on active duty pursuant to Section 146 of the Military and Veterans Code.
- (c) (1) Except as specified in paragraph (2), the licensee or registrant shall not engage in any activities requiring a license during the period that the waivers provided by this section are in effect.
- (2) If the licensee or registrant will provide services for which the licensee or registrant is licensed while on active duty, the board shall convert the license status to military active and no private practice of any type shall be permitted.
- (d) In order to engage in any activities for which the licensee or registrant is licensed once discharged from active duty, the licensee or registrant shall meet all necessary renewal requirements as determined by the board within six months from the licensee's or registrant's date of discharge from active duty service.
- (e) After a licensee or registrant receives notice of the licensee or registrant's discharge date, the licensee or registrant shall notify the board of their discharge from active duty within 60 days of receiving their notice of discharge.
- (f) A board may adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this section.
- (g) This section shall not apply to any board that has a similar license renewal waiver process statutorily authorized for that board.

#### **§ 114.5. MILITARY SERVICE; INQUIRY ON APPLICATIONS**

- (a) Each board shall inquire in every application for licensure if the individual applying for licensure is serving in, or has previously served in, the military.
- (b) If a board's governing law authorizes veterans to apply military experience and training towards licensure requirements, that board shall post information on the board's Internet Web site about the ability of veteran applicants to apply military experience and training towards licensure requirements.

#### **§ 115.10. RELOCATION DUE TO MILITARY ORDERS: MILITARY MEMBERS AND SPOUSES: REGISTRATION TO PRACTICE**

- (a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:
- (1) "Applicant" means a servicemember or a spouse of a servicemember.
- (2) "Board" means an entity described in Section 101.

- (3) "Professional license" means an individual professional license and does not include a business or entity license.
  - (4) "Registering authority" means a board or the Department of Real Estate, as applicable.
  - (5) "Spouse" means an individual who is married to, or who is in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, a military servicemember.
- (b) Notwithstanding any other law, a registering authority shall register an applicant who satisfies all of the following requirements:
- (1) The applicant holds a professional license in good standing in another state, district, or territory of the United States that confers on the applicant the authority to practice a profession or vocation within a similar scope of practice as that regulated by the registering authority.
  - (2) The applicant relocated to this state because of military orders for military service within this state and the applicant submits to the registering authority a copy of the military orders.
  - (3) The applicant performed at least one activity within the scope and under the authority of their professional license during the two years immediately preceding the relocation to this state.
  - (4) For an applicant who is licensed within the same professional discipline in more than one jurisdiction, both of the following:
    - (A) The applicant maintains each license in good standing.
    - (B) The applicant submits to the registering authority written verification from, or documentation printed from an online licensing system for, each jurisdiction that the applicant's license is in good standing in the jurisdiction.
  - (5) The applicant submits to the registering authority written verification from, or documentation printed from an online licensing system for, the applicant's original licensing jurisdiction that the applicant's license is in good standing in that jurisdiction.
  - (6) For an applicant that is a spouse, the applicant submits evidence to the registering authority that the applicant is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, a servicemember who is subject to military orders described in paragraph (2).
  - (7) The applicant submits to the registering authority their California address of record and an affidavit attesting to both of the following:
    - (A) The applicant meets all of the requirements for registration under this section.
    - (B) The information submitted to the registering authority pursuant to this section is accurate to the best of the applicant's knowledge.
- (c) (1) The registering authority shall register an applicant within 30 days of receiving all applicable documentation described in subdivision (b).
- (2) The registering authority shall not register an applicant who fails to provide all applicable documentation described in subdivision (b) and shall deem the applicant's request for registration incomplete.
- (d) For each person registered pursuant to this section, the registering authority shall post all of the following on the registering authority's internet website:

- (1) The person's name.
  - (2) The person's California address of record.
  - (3) The person's registration status.
  - (4) The state name and license number of each license from each original licensing jurisdiction.
- (e) A person registered pursuant to this section shall be deemed to be a licensee of the registering authority for purposes of the laws administered by that registering authority relating to standards of practice, discipline, and continuing education for the duration of the military orders described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), and the registration shall expire when those military orders expire.
- (f) A registering authority may take appropriate enforcement action against a person registered pursuant to this section, including, but not limited to, revoking or suspending the registration of a person who does not meet the requirements of subdivision (b) or the laws applicable to licensees pursuant to subdivision (e).
- (g) A registering authority shall not collect or require a fee for registration pursuant to this section.
- (h) A registering authority may develop and publish guidance to implement this section.

#### **§ 115.4. EXPEDITED LICENSURE: SERVICE IN THE MILITARY**

- (a) Notwithstanding any other law, on and after July 1, 2016, a board within the department shall expedite, and may assist, the initial licensure process for an applicant who supplies satisfactory evidence to the board that the applicant has served as an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States and was honorably discharged.
- (b) Notwithstanding any other law, on and after July 1, 2024, a board within the department shall expedite, and may assist, the initial licensure process for an applicant who supplies satisfactory evidence to the board that the applicant is an active duty member of a regular component of the Armed Forces of the United States enrolled in the United States Department of Defense SkillBridge program as authorized under Section 1143(e) of Title 10 of the United States Code.
- (c) A board may adopt regulations necessary to administer this section in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

#### **§ 115.5. EXPEDITED LICENSURE AND FEE WAIVER: SPOUSES OF ACTIVE MILITARY MEMBERS**

- (a) A board within the department shall expedite the licensure process and waive the licensure application fee and the initial or original license fee charged by the board for an applicant who meets both of the following requirements:
- (1) Supplies evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders.

(2) Holds a current license in another state, district, or territory of the United States in the profession or vocation for which the applicant seeks a license from the board.

(b) A board may adopt regulations necessary to administer this section.

(c) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2022.

#### **§ 115.6. TEMPORARY LICENSE: SPOUSES OF ACTIVE MILITARY MEMBERS**

(a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (j), a board within the department shall, after appropriate investigation, issue a temporary license to practice a profession or vocation to an applicant who meets the requirements set forth in subdivisions (c) and (d).

(2) Revenues from fees for temporary licenses issued by the California Board of Accountancy shall be credited to the Accountancy Fund in accordance with Section 5132.

(b) The board may conduct an investigation of an applicant for purposes of denying or revoking a temporary license issued pursuant to this section. This investigation may include a criminal background check.

(c) An applicant seeking a temporary license pursuant to this section shall meet the following requirements:

(1) The applicant shall supply evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders.

(2) The applicant shall hold a current, active, and unrestricted license that confers upon the applicant the authority to practice, in another state, district, or territory of the United States, the profession or vocation within the same scope for which the applicant seeks a temporary license from the board.

(3) The applicant shall submit an application to the board that shall include a signed affidavit attesting to the fact that the applicant meets all of the requirements for the temporary license, and that the information submitted in the application is accurate, to the best of the applicant's knowledge. The application shall also include written verification from the applicant's original licensing jurisdiction stating that the applicant's license is in good standing in that jurisdiction.

(4) The applicant shall not have committed an act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of the license under this code at the time the act was committed. A violation of this paragraph may be grounds for the denial or revocation of a temporary license issued by the board.

(5) The applicant shall not have been disciplined by a licensing entity in another jurisdiction and shall not be the subject of an unresolved complaint, review procedure, or disciplinary proceeding conducted by a licensing entity in another jurisdiction.

(6) (A) The applicant shall, upon request by a board, furnish a full set of fingerprints for purposes of conducting a criminal background check.

(B) The board shall request a fingerprint-based criminal history information check from the Department of Justice in accordance with subdivision (u) of Section 11105 of the Penal

Code and the Department of Justice shall furnish state or federal criminal history information in accordance with subdivision (p) of Section 11105 of the Penal Code.

- (d) The applicant shall pass a California law and ethics examination if otherwise required by the board for the profession or vocation for which the applicant seeks licensure.
- (e) Except as specified in subdivision (g), a board shall issue a temporary license pursuant to this section within 30 days of receiving documentation that the applicant has met the requirements specified in subdivisions (c) and (d) if the results of the criminal background check do not show grounds for denial.
- (f) (1) A temporary license issued pursuant to this section may be immediately terminated upon a finding that the temporary licenseholder failed to meet any of the requirements described in subdivision (c) or (d) or provided substantively inaccurate information that would affect the person's eligibility for temporary licensure. Upon termination of the temporary license, the board shall issue a notice of termination that shall require the temporary licenseholder to immediately cease the practice of the licensed profession upon receipt.  
  
(2) Notwithstanding any other law, if, after notice and an opportunity to be heard, a board finds that a temporary licenseholder engaged in unprofessional conduct or any other act that is a cause for discipline by the board, the board shall revoke the temporary license.
- (g) An applicant seeking a temporary license as a civil engineer, geotechnical engineer, structural engineer, land surveyor, professional geologist, professional geophysicist, certified engineering geologist, or certified hydrogeologist pursuant to this section shall successfully pass the appropriate California-specific examination or examinations required for licensure in those respective professions by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists. The board shall issue a temporary license pursuant to this subdivision within 30 days of receiving documentation that the applicant has met the requirements specified in this subdivision and subdivisions (c) and (d) if the results of the criminal background check do not show grounds for denial.
- (h) A temporary license issued pursuant to this section is nonrenewable and shall expire 12 months after issuance, upon issuance or denial of a standard license, upon issuance or denial of a license by endorsement, or upon issuance or denial of an expedited license pursuant to Section 115.5, whichever occurs first.
- (i) A board shall submit to the department for approval, if necessary to implement this section, draft regulations necessary to administer this section. These regulations shall be adopted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).
- (j) (1) This section shall not apply to a board that has a process in place by which an out-of-state licensed applicant in good standing who is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States is able to receive expedited, temporary authorization to practice while meeting state-specific requirements for a period of at least one year or is able to receive an expedited license by endorsement with no additional requirements superseding those described in subdivisions (c) and (d).  
  
(2) This section shall apply only to the extent that it does not amend an initiative or violate constitutional requirements.

(k) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2023.

### **§ 118. APPLICATION WITHDRAWAL OR LICENSE STATUS CHANGE: DENIAL OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

- (a) The withdrawal of an application for a license after it has been filed with a board in the department shall not, unless the board has consented in writing to such withdrawal, deprive the board of its authority to institute or continue a proceeding against the applicant for the denial of the license upon any ground provided by law or to enter an order denying the license upon any such ground.
- (b) The suspension, expiration, or forfeiture by operation of law of a license issued by a board in the department, or its suspension, forfeiture, or cancellation by order of the board or by order of a court of law, or its surrender without the written consent of the board, shall not, during any period in which it may be renewed, restored, reissued, or reinstated, deprive the board of its authority to institute or continue a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee upon any ground provided by law or to enter an order suspending or revoking the license or otherwise taking disciplinary action against the licensee on any such ground.
- (c) As used in this section, “board” includes an individual who is authorized by any provision of this code to issue, suspend, or revoke a license, and “license” includes “certificate,” “registration,” and “permit.”

### **§ 125.3. INVESTIGATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT COSTS; PAYMENT BY LICENSEE**

- (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, in any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before any board within the department or before the Osteopathic Medical Board, upon request of the entity bringing the proceeding, the administrative law judge may direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.
- (b) In the case of a disciplined licensee that is a corporation or a partnership, the order may be made against the licensed corporate entity or licensed partnership.
- (c) A certified copy of the actual costs, or a good faith estimate of costs where actual costs are not available, signed by the entity bringing the proceeding or its designated representative shall be prima facie evidence of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case. The costs shall include the amount of investigative and enforcement costs up to the date of the hearing, including, but not limited to, charges imposed by the Attorney General.
- (d) The administrative law judge shall make a proposed finding of the amount of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case when requested pursuant to subdivision (a). The finding of the administrative law judge with regard to costs shall not be reviewable by the board to increase the cost award. The board may reduce or eliminate the cost award, or remand to the administrative law judge if the proposed decision fails to make a finding on costs requested pursuant to subdivision (a).
- (e) If an order for recovery of costs is made and timely payment is not made as directed in the board’s decision, the board may enforce the order for repayment in any appropriate court. This right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights the board may have as to any licensee to pay costs.

- (f) In any action for recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision shall be conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment.
- (g) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the board shall not renew or reinstate the license of any licensee who has failed to pay all of the costs ordered under this section.  
  
(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the board may, in its discretion, conditionally renew or reinstate for a maximum of one year the license of any licensee who demonstrates financial hardship and who enters into a formal agreement with the board to reimburse the board within that one-year period for the unpaid costs.
- (h) All costs recovered under this section shall be considered a reimbursement for costs incurred and shall be deposited in the fund of the board recovering the costs to be available upon appropriation by the Legislature.
- (i) Nothing in this section shall preclude a board from including the recovery of the costs of investigation and enforcement of a case in any stipulated settlement.
- (j) This section does not apply to any board if a specific statutory provision in that board's licensing act provides for recovery of costs in an administrative disciplinary proceeding.

**§ 125.6. REFUSAL TO PERFORM LICENSED ACTIVITIES; DISCRIMINATION OR RESTRICTION IN PERFORMANCE**

- (a) (1) With regard to an applicant, every person who holds a license under the provisions of this code is subject to disciplinary action under the disciplinary provisions of this code applicable to that person if, because of any characteristic listed or defined in subdivision (b) or (e) of Section 51 of the Civil Code, the person refuses to perform the licensed activity or aids or incites the refusal to perform that licensed activity by another licensee, or if, because of any characteristic listed or defined in subdivision (b) or (e) of Section 51 of the Civil Code, the person makes any discrimination, or restriction in the performance of the licensed activity.  
  
(2) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to prevent a physician or health care professional licensed pursuant to Division 2 (commencing with Section 500) from considering any of the characteristics of a patient listed in subdivision (b) or (e) of Section 51 of the Civil Code if that consideration is medically necessary and for the sole purpose of determining the appropriate diagnosis or treatment of the patient.  
  
(3) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to apply to discrimination by employers with regard to employees or prospective employees, nor shall this section authorize action against any club license issued pursuant to Article 4 (commencing with Section 23425) of Chapter 3 of Division 9 because of discriminatory membership policy.  
  
(4) The presence of architectural barriers to an individual with physical disabilities that conform to applicable state or local building codes and regulations shall not constitute discrimination under this section.
- (b) (1) Nothing in this section requires a person licensed pursuant to Division 2 (commencing with Section 500) to permit an individual to participate in, or benefit from, the licensed activity of the licensee where that individual poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others. For this purpose, the term "direct threat" means a significant risk to the health or safety of others that



cannot be eliminated by a modification of policies, practices, or procedures or by the provision of auxiliary aids and services.

- (2) Nothing in this section requires a person licensed pursuant to Division 2 (commencing with Section 500) to perform a licensed activity for which the person is not qualified to perform.
- (c) (1) "Applicant," as used in this section, means a person applying for licensed services provided by a person licensed under this code.
- (2) "License," as used in this section, includes "certificate," "permit," "authority," and "registration" or any other indicia giving authorization to engage in a business or profession regulated by this code.

## **§ 125.9. ISSUANCE OF CITATIONS; FINES AND ORDERS OF ABATEMENT**

- (a) Except with respect to persons regulated under Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 7500), any board, bureau, or commission within the department, the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, and the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, may establish, by regulation, a system for the issuance to a licensee of a citation which may contain an order of abatement or an order to pay an administrative fine assessed by the board, bureau, or commission where the licensee is in violation of the applicable licensing act or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto.
- (b) The system shall contain the following provisions:
  - (1) Citations shall be in writing and shall describe with particularity the nature of the violation, including specific reference to the provision of law determined to have been violated.
  - (2) Whenever appropriate, the citation shall contain an order of abatement fixing a reasonable time for abatement of the violation.
  - (3) In no event shall the administrative fine assessed by the board, bureau, or commission exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each inspection or each investigation made with respect to the violation, or five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each violation or count if the violation involves fraudulent billing submitted to an insurance company, the Medi-Cal program, or Medicare. In assessing a fine, the board, bureau, or commission shall give due consideration to the appropriateness of the amount of the fine with respect to factors such as the gravity of the violation, the good faith of the licensee, and the history of previous violations.
  - (4) A citation or fine assessment issued pursuant to a citation shall inform the licensee that if the licensee desires a hearing to contest the finding of a violation, that hearing shall be requested by written notice to the board, bureau, or commission within 30 days of the date of issuance of the citation or assessment. If a hearing is not requested pursuant to this section, payment of any fine shall not constitute an admission of the violation charged. Hearings shall be held pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.
  - (5) Failure of a licensee to pay a fine or comply with an order of abatement, or both, within 30 days of the date of assessment or order, unless the citation is being appealed, may result in disciplinary action being taken by the board, bureau, or commission. Where a citation is not contested and a fine is not paid, the full amount of the assessed fine shall be added to the fee

for renewal of the license. A license shall not be renewed without payment of the renewal fee and fine.

(c) The system may contain the following provisions:

(1) A citation may be issued without the assessment of an administrative fine.

(2) Assessment of administrative fines may be limited to only particular violations of the applicable licensing act.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a fine is paid to satisfy an assessment based on the finding of a violation, payment of the fine and compliance with the order of abatement, if applicable, shall be represented as satisfactory resolution of the matter for purposes of public disclosure.

(e) Administrative fines collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the special fund of the particular board, bureau, or commission.

## **§ 129. HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS; CHILD CUSTODY EVALUATIONS**

(a) As used in this section, "board" means every board, bureau, commission, committee, and similarly constituted agency in the department that issues licenses.

(b) Each board shall, upon receipt of any complaint respecting an individual licensed by the board, notify the complainant of the initial administrative action taken on the complainant's complaint within 10 days of receipt. Each board shall notify the complainant of the final action taken on the complainant's complaint. There shall be a notification made in every case in which the complainant is known. If the complaint is not within the jurisdiction of the board or if the board is unable to dispose satisfactorily of the complaint, the board shall transmit the complaint together with any evidence or information it has concerning the complaint to the agency, public or private, whose authority in the opinion of the board will provide the most effective means to secure the relief sought. The board shall notify the complainant of this action and of any other means that may be available to the complainant to secure relief.

(c) The board shall, when the board deems it appropriate, notify the person against whom the complaint is made of the nature of the complaint, may request appropriate relief for the complainant, and may meet and confer with the complainant and the licensee in order to mediate the complaint. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as authorizing or requiring any board to set or to modify any fee charged by a licensee.

(d) It shall be the continuing duty of the board to ascertain patterns of complaints and to report on all actions taken with respect to those patterns of complaints to the director and to the Legislature at least once per year. The board shall evaluate those complaints dismissed for lack of jurisdiction or no violation and recommend to the director and to the Legislature at least once per year the statutory changes it deems necessary to implement the board's functions and responsibilities under this section.

(e) It shall be the continuing duty of the board to take whatever action it deems necessary, with the approval of the director, to inform the public of its functions under this section.

- (f) Notwithstanding any other law, upon receipt of a child custody evaluation report submitted to a court pursuant to Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 3110) of Part 2 of Division 8 of the Family Code, the board shall notify the noncomplaining party in the underlying custody dispute, who is a subject of that report, of the pending investigation.

#### **§135.4 EXPEDITED LICENSURE: ASYLUM OR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA**

- (a) Notwithstanding any other law, a board within the department shall expedite, and may assist, the initial licensure process for an applicant who supplies satisfactory evidence to the board that they have been admitted to the United States as a refugee under Section 1157 of Title 8 of the United States Code, have been granted asylum by the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Section 1158 of Title 8 of the United States Code, or they have a special immigrant visa (SIV) that has been granted a status under Section 1244 of Public Law 110-181, under Public Law 109-163, or under Section 602(b) of Title VI of Division F of Public Law 111-8.
- (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed as changing existing licensure requirements. A person applying for expedited licensure under subdivision (a) shall meet all applicable statutory and regulatory licensure requirements.
- (c) A board may adopt regulations necessary to administer this section.

#### **§ 143.5. CIVIL DISPUTE SETTLEMENTS; PROHIBITED PROVISIONS**

- (a) No licensee who is regulated by a board, bureau, or program within the Department of Consumer Affairs, nor an entity or person acting as an authorized agent of a licensee, shall include or permit to be included a provision in an agreement to settle a civil dispute, whether the agreement is made before or after the commencement of a civil action, that prohibits the other party in that dispute from contacting, filing a complaint with, or cooperating with the department, board, bureau, or program within the Department of Consumer Affairs that regulates the licensee or that requires the other party to withdraw a complaint from the department, board, bureau, or program within the Department of Consumer Affairs that regulates the licensee. A provision of that nature is void as against public policy, and any licensee who includes or permits to be included a provision of that nature in a settlement agreement is subject to disciplinary action by the board, bureau, or program.
- (b) Any board, bureau, or program within the Department of Consumer Affairs that takes disciplinary action against a licensee or licensees based on a complaint or report that has also been the subject of a civil action and that has been settled for monetary damages providing for full and final satisfaction of the parties may not require its licensee or licensees to pay any additional sums to the benefit of any plaintiff in the civil action.
- (c) As used in this section, “board” shall have the same meaning as defined in Section 22, and “licensee” means a person who has been granted a license, as that term is defined in Section 23.7.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other law, upon granting a petition filed by a licensee or authorized agent of a licensee pursuant to Section 11340.6 of the Government Code, a board, bureau, or program within the Department of Consumer Affairs may, based upon evidence and legal authorities cited in the petition, adopt a regulation that does both of the following:

(1) Identifies a code section or jury instruction in a civil cause of action that has no relevance to the board's, bureau's, or program's enforcement responsibilities such that an agreement to settle such a cause of action based on that code section or jury instruction otherwise prohibited under subdivision (a) will not impair the board's, bureau's, or program's duty to protect the public.

(2) Exempts agreements to settle such a cause of action from the requirements of subdivision (a).

(e) This section shall not apply to a licensee subject to Section 2220.7.

#### **§ 144.5. BOARD RECEIPT OF CERTIFIED RECORDS FOR INVESTIGATION**

Notwithstanding any other law, a board described in Section 144 may request, and is authorized to receive, from a local or state agency certified records of all arrests and convictions, certified records regarding probation, and any and all other related documentation needed to complete an applicant or licensee investigation. A local or state agency may provide those records to the board upon request.

#### **§ 315.2. CEASE PRACTICE ORDERS; POSITIVE TEST FOR PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE**

(a) A board, as described in Section 315, shall order a licensee of the board to cease practice if the licensee tests positive for any substance that is prohibited under the terms of the licensee's probation or diversion program.

(b) An order to cease practice under this section shall not be governed by the provisions of Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

(c) A cease practice order under this section shall not constitute disciplinary action.

(d) This section shall have no effect on the Board of Registered Nursing pursuant to Article 3.1 (commencing with Section 2770) of Chapter 6 of Division 2.

#### **§ 315.4. CEASE PRACTICE ORDERS; BOARD AUTHORITY**

(a) A board, as described in Section 315, may adopt regulations authorizing the board to order a licensee on probation or in a diversion program to cease practice for major violations and when the board orders a licensee to undergo a clinical diagnostic evaluation pursuant to the uniform and specific standards adopted and authorized under Section 315.

(b) An order to cease practice under this section shall not be governed by the provisions of Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

(c) A cease practice order under this section shall not constitute disciplinary action.

(d) This section shall have no effect on the Board of Registered Nursing pursuant to Article 3.1 (commencing with Section 2770) of Chapter 6 of Division 2.

#### **§ 337. INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE FOR VICTIMS OF PSYCHOTHERAPIST - CLIENT SEXUAL BEHAVIOR AND SEXUAL CONTACT; CONTENTS**

(a) The Board of Behavioral Sciences, the Board of Psychology, the Medical Board of California, and the Osteopathic Medical Board of California shall prepare and disseminate an informational brochure for victims of psychotherapist-client sexual behavior and sexual contact and their

advocates. This brochure shall be developed by the Board of Behavioral Sciences, the Board of Psychology, the Medical Board of California, and the Osteopathic Medical Board of California.

- (b) The brochure shall include, but is not limited to, the following:
  - (1) A legal and an informal definition of psychotherapist-client sexual behavior and sexual contact.
  - (2) A brief description of common personal reactions.
  - (3) A client's bill of rights.
  - (4) Instructions for reporting psychotherapist-client sexual behavior and sexual contact.
  - (5) A full description of administrative complaint procedures.
  - (6) Information that other civil and criminal remedies may also be available to them in regards to the incident.
  - (7) A description of services available for support of victims.
- (c) The brochure shall be provided to each individual contacting the Board of Behavioral Sciences, the Board of Psychology, the Medical Board of California, or the Osteopathic Medical Board of California regarding a complaint involving psychotherapist-client sexual behavior and sexual contact.
- (d) The brochure shall be made available on the Internet Web sites of the Board of Behavioral Sciences, the Board of Psychology, the Medical Board of California, and the Osteopathic Medical Board of California.

**§ 464. ESTABLISHMENT OF A RETIRED LICENSE; INVESTIGATION OF PERSONS WITH LICENSES THAT ARE INACTIVE OR RESTRICTED**

- (a) Any of the boards within the department may establish, by regulation, a system for a retired category of licensure for persons who are not actively engaged in the practice of their profession or vocation.
- (b) The regulation shall contain the following:
  - (1) A retired license shall be issued to a person with either an active license or an inactive license that was not placed on inactive status for disciplinary reasons.
  - (2) The holder of a retired license issued pursuant to this section shall not engage in any activity for which a license is required, unless the board, by regulation, specifies the criteria for a retired licensee to practice his or her profession or vocation.
  - (3) The holder of a retired license shall not be required to renew that license.
  - (4) The board shall establish an appropriate application fee for a retired license to cover the reasonable regulatory cost of issuing a retired license.
  - (5) In order for the holder of a retired license issued pursuant to this section to restore his or her license to an active status, the holder of that license shall meet all the following:
    - (A) Pay a fee established by statute or regulation.
    - (B) Certify, in a manner satisfactory to the board, that he or she has not committed an act or

crime constituting grounds for denial of licensure.

(C) Comply with the fingerprint submission requirements established by regulation.

(D) If the board requires completion of continuing education for renewal of an active license, complete continuing education equivalent to that required for renewal of an active license, unless a different requirement is specified by the board.

(E) Complete any other requirements as specified by the board by regulation.

(c) A board may upon its own determination, and shall upon receipt of a complaint from any person, investigate the actions of any licensee, including a person with a license that either restricts or prohibits the practice of that person in his or her profession or vocation, including, but not limited to, a license that is retired, inactive, canceled, revoked, or suspended.

(d) Subdivisions (a) and (b) shall not apply to a board that has other statutory authority to establish a retired license.

#### **§ 480. GROUNDS FOR DENIAL OF LICENSURE**

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, a board may deny a license regulated by this code on the grounds that the applicant has been convicted of a crime or has been subject to formal discipline only if either of the following conditions are met:

(1) The applicant has been convicted of a crime within the preceding seven years from the date of application that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the application is made, regardless of whether the applicant was incarcerated for that crime, or the applicant has been convicted of a crime that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the application is made and for which the applicant is presently incarcerated or for which the applicant was released from incarceration within the preceding seven years from the date of application. However, the preceding seven-year limitation shall not apply in either of the following situations:

(A) The applicant was convicted of a serious felony, as defined in Section 1192.7 of the Penal Code or a crime for which registration is required pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 290 of the Penal Code.

(B) The applicant was convicted of a financial crime currently classified as a felony that is directly and adversely related to the fiduciary qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the application is made, pursuant to regulations adopted by the board, and for which the applicant is seeking licensure under any of the following:

(i) Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 3.

(ii) Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3.

(iii) Chapter 11.3 (commencing with Section 7512) of Division 3.

(iv) Licensure as a funeral director or cemetery manager under Chapter 12 (commencing with Section 7600) of Division 3.

(v) Division 4 (commencing with Section 10000).

- (2) The applicant has been subjected to formal discipline by a licensing board in or outside California within the preceding seven years from the date of application based on professional misconduct that would have been cause for discipline before the board for which the present application is made and that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the present application is made. However, prior disciplinary action by a licensing board within the preceding seven years shall not be the basis for denial of a license if the basis for that disciplinary action was a conviction that has been dismissed pursuant to Section 1203.4, 1203.4a, 1203.41, 1203.42, or 1203.425 of the Penal Code or a comparable dismissal or expungement. Formal discipline that occurred earlier than seven years preceding the date of application may be grounds for denial of a license only if the formal discipline was for conduct that, if committed in this state by a physician and surgeon licensed pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2000) of Division 2, would have constituted an act of sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a patient pursuant to Section 726 or sexual exploitation as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 729.
- (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, a person shall not be denied a license on the basis that the person has been convicted of a crime, or on the basis of acts underlying a conviction for a crime, if that person has obtained a certificate of rehabilitation under Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 4852.01) of Title 6 of Part 3 of the Penal Code, has been granted clemency or a pardon by a state or federal executive, or has made a showing of rehabilitation pursuant to Section 482.
- (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, a person shall not be denied a license on the basis of any conviction, or on the basis of the acts underlying the conviction, that has been dismissed pursuant to Section 1203.4, 1203.4a, 1203.41, 1203.42, or 1203.425 of the Penal Code, or a comparable dismissal or expungement. An applicant who has a conviction that has been dismissed pursuant to Section 1203.4, 1203.4a, 1203.41, or 1203.42 of the Penal Code shall provide proof of the dismissal if it is not reflected on the report furnished by the Department of Justice.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, a board shall not deny a license on the basis of an arrest that resulted in a disposition other than a conviction, including an arrest that resulted in an infraction, citation, or a juvenile adjudication.
- (e) A board may deny a license regulated by this code on the ground that the applicant knowingly made a false statement of fact that is required to be revealed in the application for the license. A board shall not deny a license based solely on an applicant's failure to disclose a fact that would not have been cause for denial of the license had it been disclosed.
- (f) A board shall follow the following procedures in requesting or acting on an applicant's criminal history information:
- (1) A board issuing a license pursuant to Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 5500), Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 5615), Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 7301), Chapter 20 (commencing with Section 9800), or Chapter 20.3 (commencing with Section 9880), of Division 3, or Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 19000) or Chapter 3.1 (commencing with Section 19225) of Division 8 may require applicants for licensure under those chapters to disclose criminal conviction history on an application for licensure.
- (2) Except as provided in paragraph (1), a board shall not require an applicant for licensure to disclose any information or documentation regarding the applicant's criminal history. However,

a board may request mitigating information from an applicant regarding the applicant's criminal history for purposes of determining substantial relation or demonstrating evidence of rehabilitation, provided that the applicant is informed that disclosure is voluntary and that the applicant's decision not to disclose any information shall not be a factor in a board's decision to grant or deny an application for licensure.

(3) If a board decides to deny an application for licensure based solely or in part on the applicant's conviction history, the board shall notify the applicant in writing of all of the following:

(A) The denial or disqualification of licensure.

(B) Any existing procedure the board has for the applicant to challenge the decision or to request reconsideration.

(C) That the applicant has the right to appeal the board's decision.

(D) The processes for the applicant to request a copy of the applicant's complete conviction history and question the accuracy or completeness of the record pursuant to Sections 11122 to 11127 of the Penal Code.

(g) (1) For a minimum of three years, each board under this code shall retain application forms and other documents submitted by an applicant, any notice provided to an applicant, all other communications received from and provided to an applicant, and criminal history reports of an applicant.

(2) Each board under this code shall retain the number of applications received for each license and the number of applications requiring inquiries regarding criminal history. In addition, each licensing authority shall retain all of the following information:

(A) The number of applicants with a criminal record who received notice of denial or disqualification of licensure.

(B) The number of applicants with a criminal record who provided evidence of mitigation or rehabilitation.

(C) The number of applicants with a criminal record who appealed any denial or disqualification of licensure.

(D) The final disposition and demographic information, consisting of voluntarily provided information on race or gender, of any applicant described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C).

(3) (A) Each board under this code shall annually make available to the public through the board's internet website and through a report submitted to the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature deidentified information collected pursuant to this subdivision. Each board shall ensure confidentiality of the individual applicants.

(B) A report pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

(h) "Conviction" as used in this section shall have the same meaning as defined in Section 7.5.

(i) This section does not in any way modify or otherwise affect the existing authority of the following entities in regard to licensure:

(1) The State Athletic Commission.



(2) The Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education.

(3) The California Horse Racing Board.

#### **§ 480.5. APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE: INCARCERATION**

- (a) An individual who has satisfied any of the requirements needed to obtain a license regulated under this division while incarcerated, who applies for that license upon release from incarceration, and who is otherwise eligible for the license shall not be subject to a delay in processing his or her application or a denial of the license solely on the basis that some or all of the licensure requirements were completed while the individual was incarcerated.
- (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to a petition for reinstatement of a license or to limit the ability of a board to deny a license pursuant to Section 480.
- (c) This section shall not apply to the licensure of individuals under the initiative act referred to in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 1000) of Division 2.

#### **§ 485. PROCEDURE BY BOARD UPON DENIAL OF APPLICATION FOR LICENSE**

Upon denial of an application for a license under this chapter or Section 496, the board shall do either of the following:

- (a) File and serve a statement of issues in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.
- (b) Notify the applicant that the application is denied, stating (1) the reason for the denial, and (2) that the applicant has the right to a hearing under Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code if written request for hearing is made within 60 days after service of the notice of denial. Unless written request for hearing is made within the 60-day period, the applicant's right to a hearing is deemed waived.

Service of the notice of denial may be made in the manner authorized for service of summons in civil actions, or by registered mail addressed to the applicant at the latest address filed by the applicant in writing with the board in his or her application or otherwise. Service by mail is complete on the date of mailing.

#### **§ 490. BOARD DISCIPLINARY ACTION; GROUNDS FOR LICENSE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION**

- (a) In addition to any other action that a board is permitted to take against a licensee, a board may suspend or revoke a license on the ground that the licensee has been convicted of a crime, if the crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the license was issued.
- (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a board may exercise any authority to discipline a licensee for conviction of a crime that is independent of the authority granted under subdivision (a) only if the crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the licensee's license was issued.
- (c) A conviction within the meaning of this section means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction

following a plea of nolo contendere. An action that a board is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code.

- (d) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the application of this section has been made unclear by the holding in *Petropoulos v. Department of Real Estate* (2006) 142 Cal.App.4th 554, and that the holding in that case has placed a significant number of statutes and regulations in question, resulting in potential harm to the consumers of California from licensees who have been convicted of crimes. Therefore, the Legislature finds and declares that this section establishes an independent basis for a board to impose discipline upon a licensee, and that the amendments to this section made by Chapter 33 of the Statutes of 2008 do not constitute a change to, but rather are declaratory of, existing law.

**§ 651. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION CONTAINING FALSE, FRAUDULENT, MISLEADING, OR DECEPTIVE STATEMENT, CLAIM, OR IMAGE; ADVERTISEMENTS; PENALTY**

- (a) It is unlawful for any person licensed under this division or under any initiative act referred to in this division to disseminate or cause to be disseminated any form of public communication containing a false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive statement, claim, or image for the purpose of or likely to induce, directly or indirectly, the rendering of professional services or furnishing of products in connection with the professional practice or business for which he or she is licensed. A "public communication" as used in this section includes, but is not limited to, communication by means of mail, television, radio, motion picture, newspaper, book, list or directory of healing arts practitioners, Internet, or other electronic communication.
- (b) A false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive statement, claim, or image includes a statement or claim that does any of the following:
- (1) Contains a misrepresentation of fact.
  - (2) Is likely to mislead or deceive because of a failure to disclose material facts.
  - (3) (A) Is intended or is likely to create false or unjustified expectations of favorable results, including the use of any photograph or other image that does not accurately depict the results of the procedure being advertised or that has been altered in any manner from the image of the actual subject depicted in the photograph or image.  
  
(B) Use of any photograph or other image of a model without clearly stating in a prominent location in easily readable type the fact that the photograph or image is of a model is a violation of subdivision (a). For purposes of this paragraph, a model is anyone other than an actual patient, who has undergone the procedure being advertised, of the licensee who is advertising for his or her services.  
  
(C) Use of any photograph or other image of an actual patient that depicts or purports to depict the results of any procedure, or presents "before" and "after" views of a patient, without specifying in a prominent location in easily readable type size what procedures were performed on that patient is a violation of subdivision (a). Any "before" and "after" views (i) shall be comparable in presentation so that the results are not distorted by favorable poses,

lighting, or other features of presentation, and (ii) shall contain a statement that the same “before” and “after” results may not occur for all patients.

- (4) Relates to fees, other than a standard consultation fee or a range of fees for specific types of services, without fully and specifically disclosing all variables and other material factors.
  - (5) Contains other representations or implications that in reasonable probability will cause an ordinarily prudent person to misunderstand or be deceived.
  - (6) Makes a claim either of professional superiority or of performing services in a superior manner, unless that claim is relevant to the service being performed and can be substantiated with objective scientific evidence.
  - (7) Makes a scientific claim that cannot be substantiated by reliable, peer reviewed, published scientific studies.
  - (8) Includes any statement, endorsement, or testimonial that is likely to mislead or deceive because of a failure to disclose material facts.
- (c) Any price advertisement shall be exact, without the use of phrases, including, but not limited to, “as low as,” “and up,” “lowest prices,” or words or phrases of similar import. Any advertisement that refers to services, or costs for services, and that uses words of comparison shall be based on verifiable data substantiating the comparison. Any person so advertising shall be prepared to provide information sufficient to establish the accuracy of that comparison. Price advertising shall not be fraudulent, deceitful, or misleading, including statements or advertisements of bait, discount, premiums, gifts, or any statements of a similar nature. In connection with price advertising, the price for each product or service shall be clearly identifiable. The price advertised for products shall include charges for any related professional services, including dispensing and fitting services, unless the advertisement specifically and clearly indicates otherwise.
- (d) Any person so licensed shall not compensate or give anything of value to a representative of the press, radio, television, or other communication medium in anticipation of, or in return for, professional publicity unless the fact of compensation is made known in that publicity.
- (e) Any person so licensed may not use any professional card, professional announcement card, office sign, letterhead, telephone directory listing, medical list, medical directory listing, or a similar professional notice or device if it includes a statement or claim that is false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive within the meaning of subdivision (b).
- (f) Any person so licensed who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. A bona fide mistake of fact shall be a defense to this subdivision, but only to this subdivision.
- (g) Any violation of this section by a person so licensed shall constitute good cause for revocation or suspension of his or her license or other disciplinary action.
- (h) Advertising by any person so licensed may include the following:
- (1) A statement of the name of the practitioner.
  - (2) A statement of addresses and telephone numbers of the offices maintained by the practitioner.
  - (3) A statement of office hours regularly maintained by the practitioner.

- (4) A statement of languages, other than English, fluently spoken by the practitioner or a person in the practitioner's office.
- (5) (A) A statement that the practitioner is certified by a private or public board or agency or a statement that the practitioner limits his or her practice to specific fields.
- (B) A statement of certification by a practitioner licensed under Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 3000) shall only include a statement that he or she is certified or eligible for certification by a private or public board or parent association recognized by that practitioner's licensing board.
- (C) A physician and surgeon licensed under Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2000) by the Medical Board of California may include a statement that he or she limits his or her practice to specific fields, but shall not include a statement that he or she is certified or eligible for certification by a private or public board or parent association, including, but not limited to, a multidisciplinary board or association, unless that board or association is (i) an American Board of Medical Specialties member board, (ii) a board or association with equivalent requirements approved by that physician's and surgeon's licensing board prior to January 1, 2019, or (iii) a board or association with an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education approved postgraduate training program that provides complete training in that specialty or subspecialty. A physician and surgeon licensed under Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2000) by the Medical Board of California who is certified by an organization other than a board or association referred to in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) shall not use the term "board certified" in reference to that certification, unless the physician and surgeon is also licensed under Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 1600) and the use of the term "board certified" in reference to that certification is in accordance with subparagraph (A). A physician and surgeon licensed under Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2000) by the Medical Board of California who is certified by a board or association referred to in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) shall not use the term "board certified" unless the full name of the certifying board is also used and given comparable prominence with the term "board certified" in the statement.

For purposes of this subparagraph, a "multidisciplinary board or association" means an educational certifying body that has a psychometrically valid testing process, as determined by the Medical Board of California, for certifying medical doctors and other health care professionals that is based on the applicant's education, training, and experience. A multidisciplinary board or association approved by the Medical Board of California prior to January 1, 2019, shall retain that approval.

For purposes of the term "board certified," as used in this subparagraph, the terms "board" and "association" mean an organization that is an American Board of Medical Specialties member board, an organization with equivalent requirements approved by a physician's and surgeon's licensing board prior to January 1, 2019, or an organization with an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education approved postgraduate training program that provides complete training in a specialty or subspecialty.

- (D) A doctor of podiatric medicine licensed under Article 22 (commencing with Section 2460) of Chapter 5 by the California Board of Podiatric Medicine may include a statement that he or she is certified or eligible or qualified for certification by a private or public board or parent association, including, but not limited to, a multidisciplinary board or association, if

that board or association meets one of the following requirements: (i) is approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education, (ii) is a board or association with equivalent requirements approved by the California Board of Podiatric Medicine, or (iii) is a board or association with the Council on Podiatric Medical Education approved postgraduate training programs that provide training in podiatric medicine and podiatric surgery. A doctor of podiatric medicine licensed under Article 22 (commencing with Section 2460) of Chapter 5 by the California Board of Podiatric Medicine who is certified by a board or association referred to in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) shall not use the term “board certified” unless the full name of the certifying board is also used and given comparable prominence with the term “board certified” in the statement. A doctor of podiatric medicine licensed under Article 22 (commencing with Section 2460) of Chapter 5 by the California Board of Podiatric Medicine who is certified by an organization other than a board or association referred to in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) shall not use the term “board certified” in reference to that certification.

For purposes of this subparagraph, a “multidisciplinary board or association” means an educational certifying body that has a psychometrically valid testing process, as determined by the California Board of Podiatric Medicine, for certifying doctors of podiatric medicine that is based on the applicant’s education, training, and experience. For purposes of the term “board certified,” as used in this subparagraph, the terms “board” and “association” mean an organization that is a Council on Podiatric Medical Education approved board, an organization with equivalent requirements approved by the California Board of Podiatric Medicine, or an organization with a Council on Podiatric Medical Education approved postgraduate training program that provides training in podiatric medicine and podiatric surgery.

The California Board of Podiatric Medicine shall adopt regulations to establish and collect a reasonable fee from each board or association applying for recognition pursuant to this subparagraph, to be deposited in the State Treasury in the Podiatry Fund, pursuant to Section 2499. The fee shall not exceed the cost of administering this subparagraph.

- (6) A statement that the practitioner provides services under a specified private or public insurance plan or health care plan.
- (7) A statement of names of schools and postgraduate clinical training programs from which the practitioner has graduated, together with the degrees received.
- (8) A statement of publications authored by the practitioner.
- (9) A statement of teaching positions currently or formerly held by the practitioner, together with pertinent dates.
- (10) A statement of his or her affiliations with hospitals or clinics.
- (11) A statement of the charges or fees for services or commodities offered by the practitioner.
- (12) A statement that the practitioner regularly accepts installment payments of fees.
- (13) Otherwise lawful images of a practitioner, his or her physical facilities, or of a commodity to be advertised.
- (14) A statement of the manufacturer, designer, style, make, trade name, brand name, color, size, or type of commodities advertised.

(15) An advertisement of a registered dispensing optician may include statements in addition to those specified in paragraphs (1) to (14), inclusive, provided that any statement shall not violate subdivision (a), (b), (c), or (e) or any other section of this code.

(16) A statement, or statements, providing public health information encouraging preventive or corrective care.

(17) Any other item of factual information that is not false, fraudulent, misleading, or likely to deceive.

- (i) Each of the healing arts boards and examining committees within Division 2 shall adopt appropriate regulations to enforce this section in accordance with Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

Each of the healing arts boards and committees and examining committees within Division 2 shall, by regulation, define those efficacious services to be advertised by businesses or professions under their jurisdiction for the purpose of determining whether advertisements are false or misleading. Until a definition for that service has been issued, no advertisement for that service shall be disseminated. However, if a definition of a service has not been issued by a board or committee within 120 days of receipt of a request from a licensee, all those holding the license may advertise the service. Those boards and committees shall adopt or modify regulations defining what services may be advertised, the manner in which defined services may be advertised, and restricting advertising that would promote the inappropriate or excessive use of health services or commodities. A board or committee shall not, by regulation, unreasonably prevent truthful, nondeceptive price or otherwise lawful forms of advertising of services or commodities, by either outright prohibition or imposition of onerous disclosure requirements. However, any member of a board or committee acting in good faith in the adoption or enforcement of any regulation shall be deemed to be acting as an agent of the state.

- (j) The Attorney General shall commence legal proceedings in the appropriate forum to enjoin advertisements disseminated or about to be disseminated in violation of this section and seek other appropriate relief to enforce this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the costs of enforcing this section to the respective licensing boards or committees may be awarded against any licensee found to be in violation of any provision of this section. This shall not diminish the power of district attorneys, county counsels, or city attorneys pursuant to existing law to seek appropriate relief.

- (k) A physician and surgeon licensed pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2000) by the Medical Board of California or a doctor of podiatric medicine licensed pursuant to Article 22 (commencing with Section 2460) of Chapter 5 by the California Board of Podiatric Medicine who knowingly and intentionally violates this section may be cited and assessed an administrative fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per event. Section 125.9 shall govern the issuance of this citation and fine except that the fine limitations prescribed in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 125.9 shall not apply to a fine under this subdivision.

### **§ 683. REPORTING NAME AND LICENSE NUMBER OF LICENSEE PROHIBITED FROM PRACTICING**

- (a) A board shall report, within 10 working days, to the State Department of Health Care Services the name and license number of a person whose license has been revoked, suspended, surrendered,

made inactive by the licensee, or placed in another category that prohibits the licensee from practicing their profession. The purpose of the reporting requirement is to prevent reimbursement by the state for Medi-Cal and Denti-Cal services provided after the cancellation of a provider's professional license.

- (b) "Board," as used in this section, means the Dental Board of California, the Medical Board of California, the Board of Psychology, the California State Board of Optometry, the California State Board of Pharmacy, the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the Board of Behavioral Sciences, the California Board of Podiatric Medicine, and the California Board of Occupational Therapy.
- (c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2015.

#### **§ 719. TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS: OUT-OF-STATE LICENSEES**

- (a) A person who is licensed as a health care practitioner in any other state and is employed by a tribal health program, as defined in Section 1603 of Title 25 of the United States Code, shall be exempt from any licensing requirement described in this division with respect to acts authorized under the person's license where the tribal health program performs the services described in the contract or compact of the tribal health program under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. Sec. 450 et seq.).
- (b) For purposes of this section, "health care practitioner" means any person who engages in acts that are the subject of licensure or regulation under the law of any other state.

#### **§ 726. SEXUAL ABUSE, MISCONDUCT, OR RELATIONS WITH A PATIENT**

- (a) The commission of any act of sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a patient, client, or customer constitutes unprofessional conduct and grounds for disciplinary action for any person licensed under this division or under any initiative act referred to in this division.
- (b) This section shall not apply to consensual sexual contact between a licensee and his or her spouse or person in an equivalent domestic relationship when that licensee provides medical treatment, other than psychotherapeutic treatment, to his or her spouse or person in an equivalent domestic relationship.

#### **§ 727. EVIDENCE**

The provisions of subdivision (2) of Section 1103 of the Evidence Code shall apply in disciplinary proceedings brought against a licensee for acts in violation of Section 726.

#### **§ 728. PRIOR SEXUAL BEHAVIOR OR SEXUAL CONTACT BETWEEN PSYCHOTHERAPIST AND CLIENT; PSYCHOTHERAPIST OR EMPLOYER PROVIDING AND DISCUSSING BROCHURE; FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SECTION; DEFINITIONS**

- (a) Any psychotherapist or employer of a psychotherapist who becomes aware through a client that the client had alleged sexual intercourse or alleged sexual behavior or sexual contact with a previous psychotherapist during the course of a prior treatment shall provide to the client a

brochure developed pursuant to Section 337 that delineates the rights of, and remedies for, clients who have been involved sexually with their psychotherapists. Further, the psychotherapist or employer shall discuss the brochure with the client.

(b) Failure to comply with this section constitutes unprofessional conduct.

(c) For the purpose of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Psychotherapist" means any of the following:

(A) A physician and surgeon specializing in the practice of psychiatry or practicing psychotherapy.

(B) A psychologist licensed pursuant to Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 2900).

(C) A psychological assistant.

(D) A registered psychologist.

(E) A trainee under the supervision of a licensed psychologist.

(F) A marriage and family therapist.

(G) An associate marriage and family therapist.

(H) A marriage and family therapist trainee.

(I) A licensed educational psychologist.

(J) A clinical social worker.

(K) An associate clinical social worker.

(L) A licensed professional clinical counselor.

(M) An associate professional clinical counselor, as specified in Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 4999.10).

(N) A clinical counselor trainee, as specified in Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 4999.10).

(2) "Sexual behavior" means inappropriate contact or communication of a sexual nature. "Sexual behavior" does not include the provision of appropriate therapeutic interventions relating to sexual issues.

(3) "Sexual contact" means the touching of an intimate part of another person.

(4) "Intimate part" and "touching" have the same meanings as defined in subdivisions (g) and (e), respectively, of Section 243.4 of the Penal Code.

(5) "The course of a prior treatment" means the period of time during which a client first commences treatment for services that a psychotherapist is authorized to provide under his or her scope of practice, or that the psychotherapist represents to the client as being within his or her scope of practice, until the psychotherapist-client relationship is terminated.



**§ 729. SEXUAL EXPLOITATION BY PHYSICIANS, SURGEONS, PSYCHOTHERAPISTS, OR ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE COUNSELORS**

- (a) Any physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, alcohol and drug abuse counselor or any person holding himself or herself out to be a physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol and drug abuse counselor, who engages in an act of sexual intercourse, sodomy, oral copulation, or sexual contact with a patient or client, or with a former patient or client when the relationship was terminated primarily for the purpose of engaging in those acts, unless the physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol and drug abuse counselor has referred the patient or client to an independent and objective physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol and drug abuse counselor recommended by a third-party physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol and drug abuse counselor for treatment, is guilty of sexual exploitation by a physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol and drug abuse counselor.
- (b) Sexual exploitation by a physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol and drug abuse counselor is a public offense:
- (1) An act in violation of subdivision (a) shall be punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for a period of not more than six months, or a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.
  - (2) Multiple acts in violation of subdivision (a) with a single victim, when the offender has no prior conviction for sexual exploitation, shall be punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for a period of not more than six months, or a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.
  - (3) An act or acts in violation of subdivision (a) with two or more victims shall be punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for a period of 16 months, two years, or three years, and a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000); or the act or acts shall be punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for a period of not more than one year, or a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.
  - (4) Two or more acts in violation of subdivision (a) with a single victim, when the offender has at least one prior conviction for sexual exploitation, shall be punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for a period of 16 months, two years, or three years, and a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000); or the act or acts shall be punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for a period of not more than one year, or a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.
  - (5) An act or acts in violation of subdivision (a) with two or more victims, and the offender has at least one prior conviction for sexual exploitation, shall be punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for a period of 16 months, two years, or three years, and a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). For purposes of subdivision (a), in no instance shall consent of the patient or client be a defense. However, physicians and surgeons shall not be guilty of sexual exploitation for touching any intimate part of a patient or client unless the touching is outside the scope of medical examination and treatment, or the touching is done for sexual gratification.
- (c) For purposes of this section:
- (1) "Psychotherapist" has the same meaning as defined in Section 728.

- (2) "Alcohol and drug abuse counselor" means an individual who holds himself or herself out to be an alcohol or drug abuse professional or paraprofessional.
  - (3) "Sexual contact" means sexual intercourse or the touching of an intimate part of a patient for the purpose of sexual arousal, gratification, or abuse.
  - (4) "Intimate part" and "touching" have the same meanings as defined in Section 243.4 of the Penal Code.
- (d) In the investigation and prosecution of a violation of this section, no person shall seek to obtain disclosure of any confidential files of other patients, clients, or former patients or clients of the physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol and drug abuse counselor.
- (e) This section does not apply to sexual contact between a physician and surgeon and his or her spouse or person in an equivalent domestic relationship when that physician and surgeon provides medical treatment, other than psychotherapeutic treatment, to his or her spouse or person in an equivalent domestic relationship.
- (f) If a physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol and drug abuse counselor in a professional partnership or similar group has sexual contact with a patient in violation of this section, another physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol and drug abuse counselor in the partnership or group shall not be subject to action under this section solely because of the occurrence of that sexual contact.

## **§ 820. EXAMINATION; REPORT**

Whenever it appears that any person holding a license, certificate or permit under this division or under any initiative act referred to in this division may be unable to practice his or her profession safely because the licentiate's ability to practice is impaired due to mental illness, or physical illness affecting competency, the licensing agency may order the licentiate to be examined by one or more physicians and surgeons or psychologists designated by the agency. The report of the examiners shall be made available to the licentiate and may be received as direct evidence in proceedings conducted pursuant to Section 822.

## **§ 865. DEFINITION OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION CHANGE EFFORTS**

For the purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- (a) "Mental health provider" means a physician and surgeon specializing in the practice of psychiatry, a psychologist, a psychological assistant, intern, or trainee, a licensed marriage and family therapist, a registered associate marriage and family therapist, a marriage and family therapist trainee, a licensed educational psychologist, a credentialed school psychologist, a licensed clinical social worker, an associate clinical social worker, a licensed professional clinical counselor, a registered associate clinical counselor, a professional clinical counselor trainee, or any other person designated as a mental health professional under California law or regulation.
- (b) (1) "Sexual orientation change efforts" means any practices by mental health providers that seek to change an individual's sexual orientation. This includes efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions, or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same sex.

- (2) “Sexual orientation change efforts” does not include psychotherapies that: (A) provide acceptance, support, and understanding of clients or the facilitation of clients’ coping, social support, and identity exploration and development, including sexual orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices; and (B) do not seek to change sexual orientation.

### **§ 865.1. SEXUAL ORIENTATION CHANGE EFFORTS: PROHIBITIONS**

Under no circumstances shall a mental health provider engage in sexual orientation change efforts with a patient under 18 years of age.

### **§ 865.2. SEXUAL ORIENTATION CHANGE EFFORTS: DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

Any sexual orientation change efforts attempted on a patient under 18 years of age by a mental health provider shall be considered unprofessional conduct and shall subject a mental health provider to discipline by the licensing entity for that mental health provider.

### **§ 2290.5. TELEHEALTH; CONSENT REQUIREMENTS; EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE ON HEALTH PRACTITIONER**

(a) For purposes of this division, the following definitions apply:

- (1) “Asynchronous store and forward” means the transmission of a patient’s medical information from an originating site to the health care provider at a distant site.
- (2) “Distant site” means a site where a health care provider who provides health care services is located while providing these services via a telecommunications system.
- (3) “Health care provider” means any of the following:
  - (A) A person who is licensed under this division.
  - (B) An associate marriage and family therapist or marriage and family therapist trainee functioning pursuant to Section 4980.43.3.
  - (C) A qualified autism service provider or qualified autism service professional certified by a national entity pursuant to Section 1374.73 of the Health and Safety Code and Section 10144.51 of the Insurance Code.
  - (D) An associate clinical social worker functioning pursuant to Section 4996.23.2.
  - (E) An associate professional clinical counselor or clinical counselor trainee functioning pursuant to Section 4999.46.3.
- (4) “Originating site” means a site where a patient is located at the time health care services are provided via a telecommunications system or where the asynchronous store and forward service originates.
- (5) “Synchronous interaction” means a real-time interaction between a patient and a health care provider located at a distant site.

- (6) "Telehealth" means the mode of delivering health care services and public health via information and communication technologies to facilitate the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management, and self-management of a patient's health care. Telehealth facilitates patient self-management and caregiver support for patients and includes synchronous interactions and asynchronous store and forward transfers.
- (b) Before the delivery of health care via telehealth, the health care provider initiating the use of telehealth shall inform the patient about the use of telehealth and obtain verbal or written consent from the patient for the use of telehealth as an acceptable mode of delivering health care services and public health. The consent shall be documented.
- (c) This section does not preclude a patient from receiving in-person health care delivery services during a specified course of health care and treatment after agreeing to receive services via telehealth.
- (d) The failure of a health care provider to comply with this section shall constitute unprofessional conduct. Section 2314 shall not apply to this section.
- (e) This section does not alter the scope of practice of a health care provider or authorize the delivery of health care services in a setting, or in a manner, not otherwise authorized by law.
- (f) All laws regarding the confidentiality of health care information and a patient's rights to the patient's medical information shall apply to telehealth interactions.
- (g) All laws and regulations governing professional responsibility, unprofessional conduct, and standards of practice that apply to a health care provider under the health care provider's license shall apply to that health care provider while providing telehealth services.
- (h) This section shall not apply to a patient under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or any other correctional facility.
- (i) (1) Notwithstanding any other law and for purposes of this section, the governing body of the hospital whose patients are receiving the telehealth services may grant privileges to, and verify and approve credentials for, providers of telehealth services based on its medical staff recommendations that rely on information provided by the distant-site hospital or telehealth entity, as described in Sections 482.12, 482.22, and 485.616 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- (2) By enacting this subdivision, it is the intent of the Legislature to authorize a hospital to grant privileges to, and verify and approve credentials for, providers of telehealth services as described in paragraph (1).
- (3) For the purposes of this subdivision, "telehealth" shall include "telemedicine" as the term is referenced in Sections 482.12, 482.22, and 485.616 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

## **CALIFORNIA CORPORATIONS CODE**

The “Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act” can be found in Sections 13400 – 13410 of the Corporations Code, located [here](#).

## CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE

### § 11166. CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING; DUTY; TIME

- (a) Except as provided in subdivision (d), and in Section 11166.05, a mandated reporter shall make a report to an agency specified in Section 11165.9 whenever the mandated reporter, in the mandated reporter's professional capacity or within the scope of the mandated reporter's employment, has knowledge of or observes a child whom the mandated reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect. The mandated reporter shall make an initial report by telephone to the agency immediately or as soon as is practicably possible, and shall prepare and send, fax, or electronically transmit a written followup report within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident. The mandated reporter may include with the report any nonprivileged documentary evidence the mandated reporter possesses relating to the incident.
- (1) For purposes of this article, "reasonable suspicion" means that it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain a suspicion, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person in a like position, drawing, when appropriate, on the person's training and experience, to suspect child abuse or neglect. "Reasonable suspicion" does not require certainty that child abuse or neglect has occurred nor does it require a specific medical indication of child abuse or neglect; any "reasonable suspicion" is sufficient. For purposes of this article, the pregnancy of a minor does not, in and of itself, constitute a basis for a reasonable suspicion of sexual abuse.
- (2) The agency shall be notified, and a report shall be prepared and sent by fax or electronic transmission, even if the child has expired, regardless of whether or not the possible abuse was a factor contributing to the death, and even if suspected child abuse was discovered during an autopsy.
- (3) A report made by a mandated reporter pursuant to this section shall be known as a mandated report.
- (b) If, after reasonable efforts, a mandated reporter is unable to submit an initial report by telephone, the mandated reporter shall immediately or as soon as is practicably possible, by fax or electronic transmission, make a one-time automated written report on the form prescribed by the Department of Justice, and shall also be available to respond to a telephone followup call by the agency with which the mandated reporter filed the report. A mandated reporter who files a one-time automated written report because the mandated reporter was unable to submit an initial report by telephone is not required to submit a written followup report.
- (1) The one-time automated written report form prescribed by the Department of Justice shall be clearly identifiable so that it is not mistaken for a standard written followup report. In addition, the automated one-time report shall contain a section that allows the mandated reporter to state the reason the initial telephone call was not able to be completed. The reason for the submission of the one-time automated written report in lieu of the procedure prescribed in subdivision (a) shall be captured in the statewide child welfare information system. The department shall work with stakeholders to modify reporting forms and the statewide child welfare information system as is necessary to accommodate the changes enacted by these provisions.

- (2) This subdivision shall not become operative until the statewide child welfare information system is updated to capture the information prescribed in this subdivision.
  - (3) This subdivision shall become inoperative three years after this subdivision becomes operative or on January 1, 2009, whichever occurs first.
  - (4) This section does not supersede the requirement that a mandated reporter first attempt to make a report via telephone, or that agencies specified in Section 11165.9 accept reports from mandated reporters and other persons as required.
- (c) A mandated reporter who fails to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect as required by this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months confinement in a county jail or by a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by both that imprisonment and fine. If a mandated reporter intentionally conceals the mandated reporter's failure to report an incident known by the mandated reporter to be abuse or severe neglect under this section, the failure to report is a continuing offense until an agency specified in Section 11165.9 discovers the offense.
- (d) (1) A clergy member who acquires knowledge or a reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect during a penitential communication is not subject to subdivision (a). For the purposes of this subdivision, "penitential communication" means a communication, intended to be in confidence, including, but not limited to, a sacramental confession, made to a clergy member who, in the course of the discipline or practice of the clergy member's church, denomination, or organization, is authorized or accustomed to hear those communications, and under the discipline, tenets, customs, or practices of the clergy member's church, denomination, or organization, has a duty to keep those communications secret.
- (2) This subdivision does not modify or limit a clergy member's duty to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect when the clergy member is acting in some other capacity that would otherwise make the clergy member a mandated reporter.
  - (3) (A) On or before January 1, 2004, a clergy member or any custodian of records for the clergy member may report to an agency specified in Section 11165.9 that the clergy member or any custodian of records for the clergy member, prior to January 1, 1997, in the clergy member's professional capacity or within the scope of the clergy member's employment, other than during a penitential communication, acquired knowledge or had a reasonable suspicion that a child had been the victim of sexual abuse and that the clergy member or any custodian of records for the clergy member did not previously report the abuse to an agency specified in Section 11165.9. The provisions of Section 11172 shall apply to all reports made pursuant to this paragraph.
    - (B) This paragraph shall apply even if the victim of the known or suspected abuse has reached the age of majority by the time the required report is made.
    - (C) The local law enforcement agency shall have jurisdiction to investigate any report of child abuse made pursuant to this paragraph even if the report is made after the victim has reached the age of majority.
- (e) (1) A commercial film, photographic print, or image processor who has knowledge of or observes, within the scope of that person's professional capacity or employment, any film, photograph, videotape, negative, slide, or any representation of information, data, or an image, including, but not limited to, any film, filmstrip, photograph, negative, slide, photocopy, videotape, video

laser disc, computer hardware, computer software, computer floppy disk, data storage medium, CD-ROM, computer-generated equipment, or computer-generated image depicting a child under 16 years of age engaged in an act of sexual conduct, shall, immediately or as soon as practicably possible, telephonically report the instance of reasonably suspected abuse to the law enforcement agency located in the county in which the images are seen. Within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident, the reporter shall prepare and send, fax, or electronically transmit a written followup report of the incident with a copy of the image or material attached.

- (2) A commercial computer technician who has knowledge of or observes, within the scope of the technician's professional capacity or employment, any representation of information, data, or an image, including, but not limited to, any computer hardware, computer software, computer file, computer floppy disk, data storage medium, CD-ROM, computer-generated equipment, or computer-generated image that is retrievable in perceivable form and that is intentionally saved, transmitted, or organized on an electronic medium, depicting a child under 16 years of age engaged in an act of sexual conduct, shall immediately, or as soon as practicably possible, telephonically report the instance of reasonably suspected abuse to the law enforcement agency located in the county in which the images or materials are seen. As soon as practicably possible after receiving the information concerning the incident, the reporter shall prepare and send, fax, or electronically transmit a written followup report of the incident with a brief description of the images or materials.
- (3) For purposes of this article, "commercial computer technician" includes an employee designated by an employer to receive reports pursuant to an established reporting process authorized by subparagraph (B) of paragraph (43) of subdivision (a) of Section 11165.7.
- (4) As used in this subdivision, "electronic medium" includes, but is not limited to, a recording, CD-ROM, magnetic disk memory, magnetic tape memory, CD, DVD, thumbdrive, or any other computer hardware or media.
- (5) As used in this subdivision, "sexual conduct" means any of the following:
  - (A) Sexual intercourse, including genital-genital, oral-genital, anal-genital, or oral-anal, whether between persons of the same or opposite sex or between humans and animals.
  - (B) Penetration of the vagina or rectum by any object.
  - (C) Masturbation for the purpose of sexual stimulation of the viewer.
  - (D) Sadomasochistic abuse for the purpose of sexual stimulation of the viewer.
  - (E) Exhibition of the genitals, pubic, or rectal areas of a person for the purpose of sexual stimulation of the viewer.
- (f) Any mandated reporter who knows or reasonably suspects that the home or institution in which a child resides is unsuitable for the child because of abuse or neglect of the child shall bring the condition to the attention of the agency to which, and at the same time as, the mandated reporter makes a report of the abuse or neglect pursuant to subdivision (a).
- (g) Any other person who has knowledge of or observes a child whom the person knows or reasonably suspects has been a victim of child abuse or neglect may report the known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect to an agency specified in Section 11165.9. For purposes of this section, "any other person" includes a mandated reporter who acts in the



person's private capacity and not in the person's professional capacity or within the scope of the person's employment.

- (h) When two or more persons, who are required to report, jointly have knowledge of a known or reasonably suspected instance of child abuse or neglect, and when there is agreement among them, the telephone report may be made by a member of the team selected by mutual agreement and a single report may be made and signed by the selected member of the reporting team. Any member who has knowledge that the member designated to report has failed to do so shall thereafter make the report.
- (i) (1) The reporting duties under this section are individual, and no supervisor or administrator may impede or inhibit the reporting duties, and no person making a report shall be subject to any sanction for making the report. However, internal procedures to facilitate reporting and apprise supervisors and administrators of reports may be established provided that they are not inconsistent with this article. An internal policy shall not direct an employee to allow the employee's supervisor to file or process a mandated report under any circumstances.
- (2) The internal procedures shall not require any employee required to make reports pursuant to this article to disclose the employee's identity to the employer.
- (3) Reporting the information regarding knowledge of or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect to an employer, supervisor, school principal, school counselor, coworker, or other person shall not be a substitute for making a mandated report to an agency specified in Section 11165.9.
- (j) (1) A county probation or welfare department shall immediately, or as soon as practicably possible, report by telephone, fax, or electronic transmission to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the case, to the agency given the responsibility for investigation of cases under Section 300 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and to the district attorney's office every known or reasonably suspected instance of child abuse or neglect, as defined in Section 11165.6, except acts or omissions coming within subdivision (b) of Section 11165.2, or reports made pursuant to Section 11165.13 based on risk to a child that relates solely to the inability of the parent to provide the child with regular care due to the parent's substance abuse, which shall be reported only to the county welfare or probation department. A county probation or welfare department also shall send by fax or electronic transmission a written report thereof within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident to any agency to which it makes a telephone report under this subdivision.
- (2) A county probation or welfare department shall immediately, and in no case in more than 24 hours, report to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the case after receiving information that a child or youth who is receiving child welfare services has been identified as the victim of commercial sexual exploitation, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 11165.1.
- (3) When a child or youth who is receiving child welfare services and who is reasonably believed to be the victim of, or is at risk of being the victim of, commercial sexual exploitation, as defined in Section 11165.1, is missing or has been abducted, the county probation or welfare department shall immediately, or in no case later than 24 hours from receipt of the information, report the incident to the appropriate law enforcement authority for entry into the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

(k) A law enforcement agency shall immediately, or as soon as practicably possible, report by telephone, fax, or electronic transmission to the agency given responsibility for investigation of cases under Section 300 of the Welfare and Institutions Code and to the district attorney's office every known or reasonably suspected instance of child abuse or neglect reported to it, except acts or omissions coming within subdivision (b) of Section 11165.2, which shall be reported only to the county welfare or probation department. A law enforcement agency shall report to the county welfare or probation department every known or reasonably suspected instance of child abuse or neglect reported to it that is alleged to have occurred as a result of the action of a person responsible for the child's welfare, or as the result of the failure of a person responsible for the child's welfare to adequately protect the minor from abuse when the person responsible for the child's welfare knew or reasonably should have known that the minor was in danger of abuse. A law enforcement agency also shall send by fax or electronic transmission a written report thereof within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident to any agency to which it makes a telephone report under this subdivision.

## CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

### § 122318. EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOGS: REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS

- (a) A health care practitioner shall not provide documentation relating to an individual's need for an emotional support dog unless the health care practitioner complies with all of the following criteria:
- (1) Possesses a valid, active license and includes the effective date, license number, jurisdiction, and type of professional license in the documentation.
  - (2) Is licensed to provide professional services within the scope of the license in the jurisdiction in which the documentation is provided.
  - (3) (A) Except as specified in subparagraph (B), establishes a client-provider relationship with the individual for at least 30 days prior to providing the documentation requested regarding the individual's need for an emotional support dog.  
(B) A client-provider relationship with the individual of 30 days or more shall not be required for individuals who are verified to be homeless. Homeless status may be verified by any of the following:
    - (I) Identification through the local Homeless Management Information System, as defined in Section 578.3 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
    - (II) Via a continuum of care, as defined in Section 578.3 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations, or a homeless services provider that is contracting with a continuum of care.
    - (III) Visual confirmation by a homeless services provider of individuals dwelling in a homeless shelter, homeless encampment, outdoor makeshift shelter, or vehicle.
  - (4) Completes a clinical evaluation of the individual regarding the need for an emotional support dog.
  - (5) Provides a verbal or written notice to the individual that knowingly and fraudulently representing oneself to be the owner or trainer of any canine licensed as, to be qualified as, or identified as, a guide, signal, or service dog is a misdemeanor violation of Section 365.7 of the Penal Code.
- (b) For purposes of this section, "health care practitioner" means a person who is licensed and regulated pursuant to Division 2 (commencing with Section 500) of the Business and Professions Code, who is acting within the scope of practice of the person's license or certificate.
- (c) A health care practitioner may be subject to discipline from the health care practitioner's licensing board for a violation of this section.

## **§ 122319. EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOGS: CIVIL PENALTIES**

- (a) (1) A violation of either of the following shall be subject to a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500) for the first violation, one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the second violation, and two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for the third and any subsequent violation:
- (A) Knowingly and fraudulently representing, selling, or offering for sale, or attempting to represent, sell, or offer for sale, an emotional support dog as being entitled to the rights and privileges accorded by law to a guide, signal, or service dog.
  - (B) Violating the written notice requirements specified in Section 122317.
- (2) An action for civil penalties under this section may be brought by the Attorney General, a district attorney, a county counsel, or a city attorney.
- (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict or change existing federal and state law related to a person's rights for reasonable accommodation and equal access to housing, including, but not limited to, rights afforded under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 12900) of Part 2.8 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code), the Unruh Civil Rights Act (Section 51 of the Civil Code), and the Disabled Persons Act (Part 2.5 (commencing with Section 54) of Division 1 of the Civil Code).

## **§ 122319.5. EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOG: EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL; DEFINITIONS**

For purposes of this article, the following definitions apply:

- (a) "Emotional support animal" means an animal that provides emotional, cognitive, or other similar support to an individual with a disability, and that does not need to be trained or certified.
- (b) "Emotional support dog" means a dog that provides emotional, cognitive, or other similar support to an individual with a disability, and that does not need to be trained or certified.
- (c) "Guide, signal, or service dog" has the meaning set forth in subdivisions (d), (e), and (f) of Section 365.5 of the Penal Code, and paragraph (6) of subdivision (b) of Section 54.1 of the Civil Code.

## **§ 123110. INSPECTION AND COPYING; VERIFICATION OF IDENTITY; RETENTION AND QUALITY OF RECORDS; LIABILITY FOR DISCLOSURE; VIOLATIONS; PENALTIES**

- (a) Notwithstanding Section 5328 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and except as provided in Sections 123115 and 123120, any adult patient of a health care provider, any minor patient authorized by law to consent to medical treatment, and any patient's personal representative shall be entitled to inspect patient records upon presenting to the health care provider a request for those records and upon payment of reasonable costs, as specified in subdivision (j). However, a patient who is a minor shall be entitled to inspect patient records pertaining only to health care of a type for which the minor is lawfully authorized to consent. A health care provider shall permit this inspection during business hours within five working days after receipt of the request. The inspection shall be conducted by the patient or patient's personal representative requesting the inspection, who may be accompanied by one other person of their choosing.

- (b) (1) Additionally, any patient or patient's personal representative shall be entitled to a paper or electronic copy of all or any portion of the patient records that they have a right to inspect, upon presenting a request to the health care provider specifying the records to be copied, together with a fee to defray the costs of producing the copy or summary, as specified in subdivision (j). The health care provider shall ensure that the copies are transmitted within 15 days after receiving the request.
- (2) The health care provider shall provide the patient or patient's personal representative with a copy of the record in the form and format requested if it is readily producible in the requested form and format, or, if not, in a readable paper copy form or other form and format as agreed to by the health care provider and the patient or patient's personal representative. If the requested patient records are maintained electronically and if the patient or patient's personal representative requests an electronic copy of those records, the health care provider shall provide them in the electronic form and format requested if they are readily producible in that form and format, or, if not, in a readable electronic form and format as agreed to by the health care provider and the patient or patient's personal representative.
- (c) Copies of X-rays or tracings derived from electrocardiography, electroencephalography, or electromyography need not be provided to the patient or patient's personal representative under this section, if the original X-rays or tracings are transmitted to another health care provider upon written request of the patient or patient's personal representative and within 15 days after receipt of the request. The request shall specify the name and address of the health care provider to whom the records are to be delivered. All reasonable costs, not exceeding actual costs, incurred by a health care provider in providing copies pursuant to this subdivision may be charged to the patient or representative requesting the copies.
- (d) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, and except as provided in Sections 123115 and 123120, a patient, employee of a nonprofit legal services entity representing the patient, or the personal representative of a patient, is entitled to a copy, at no charge, of the relevant portion of the patient's records, upon presenting to the provider a written request, and proof that the records or supporting forms are needed to support a claim or appeal regarding eligibility for a public benefit program, a petition for U nonimmigrant status under the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, or a self-petition for lawful permanent residency under the Violence Against Women Act. A public benefit program includes the Medi-Cal program, the In-Home Supportive Services Program, the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program for the Aged, Blind and Disabled (SSI/SSP) benefits, federal veterans service-connected compensation and nonservice connected pension disability benefits, CalFresh, the Cash Assistance Program for Aged, Blind, and Disabled Legal Immigrants, and a government-funded housing subsidy or tenant-based housing assistance program.
- (2) Although a patient shall not be limited to a single request, the patient, employee of a nonprofit legal services entity representing the patient, or patient's personal representative shall be entitled to no more than one copy of any relevant portion of their record free of charge.
- (3) This subdivision shall not apply to any patient who is represented by a private attorney who is paying for the costs related to the patient's claim or appeal, pending the outcome of that claim

or appeal. For purposes of this subdivision, "private attorney" means any attorney not employed by a nonprofit legal services entity.

- (e) If a patient, employee of a nonprofit legal services entity representing the patient, or the patient's personal representative requests a record pursuant to subdivision (d), the health care provider shall ensure that the copies are transmitted within 30 days after receiving the written request.
- (f) This section shall not be construed to preclude a health care provider from requiring reasonable verification of identity prior to permitting inspection or copying of patient records, provided this requirement is not used oppressively or discriminatorily to frustrate or delay compliance with this section. This section does not supersede any rights that a patient or personal representative might otherwise have or exercise under Section 1158 of the Evidence Code or any other provision of law. This chapter does not require a health care provider to retain records longer than required by applicable statutes or administrative regulations.
- (g) (1) This chapter shall not be construed to render a health care provider liable for the quality of their records or the copies provided in excess of existing law and regulations with respect to the quality of medical records. A health care provider shall not be liable to the patient or any other person for any consequences that result from disclosure of patient records as required by this chapter. A health care provider shall not discriminate against classes or categories of providers in the transmittal of X-rays or other patient records, or copies of these X-rays or records, to other providers as authorized by this section.  
  
(2) Every health care provider shall adopt policies and establish procedures for the uniform transmittal of X-rays and other patient records that effectively prevent the discrimination described in this subdivision. A health care provider may establish reasonable conditions, including a reasonable deposit fee, to ensure the return of original X-rays transmitted to another health care provider, provided the conditions do not discriminate on the basis of, or in a manner related to, the license of the provider to which the X-rays are transmitted.
- (h) Any health care provider described in paragraphs (4) to (10), inclusive, of subdivision (a) of Section 123105 who willfully violates this chapter is guilty of unprofessional conduct. Any health care provider described in paragraphs (1) to (3), inclusive, of subdivision (a) of Section 123105 that willfully violates this chapter is guilty of an infraction punishable by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100). The state agency, board, or commission that issued the health care provider's professional or institutional license shall consider a violation as grounds for disciplinary action with respect to the licensure, including suspension or revocation of the license or certificate.
- (i) This section prohibits a health care provider from withholding patient records or summaries of patient records because of an unpaid bill for health care services. Any health care provider who willfully withholds patient records or summaries of patient records because of an unpaid bill for health care services is subject to the sanctions specified in subdivision (h).
- (j) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (d), a health care provider may impose a reasonable, cost-based fee for providing a paper or electronic copy or summary of patient records, provided the fee includes only the cost of the following:
  - (A) Labor for copying the patient records requested by the patient or patient's personal representative, whether in paper or electronic form.

- (B) Supplies for creating the paper copy or electronic media if the patient or patient's personal representative requests that the electronic copy be provided on portable media.
  - (C) Postage, if the patient or patient's personal representative has requested the copy, or the summary or explanation, be mailed.
  - (D) Preparing an explanation or summary of the patient record, if agreed to by the patient or patient's personal representative.
- (2) The fee from a health care provider shall not exceed twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per page for paper copies or fifty cents (\$0.50) per page for records that are copied from microfilm.

## **§ 124260. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR MINORS**

(a) As used in this section:

- (1) "Mental health treatment or counseling services" means the provision of outpatient mental health treatment or counseling by a professional person, as defined in paragraph (2).
- (2) "Professional person" means any of the following:
  - (A) A person designated as a mental health professional in Sections 622 to 626, inclusive, of Title 9 of the California Code of Regulations.
  - (B) A marriage and family therapist, as defined in Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 4980) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.
  - (C) A licensed educational psychologist, as defined in Chapter 13.5 (commencing with Section 4989.10) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.
  - (D) A credentialed school psychologist, as described in Section 49424 of the Education Code.
  - (E) A clinical psychologist licensed under Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 2900) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.
  - (F) Any of the following persons, while working under the supervision of a licensed professional specified in Section 2902 of the Business and Professions Code:
    - (i) A registered psychologist, as defined in Section 2909.5 of the Business and Professions Code.
    - (ii) A registered psychological assistant, as defined in Section 2913 of the Business and Professions Code.
    - (iii) A psychology trainee, as defined in Section 1387 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations.
  - (G) A licensed clinical social worker, as defined in Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 4991) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.
  - (H) An associate clinical social worker, or a social work intern, as defined in Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 4991) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, while working under the supervision of a licensed professional specified in Section 4996.20 of the Business and Professions Code.

- (I) A person registered as an associate marriage and family therapist or a marriage and family therapist trainee, as defined in Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 4980) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, while working under the supervision of a licensed professional specified in subdivision (g) of Section 4980.03 of the Business and Professions Code.
  - (J) A board certified, or board eligible, psychiatrist.
  - (K) A licensed professional clinical counselor, as defined in Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 4999.10) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.
  - (L) A person registered as an associate professional clinical counselor or a clinical counselor trainee, as defined in Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 4999.10) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, while working under the supervision of a licensed professional specified in subdivision (h) of Section 4999.12 of the Business and Professions Code.
- (b) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a minor who is 12 years of age or older may consent to mental health treatment or counseling services if, in the opinion of the attending professional person, the minor is mature enough to participate intelligently in the mental health treatment or counseling services.
- (2) A marriage and family therapist trainee, a clinical counselor trainee, a psychology trainee, or a social work intern, as specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a), shall notify his or her supervisor or, if the supervisor is unavailable, an on-call supervisor at the site where the trainee or intern volunteers or is employed within 24 hours of treating or counseling a minor pursuant to paragraph (1). If upon the initial assessment of the minor the trainee or intern believes that the minor is a danger to self or to others, the trainee or intern shall notify the supervisor or, if the supervisor is unavailable, the on-call supervisor immediately after the treatment or counseling session.
- (3) Nothing in paragraph (2) is intended to supplant, alter, expand, or remove any other reporting responsibilities required of trainees or interns under law.
- (c) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the mental health treatment or counseling of a minor authorized by this section shall include involvement of the minor's parent or guardian, unless the professional person who is treating or counseling the minor, after consulting with the minor, determines that the involvement would be inappropriate. The professional person who is treating or counseling the minor shall state in the client record whether and when the person attempted to contact the minor's parent or guardian, and whether the attempt to contact was successful or unsuccessful, or the reason why, in the professional person's opinion, it would be inappropriate to contact the minor's parent or guardian.
- (d) The minor's parent or guardian is not liable for payment for mental health treatment or counseling services provided pursuant to this section unless the parent or guardian participates in the mental health treatment or counseling, and then only for services rendered with the participation of the parent or guardian.
- (e) This section does not authorize a minor to receive convulsive treatment or psychosurgery, as defined in subdivisions (f) and (g) of Section 5325 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, or psychotropic drugs without the consent of the minor's parent or guardian.



## CALIFORNIA WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

### § 14029.8. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR MINORS; MEDI-CAL

Section 124260 of the Health and Safety Code shall not apply to the receipt of benefits under the Medi-Cal program.

### § 15630. ELDER AND DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE REPORTING

- (a) A person who has assumed full or intermittent responsibility for the care or custody of an elder or dependent adult, whether or not they receive compensation, including administrators, supervisors, and any licensed staff of a public or private facility that provides care or services for elder or dependent adults, or any elder or dependent adult care custodian, health practitioner, clergy member, or employee of a county adult protective services agency or a local law enforcement agency, is a mandated reporter.
- (b) (1) A mandated reporter who, in their professional capacity, or within the scope of their employment, has observed or has knowledge of an incident that reasonably appears to be physical abuse, as defined in Section 15610.63, abandonment, abduction, isolation, financial abuse, or neglect, or is told by an elder or dependent adult that they have experienced behavior, including an act or omission, constituting physical abuse, as defined in Section 15610.63, abandonment, abduction, isolation, financial abuse, or neglect, or reasonably suspects that abuse, shall report the known, suspected, or alleged instance of abuse by telephone or through a confidential internet reporting tool, as authorized by Section 15658, immediately or as soon as practicably possible. If reported by telephone, a written report shall be sent, or an internet report shall be made through the confidential internet reporting tool established in Section 15658, within two working days.
- (A) If the known, suspected, or alleged abuse occurred in a long-term care facility, except a state mental health hospital or a state developmental center, the following shall occur:
- (i) If the abuse was allegedly caused by another resident of the facility with dementia diagnosed by a licensed physician and there was no serious bodily injury, the reporter shall submit a written report of the known, suspected, or alleged instance of abuse to both of the following agencies within 24 hours:
    - (I) The long-term care ombudsman.
    - (II) The local law enforcement agency.
  - (ii) In all other instances, immediately or as soon as practically possible, but no longer than two hours, the reporter shall submit a verbal report of the known, suspected, or alleged instance of abuse to the local law enforcement agency, and shall submit a written report to all of the following agencies within 24 hours:
    - (I) The long-term care ombudsman.
    - (II) The local law enforcement agency.
    - (III) The corresponding state licensing agency.

- (iii) For purposes of this subparagraph, the time limit for reporting begins when the mandated reporter observes, obtains knowledge of, or suspects the abuse or neglect.
- (B) When applicable, reports made pursuant to clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) shall be deemed to satisfy the reporting requirements of the federal Elder Justice Act of 2009, as set out in Subtitle H of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), Section 1418.91 of the Health and Safety Code, and Section 72541 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. When a local law enforcement agency receives an initial report of suspected abuse in a long-term care facility pursuant to subparagraph (A), the local law enforcement agency may coordinate efforts with the local ombudsman to provide the most immediate and appropriate response warranted to investigate the mandated report. The local ombudsman and local law enforcement agencies may collaborate to develop protocols to implement subparagraph (A).
- (C) Notwithstanding the rulemaking provisions of Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, or any other law, the department may implement subparagraphs (A) and (B), in whole or in part, by means of all-county letters, provider bulletins, or other similar instructions without taking regulatory action.
- (D) With regard to abuse reported pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B), the local ombudsman and the local law enforcement agency shall, as soon as practicable, except in the case of an emergency or pursuant to a report required to be made pursuant to clause (v), in which case these actions shall be taken immediately, do all of the following:
- (i) Report to the State Department of Public Health any case of known or suspected abuse occurring in a long-term health care facility, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 1418 of the Health and Safety Code.
  - (ii) Report to the State Department of Social Services any case of known or suspected abuse occurring in a residential care facility for the elderly, as defined in Section 1569.2 of the Health and Safety Code, or in an adult day program, as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 1502 of the Health and Safety Code.
  - (iii) Report to the State Department of Public Health and the California Department of Aging any case of known or suspected abuse occurring in an adult day health care center, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 1570.7 of the Health and Safety Code.
  - (iv) Report to the Division of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse any case of known or suspected criminal activity.
  - (v) Report all cases of known or suspected physical abuse and financial abuse to the local district attorney's office in the county where the abuse occurred.
- (E) (i) If the suspected or alleged abuse or neglect occurred in a state mental hospital or a state developmental center, and the suspected or alleged abuse or neglect resulted in any of the following incidents, a report shall be made immediately, but no later than within two hours of the mandated reporter observing, obtaining knowledge of, or suspecting abuse, to designated investigators of the State Department of State Hospitals or the State Department of Developmental Services, and to the local law enforcement agency:

- (I) A death.
  - (II) A sexual assault, as defined in Section 15610.63.
  - (III) An assault with a deadly weapon, as described in Section 245 of the Penal Code, by a nonresident of the state mental hospital or state developmental center.
  - (IV) An assault with force likely to produce great bodily injury, as described in Section 245 of the Penal Code.
  - (V) An injury to the genitals when the cause of the injury is undetermined.
  - (VI) A broken bone when the cause of the break is undetermined.
- (ii) All other reports of suspected or alleged abuse or neglect that occurred in a state mental hospital or a state developmental center shall be made immediately, but no later than within two hours of the mandated reporter observing, obtaining knowledge of, or suspecting abuse, to designated investigators of the State Department of State Hospitals or the State Department of Developmental Services, or to the local law enforcement agency.
  - (iii) When a local law enforcement agency receives an initial report of suspected or alleged abuse or neglect in a state mental hospital or a state developmental center pursuant to clause (i), the local law enforcement agency shall coordinate efforts with the designated investigators of the State Department of State Hospitals or the State Department of Developmental Services to provide the most immediate and appropriate response warranted to investigate the mandated report. The designated investigators of the State Department of State Hospitals or the State Department of Developmental Services and local law enforcement agencies may collaborate to develop protocols to implement this clause.
  - (iv) Except in an emergency, the local law enforcement agency shall, as soon as practicable, report any case of known or suspected criminal activity to the Division of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse.
  - (v) Notwithstanding any other law, a mandated reporter who is required to report pursuant to Section 4427.5 shall not be required to report under clause (i).
- (F) If the abuse has occurred in any place other than a long-term care facility, a state mental hospital, or a state developmental center, the report shall be made to the adult protective services agency or the local law enforcement agency.
- (2) (A) A mandated reporter who is a clergy member who acquires knowledge or reasonable suspicion of elder or dependent adult abuse during a penitential communication is not subject to paragraph (1). For purposes of this subdivision, "penitential communication" means a communication that is intended to be in confidence, including, but not limited to, a sacramental confession made to a clergy member who, in the course of the discipline or practice of their church, denomination, or organization is authorized or accustomed to hear those communications and under the discipline tenets, customs, or practices of their church, denomination, or organization, has a duty to keep those communications secret.

- (B) This subdivision shall not modify or limit a clergy member's duty to report known or suspected elder and dependent adult abuse if they are acting in the capacity of a care custodian, health practitioner, or employee of an adult protective services agency.
- (C) Notwithstanding this section, a clergy member who is not regularly employed on either a full-time or part-time basis in a long-term care facility or does not have care or custody of an elder or dependent adult shall not be responsible for reporting abuse or neglect that is not reasonably observable or discernible to a reasonably prudent person having no specialized training or experience in elder or dependent care.
- (3) (A) A mandated reporter who is a physician and surgeon, a registered nurse, or a psychotherapist, as defined in Section 1010 of the Evidence Code, shall not be required to report, pursuant to paragraph (1), an incident if all of the following conditions exist:
- (i) The mandated reporter has been told by an elder or dependent adult that they have experienced behavior constituting physical abuse, as defined in Section 15610.63, abandonment, abduction, isolation, financial abuse, or neglect.
  - (ii) The mandated reporter is unaware of any independent evidence that corroborates the statement that the abuse has occurred.
  - (iii) The elder or dependent adult has been diagnosed with a mental illness or dementia, or is the subject of a court-ordered conservatorship because of a mental illness or dementia.
  - (iv) In the exercise of clinical judgment, the physician and surgeon, the registered nurse, or the psychotherapist, as defined in Section 1010 of the Evidence Code, reasonably believes that the abuse did not occur.
- (B) This paragraph shall not impose upon mandated reporters a duty to investigate a known or suspected incident of abuse and shall not lessen or restrict any existing duty of mandated reporters.
- (4) (A) In a long-term care facility, a mandated reporter shall not be required to report as a suspected incident of abuse, as defined in Section 15610.07, an incident if all of the following conditions exist:
- (i) The mandated reporter is aware that there is a proper plan of care.
  - (ii) The mandated reporter is aware that the plan of care was properly provided or executed.
  - (iii) A physical, mental, or medical injury occurred as a result of care provided pursuant to clause (i) or (ii).
  - (iv) The mandated reporter reasonably believes that the injury was not the result of abuse.
- (B) This paragraph shall neither require a mandated reporter to seek, nor preclude a mandated reporter from seeking, information regarding a known or suspected incident of abuse before reporting. This paragraph shall apply only to those categories of mandated reporters that the State Department of Public Health determines, upon approval by the Division of Medical Fraud and Elder Abuse and the state long-term care ombudsman, have access to

plans of care and have the training and experience necessary to determine whether the conditions specified in this section have been met.

- (c) (1) Any mandated reporter who has knowledge, or reasonably suspects, that types of elder or dependent adult abuse for which reports are not mandated have been inflicted upon an elder or dependent adult, or that their emotional well-being is endangered in any other way, may report the known or suspected instance of abuse.
- (2) If the suspected or alleged abuse occurred in a long-term care facility other than a state mental health hospital or a state developmental center, the report may be made to the long-term care ombudsman program. Except in an emergency, the local ombudsman shall report any case of known or suspected abuse to the State Department of Public Health and any case of known or suspected criminal activity to the Division of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse, as soon as is practicable.
- (3) If the suspected or alleged abuse occurred in a state mental health hospital or a state developmental center, the report may be made to the designated investigator of the State Department of State Hospitals or the State Department of Developmental Services or to a local law enforcement agency. Except in an emergency, the local law enforcement agency shall report any case of known or suspected criminal activity to the Division of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse, as soon as is practicable.
- (4) If the suspected or alleged abuse occurred in a place other than a place described in paragraph (2) or (3), the report may be made to the county adult protective services agency.
- (5) If the conduct involves criminal activity not covered in subdivision (b), it may be immediately reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- (d) If two or more mandated reporters are present and jointly have knowledge or reasonably suspect that types of abuse of an elder or a dependent adult for which a report is or is not mandated have occurred, and there is agreement among them, the telephone report or internet report, as authorized by Section 15658, may be made by a member of the team selected by mutual agreement, and a single report may be made and signed by the selected member of the reporting team. Any member who has knowledge that the member designated to report has failed to do so shall thereafter make the report.
- (e) A telephone report or internet report, as authorized by Section 15658, of a known or suspected instance of elder or dependent adult abuse shall include, if known, the name of the person making the report, the name and age of the elder or dependent adult, the present location of the elder or dependent adult, the names and addresses of family members or any other adult responsible for the elder's or dependent adult's care, the nature and extent of the elder's or dependent adult's condition, the date of the incident, and any other information, including information that led that person to suspect elder or dependent adult abuse, as requested by the agency receiving the report.
- (f) The reporting duties under this section are individual, and no supervisor or administrator shall impede or inhibit the reporting duties, and no person making the report shall be subject to any sanction for making the report. However, internal procedures to facilitate reporting, ensure confidentiality, and apprise supervisors and administrators of reports may be established, provided they are not inconsistent with this chapter.

- (g) (1) Whenever this section requires a county adult protective services agency to report to a law enforcement agency, the law enforcement agency shall, immediately upon request, provide a copy of its investigative report concerning the reported matter to that county adult protective services agency.
- (2) Whenever this section requires a law enforcement agency to report to a county adult protective services agency, the county adult protective services agency shall, immediately upon request, provide to that law enforcement agency a copy of its investigative report concerning the reported matter.
- (3) The requirement to disclose investigative reports pursuant to this subdivision shall not include the disclosure of social services records or case files that are confidential, nor shall this subdivision allow disclosure of any reports or records if the disclosure would be prohibited by any other state or federal law.
- (h) Failure to report, or impeding or inhibiting a report of, physical abuse, as defined in Section 15610.63, abandonment, abduction, isolation, financial abuse, or neglect of an elder or dependent adult, in violation of this section, is a misdemeanor, punishable by not more than six months in the county jail, by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment. A mandated reporter who willfully fails to report, or impedes or inhibits a report of, physical abuse, as defined in Section 15610.63, abandonment, abduction, isolation, financial abuse, or neglect of an elder or dependent adult, in violation of this section, if that abuse results in death or great bodily injury, shall be punished by not more than one year in a county jail, by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment. If a mandated reporter intentionally conceals their failure to report an incident known by the mandated reporter to be abuse or severe neglect under this section, the failure to report is a continuing offense until a law enforcement agency specified in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) discovers the offense.
- (i) For purposes of this section, "dependent adult" has the same meaning as that term is defined in Section 15610.23.

## CALIFORNIA FAMILY CODE

### § 6924. MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT OF MINORS; INOPERATIVE JULY 1, 2024

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Mental health treatment or counseling services" means the provision of mental health treatment or counseling on an outpatient basis by any of the following:

- (A) A governmental agency.
- (B) A person or agency having a contract with a governmental agency to provide the services.
- (C) An agency that receives funding from community united funds.
- (D) A runaway house or crisis resolution center.
- (E) A professional person, as defined in paragraph (2).

(2) "Professional person" means any of the following:

- (A) A person designated as a mental health professional in Sections 622 to 626, inclusive, of Article 8 of Subchapter 3 of Chapter 1 of Title 9 of the California Code of Regulations.
- (B) A marriage and family therapist as defined in Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 4980) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.
- (C) A licensed educational psychologist as defined in Chapter 13.5 (commencing with Section 4989.10) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.
- (D) A credentialed school psychologist as described in Section 49424 of the Education Code.
- (E) A clinical psychologist as defined in Section 1316.5 of the Health and Safety Code.
- (F) The chief administrator of an agency referred to in paragraph (1) or (3).
- (G) A person registered as an associate marriage and family therapist, as defined in Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 4980) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, while working under the supervision of a licensed professional specified in subdivision (g) of Section 4980.03 of the Business and Professions Code.
- (H) A licensed professional clinical counselor, as defined in Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 4999.10) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.
- (I) A person registered as an associate professional clinical counselor, as defined in Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 4999.10) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, while working under the supervision of a licensed professional specified in subdivision (h) of Section 4999.12 of the Business and Professions Code.

(3) "Residential shelter services" means any of the following:

- (A) The provision of residential and other support services to minors on a temporary or emergency basis in a facility that services only minors by a governmental agency, a person

or agency having a contract with a governmental agency to provide these services, an agency that receives funding from community funds, or a licensed community care facility or crisis resolution center.

(B) The provision of other support services on a temporary or emergency basis by any professional person as defined in paragraph (2).

- (b) A minor who is 12 years of age or older may consent to mental health treatment or counseling on an outpatient basis, or to residential shelter services, if both of the following requirements are satisfied:
- (1) The minor, in the opinion of the attending professional person, is mature enough to participate intelligently in the outpatient services or residential shelter services.
  - (2) The minor (A) would present a danger of serious physical or mental harm to self or to others without the mental health treatment or counseling or residential shelter services, or (B) is the alleged victim of incest or child abuse.
- (c) A professional person offering residential shelter services, whether as an individual or as a representative of an entity specified in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a), shall make their best efforts to notify the parent or guardian of the provision of services.
- (d) The mental health treatment or counseling of a minor authorized by this section shall include involvement of the minor's parent or guardian unless, in the opinion of the professional person who is treating or counseling the minor, the involvement would be inappropriate. The professional person who is treating or counseling the minor shall state in the client record whether and when the person attempted to contact the minor's parent or guardian, and whether the attempt to contact was successful or unsuccessful, or the reason why, in the professional person's opinion, it would be inappropriate to contact the minor's parent or guardian.
- (e) The minor's parents or guardian are not liable for payment for mental health treatment or counseling services provided pursuant to this section unless the parent or guardian participates in the mental health treatment or counseling, and then only for services rendered with the participation of the parent or guardian. The minor's parents or guardian are not liable for payment for any residential shelter services provided pursuant to this section unless the parent or guardian consented to the provision of those services.
- (f) This section does not authorize a minor to receive convulsive therapy or psychosurgery as defined in subdivisions (f) and (g) of Section 5325 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, or psychotropic drugs without the consent of the minor's parent or guardian.
- (g) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2024, and, as of January 1, 2025, is repealed.

## **§ 6924. MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT OF MINORS; OPERATIVE JULY 1, 2024**

(a) As used in this section:

- (1) "Mental health treatment or counseling services" means the provision of mental health treatment or counseling on an outpatient basis by any of the following:
  - (A) A governmental agency.



- (B) A person or agency having a contract with a governmental agency to provide the services.
  - (C) An agency that receives funding from community united funds.
  - (D) A runaway house or crisis resolution center.
  - (E) A professional person, as defined in paragraph (2).
- (2) “Professional person” means either of the following:
- (A) A professional person as defined in Section 124260 of the Health and Safety Code.
  - (B) The chief administrator of an agency referred to in paragraph (1) or (3).
- (3) “Residential shelter services” means any of the following:
- (A) The provision of residential and other support services to minors on a temporary or emergency basis in a facility that services only minors by a governmental agency, a person or agency having a contract with a governmental agency to provide these services, an agency that receives funding from community funds, or a licensed community care facility or crisis resolution center.
  - (B) The provision of other support services on a temporary or emergency basis by any professional person as defined in paragraph (2).
- (b) A minor who is 12 years of age or older may consent to mental health treatment or counseling on an outpatient basis, or to residential shelter services, if the minor, in the opinion of the attending professional person, is mature enough to participate intelligently in the outpatient services or residential shelter services.
- (c) A professional person offering residential shelter services, whether as an individual or as a representative of an entity specified in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a), shall make their best efforts to notify the parent or guardian of the provision of services.
- (d) The mental health treatment or counseling of a minor authorized by this section shall include involvement of the minor’s parent or guardian unless the professional person who is treating or counseling the minor, after consulting with the minor, determines that the involvement would be inappropriate. The professional person who is treating or counseling the minor shall state in the client record whether and when the person attempted to contact the minor’s parent or guardian, and whether the attempt to contact was successful or unsuccessful, or the reason why, in the professional person’s opinion, it would be inappropriate to contact the minor’s parent or guardian.
- (e) The minor’s parents or guardian are not liable for payment for mental health treatment or counseling services provided pursuant to this section unless the parent or guardian participates in the mental health treatment or counseling, and then only for services rendered with the participation of the parent or guardian. The minor’s parents or guardian are not liable for payment for any residential shelter services provided pursuant to this section unless the parent or guardian consented to the provision of those services.
- (f) This section does not authorize a minor to receive convulsive therapy or psychosurgery as defined in subdivisions (f) and (g) of Section 5325 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, or psychotropic drugs without the consent of the minor’s parent or guardian.
- (g) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2024.

# INDEX

All sections in the Index refer to the California Business and Professions Code or Title 16, Division 18 of the California Code of Regulations, unless otherwise indicated. References to “Marriage and Family Therapist,” “Clinical Social Worker,” and “Professional Clinical Counselor” apply to both Associates and Licensees (and MFT Trainees) unless otherwise specified. This index is not intended as a guide to all legal requirements and qualifications. For the full legal requirements and qualifications, refer to the actual legal codes.

## A

ABANDONMENT OF APPLICATION	1806
ACCREDITATION	4980.03, 4980.36, 4980.37, 4991.2, 4999.12
ACCUSATIONS (Statute of Limitations)	4982.05, 4990.32
ADDRESS OF RECORD	27, 1804
ADDRESS CHANGE	1804
ADMINISTRATION	CHAPTER 13.7 (4990 - 4990.42)
Administration and Enforcement of Chapter	4990.12
Board Members (also see BOARD MEMBERS)	4990
Board Seal	4990.14
Delegation of Certain Functions	1803
Employees	4980.70, 4990.06
Executive Officer (see EXECUTIVE OFFICER)	
Powers and Duties of the Board	4980.35, 4989, 4990.12, 4990.20, 4990.24, 4999.14
Public Protection	4990.16
Records of Applicants and Licensees	4990.08
Research and Studies	4990.10
Resources, Use of	4990.18
Revenue	
Appropriation of Funds	4990.22, 4999.116
Expenditures	4990.22, 4999.116
Records of Funds; Report/Payment of Revenue	4984.5, 4989.70, 4990.22, 4999.114
Surplus Funds	4990.22, 4999.116
Rules and Regulations	4980.60, 4988.2, 4989.18, 4990.20, 4999.48
Sunset	4989, 4990, 4990.04, 4990.24
ADVERTISING	4980.44, 4980.48, 1811
Definition	4980.03, 4989.49, 4992.2, 4999.12
False and Misleading Advertisements	
Clinical Social Worker	651, 4992.3, 1881
Educational Psychologist	651, 4989.54, 1858
Marriage and Family Therapist	651, 4982, 1845
Professional Clinical Counselor	651, 4999.90
AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE TRAINING	4980.36, 4980.39, 4996.25, 4996.26, 4999.32, 4999.33
ALCOHOLISM/SUBSTANCE DEPENDENCY TRAINING	29, 4980.36, 4980.41, 4980.81, 4996.2, 4996.17.2, 4999.32, 4999.33, 1807.3, 1810.5, 1887.3

## A (continued)

APPLICANT	
Associate Applicant / 90-Day Rule	4980.43, 4996.23, 4999.46
Definition of Applicant	125.6
Definition of Applicant for Licensure	4980.03, 4999.12, 1805.05
APPLICATIONS	1805
Abandonment or Ineligibility	4984.72, 4989.22, 4996.4, 4999.64, 1806
Denial (see DENIAL OF APPLICATION)	
Fraud, False Statements, Misrepresentation or Impersonation	480, 4982, 4989.54, 4992.3, 4992.7, 4999.90, 1887.1
ASSOCIATE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER (See CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER, ASSOCIATE)	
ASSOCIATE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST (See MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST, ASSOCIATE)	
ASSOCIATE PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR (See PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR, ASSOCIATE)	

## B

BOARD MEMBERS	
Appointment	4990
Chairperson and Vice Chairperson	4990
Delegation of Certain Functions	1803
Duty of Enforcement	4990.12
Number of Board Members	4990
Per Diem and Expenses	4990
Powers	4990.12, 4990.20, 4990.24
Qualifications of Members	4990
Term of Office	4990
Vacancies	4990
BOARD SEAL	4990.14
BOARD TITLE	4990.02, 4990.26

## C

CANCELLED LICENSE	4984.4, 4989.42, 4996.6, 4999.106
CEASE PRACTICE ORDER	315.2, 315.4
CERTIFICATION OF GOOD STANDING	4984.7, 4989.68, 4996.3, 4999.120
CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY	4982.1, 4989.54, 4990.28, 4992.35, 4999.90
CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENT	1845, 1881; Penal Code §11166
CHILD ABUSE TRAINING REQUIREMENT	28, 4980.41, 4980.72, 4980.81, 4996.2, 4996.17.1, 4996.17.2, 4999.32, 4999.33, 4999.60, 4999.62, 1807.2, 1810.5
CHILD CUSTODY EVALUATION	129

## C (continued)

CITATIONS AND FINES	
Administrative Hearing	1886.70
Authority	1886
Citable Offenses	1886.40
Compliance with Citation	1886.60
Consideration of Factors	1886.30
Contested Citations	1886.70
Disconnection of Telephone Service (Unlicensed Persons)	1886.80
Exceptions	1886.50
Fines	1886.40, 1886.60
Format of Citation	1886.20
Informal Conference	1886.70
Order of Abatement	1886.60
Publication on Internet	4990.09
Unlicensed Practice	1886.10
CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK	
Accredited School of Social Work	4991.2
Activities of a Psychosocial Nature	4996.14
Definition of Clinical Social Work	4996.9
Necessity of License	4996
Other Professional Groups	4996.13
Persons from Out-of-State – Consultation or Education	4996.16
Social Work Student Interns	4996.15
CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER, APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE (also see EXPERIENCE and SUPERVISION)	4996.2, 4996.23, 4996.25
CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER, ASSOCIATE	
Continuing Education Requirements	4992.09, 4996.22, 4996.28
Degree Requirements	4991.2, 4996.18
Employment as Independent Contractor Prohibited	4996.23.2
Employment in Private Practice or Professional Corporation	4996.23, 4996.23.2, 4996.23.3
Experience (see EXPERIENCE)	
Law and Ethics Exam	4992.05, 4992.09
Location of Services	4996.23.3
Notice to Clients	4996.18
Out-of-State Applicant	4996.17.1, 4996.17.2
Proprietary Interest – Prohibited	4996.23.2
Qualifications for Registration	4996.18
Remuneration from Clients – Prohibited	4996.23.2
Remuneration from Employer	4996.23.2
Renewal	4996.28
Subsequent Associate Registration	4996.28

## C (continued)

Supervision (see SUPERVISION)	
Temporary Staffing Agency Placement	1869.3
Time Limit for Registration	4996.28
Unprofessional Conduct	4992.3, 1881
Volunteer Services	4996.23.2
Weekly Logs of Experience	1869
<b>CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER, LICENSED</b>	
Continuing Education Requirements	4996.22, 4996.26, 1887 – 1887.12
Display of License	4996.7, 4996.8
Employment of Associates in Private Practice or Professional Corporation	4996.23, 4996.23.2, 4996.23.3, 4996.28
Fictitious Business Names	4998.2
Inactive License	4997
Renewal (See RENEWAL)	
Retired License	4997.1
Scope of Practice	4996.9
Unprofessional Conduct	4992.3, 4998.1, 1881
Violation/Punishment	4996.12
<b>CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	4982, 4989.54, 4992.3, 4999.90, 1881
<b>CONTINUING EDUCATION</b>	166, 1887 – 1887.12
Alcoholism/Chemical Substance Dependency	29, 1807.3, 1887.3
Approval Agencies and Responsibilities	1887, 1887.4.1, 1887.4.2
Audit of Records	4996.22, 4989.34, 4980.54, 4999.76
Course Content	1887.4.0
Course Records	1887.11.0, 1887.12
Course Requirements	1887.3
Definitions	1887
Exceptions From	4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22, 4999.76, 1887.2
Falsifying or Misrepresenting Continuing Education Credit	1887.1
Hours of Continuing Education Credit - Equivalency	1887.5
Hours of Continuing Education Required	4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22, 4999.76, 1887.3
Law and Ethics Course Required	1887.3
<b>Licensee Requirements</b>	
Clinical Social Workers	4996.22, 4996.26, 1887 – 1887.12
Educational Psychologists	4989.34, 1887 – 1887.12
Marriage and Family Therapists	4980.54, 1887 – 1887.12
Professional Clinical Counselors	4999.76, 1887 – 1887.12
Renewal Certification	1887.1
Provider Requirements and Responsibilities	4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22, 4999.76, 1887, 1887.4.1, 1887.4.3
<b>CORE CONTENT AREAS, LPCC</b>	4999.32, 4999.33
<b>CORPORATIONS, PROFESSIONAL</b>	
Application of Article, Clinical Social Workers	4996.19

## C (continued)

Definition	4987.5, 4998, 4999.123
Directors, Shareholders and Officers	4987.8, 4998, 4998.3, 4999.126
Employment of Associates	4980.43.4, 4996.23.3, 4999.46.4
Fictitious Business Names	4987.7, 4998.2, 4999.125
Income Attributable to Shareholder who is Disqualified Person	4988, 4998.4, 4999.127, 1850.7
Insurance Against Claims	4990.20, 4999.129
Name of Corporation	4987.7, 4998.2, 4999.125, 1850.6
Rules and Regulations	4988.2, 4999.129
Sales of Stock Owned by Disqualified or Deceased Person	4988, 4990.20, 1850.7
Shares; Ownership and Transfers	1850.7
Unprofessional Conduct	4987.6, 4988.1, 4998.1, 4998.5, 4999.124, 4999.128
<b>COURSEWORK, ADDITIONAL</b>	
Aging and Long-Term Care	4980.36, 4980.37, 4980.39, 4996.25, 4999.32, 4999.33
Alcoholism and Chemical Dependency	4980.36, 4980.41, 4980.81, 4996.2, 4996.17.2, 4999.32, 4999.33, 1807.3
Child Abuse Assessment and Reporting	28, 4980.36, 4980.41, 4980.81, 4996.2, 4996.17.1, 4996.17.2, 4999.32, 4999.33, 1807.2, 1810.5
Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Assessment and Reporting	4980.39, 4996.26, 4999.32, 4999.33
Human Sexuality	25, 4980.41, 4996.2, 4999.32, 4999.33, 1807, 1810.5
Provision of Mental Health Services via Telehealth	4980.395, 4989.23.1, 4996.27.1, 4999.67
Psychological Testing	4980.36, 4980.41, 4980.81, 4999.32, 4999.33
Psychopharmacology	4980.36, 4980.41, 4980.81, 4999.32, 4999.33
Spousal and Partner Abuse Assessment	4980.36, 4980.41, 4980.81, 4996.2, 4996.17.2, 4999.32, 4999.33
Suicide Risk Assessment and Intervention	4980.396, 4989.23, 4996.27, 4999.66

## D

<b>DECLARATORY DECISIONS</b>	1800
<b>DEGREE REQUIREMENTS</b>	4980.36, 4980.37, 4980.40, 4989.20, 4996.2, 4999.32, 4999.33
<b>DELINQUENT LICENSES</b>	
Fees	4984.7, 4989.68, 4996.3
Renewal of Expired License	4984.1, 4989.36, 4996.6, 4999.104
Time Limit for Renewal After Expiration	4984.4, 4989.42, 4996.6, 4999.104
<b>DENIAL OF APPLICATION</b>	
Application Withdrawal	118
Criminal Convictions or Formal Discipline	480

## D (continued)

Act That is Grounds for Revocation or Suspension	490
Certificate of Rehab., Dismissal/Expungement	480
Conviction, Applicant	480, 490, 4980.40, 4989.24, 4989.26, 4989.28, 4996.2, 4999.51
Conviction, Licensee	480, 490, 4982, 4992.3, 4989.54, 4999.90
Disciplinary Action Imposed by a State/Governmental Agency	4982.25, 4989.54, 4990.38 4992.36, 4999.42, 4999.51, 4999.91
False Statement on Application	480
Mental Illness or Chemical Dependency	820, 4982.1, 4989.26, 4990.28, 4992.35
Procedure by the Board Upon Denial	485
Sexual Abuse of Children or Sexual Offender	4980.40, 4989.24, 4996.2, 4999.42, 4999.51
Statement of Issues	485.
Unprofessional Conduct	4982, 4989.54, 4992.3, 4999.90 1823, 1845, 1858, 1881
DISCIPLINARY ACTION: LICENSE STATUS	118, 464, 4990.33
DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES	1888
DISPLAY OF LICENSE	4980.31, 4989.48, 4996.7, 4996.8, 4999.70

## E

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST, APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE	4989.20, 4989.22, 1854, 1856
EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST, LICENSED	CHAPTER 13.5
Continuing Education Requirements	4989.34, 1807.2, 1807.3, 1887 - 1887.12
Display of License	4989.48
Educationally Related Mental Health Services	4989.14
Inactive License	4989.44
Renewal (see RENEWAL)	
Retired License	4989
Scope of Practice	4989.14
Supervision	4980.03, 4980.43, 4980.48, 4989.14, 4996.20, 4996.23, 4999.12, 4999.46
Unprofessional Conduct and Violations	4989.54, 4989.66, 1858
EDUCATIONALLY RELATED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	4980.03, 4989.14, 4996.20, 4999.12
ELECTRONIC MAIL ADDRESS	4990.07
EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOGS	Health and Safety Code §§122318 – 122319.5
EXAMINATIONS	
Abandonment of Application	1806
Accommodations	Gov. Code §§ 12925 – 12926.1; 1805.2
Applicant Requirements	
Clinical Social Worker	4992.05 – 4992.1, 4996.1, 4996.4, 1877.1
Educational Psychologist	4989.22
Marriage and Family Therapist	4980.397 – 4980.399, 4980.40, 4980.50, 4984.72, 1829.1

## E (continued)

Professional Clinical Counselor	4999.50, 4999.52 – 4999.55, 1822.50
California Law and Ethics Examination	
Clinical Social Worker	4992.05 – 4992.09, 4992.1, 4996.28, 1877.1, 1877.2, 1877.3
Marriage and Family Therapist	4980.397 – 4980.399, 4980.40, 4980.50, 4984.01, 1829.1, 1829.2, 1829.3
Professional Clinical Counselor	4999.46.1, 4999.52, 4999.53, 4999.55, 4999.100, 1822.50 1822.51, 1822.52
Denying Admission to Examination	4980.50, 4989.22, 4992.1, 4999.52
Record Retention	4980.50, 4989.22, 4992.1, 4999.52
Re-Examinations	4984.72, 4989.22, 4996.4, 4999.64, 1805.05
Seven-Year Limitation on Examination Score	4980.50, 4992.1, 4999.52
Time and Place of Examinations	4980.50, 4992.5, 4999.52
Waiting Period Between Examinations	1805.05
EXECUTIVE OFFICER	4990.04
Delegation of Functions	1803
Powers and Duties	4990.04, 4990.12, 4990.24, 1886, 1886.10
EXEMPTIONS FROM LICENSURE	
Clinical Social Work	4996.13, 4996.14, 4996.15
Educational Psychology	4989.16
Marriage and Family Therapy	4980.01
Professional Clinical Counseling	4999.22
EXEMPT SETTINGS	4980.05, 4996.14.1, 4999.25
EXPEDITED LICENSE	115.4, 115.5, 135.4
EXPERIENCE (also see SUPERVISION)	
In-State Experience	
Clinical Social Worker	4996.23, 4996.23.1, 4996.23.2,
Educational Psychologist	4989.20, 1856
Marriage and Family Therapist	4980.40, 4980.42, 4980.43, 4980.43.2, 4980.43.3
Professional Clinical Counselor	4999.46, 4999.46.2, 4999.46.3, 1820.5
Out-of-State Experience	
Clinical Social Worker	4996.17.1, 4996.17.2, 1870.5
Educational Psychologist	4989.20, 1856
Marriage and Family Therapist	4980.72 – 4980.81, 1833.2
Professional Clinical Counselor	4999.60 – 4999.62, 1821.2
EXPIRATION OF LICENSE/REGISTRATION (also see RENEWAL)	4984, 4984.01, 4996.6, 4996.28, 4989.30, 4999.100, 4999.102, 1846

## F

FEES	
Clinical Social Worker	4992, 4996.3, 4996.6, 4996.28, 4997, 1816, 1816, 1816.1, 1816.2, 1816.4
Educational Psychologist	4989.44, 4989.68 1816, 1816.1, 1816.2, 1816.4



## **F (continued)**

Failure to Disclose Fees in Advance	4982, 4989.54, 4992.3, 4999.90, 1881
Marriage and Family Therapist	4984.7, 4984.75, 4984.8 1816, 1816.1, 1816.2, 1816.4
Professional Clinical Counselor	4999.64, 4999.104, 4999.112, 4999.120 1816, 1816.1, 1816.2, 1816.4
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES	4980.46, 4989.47, 4987.7, 4992.10, 4998.2, 4999.72, 4999.125
FINGERPRINTING	4980.43, 4996.23, 4999.46, 4999.51, 1815
FOREIGN DEGREES	4980.76, 4996.18, 4999.40, 1832
FRAUDULENT, DISHONEST, OR CORRUPT ACTS	480, 4982, 4989.54, 4992.3, 4999.90, 1881

## **H**

HUMAN SEXUALITY TRAINING	25, 4980.41, 4996.2, 4999.32, 4999.33, 1807, 1810.5
--------------------------	--

## **I**

INACTIVE LICENSE	4984.8, 4989.44, 4997, 4999.112, 1887.2
INJUNCTION	4983.1, 4989.64, 4999.88

## **L**

LICENSE (See: CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER, LICENSED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST, LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST, LICENSED PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR, LICENSED)	
Qualifications for Licensure (See: CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER, APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST, APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST, APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR, APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE)	
LICENSE VERIFICATION - ONLINE	4990.13

# M

MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPIST, APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE (also see EXPERIENCE and SUPERVISION)	4980.39, 4980.40, 4980.41, 4980.42
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST, ASSOCIATE	
Continuing Education Requirements	4980.399, 4980.54, 4984.01
Degree Requirements	4980.36, 4980.37
Employment as Independent Contractor Prohibited	4980.43.3
Employment in Private Practice/Prof. Corporation	4980.43, 4980.43.4
Experience (see EXPERIENCE)	
Law and Ethics Exam	4980.397, 4980.399
Location of Services	4980.43.4
Notice to Clients	4980.44
Out-of-State Applicant	4980.74, 4980.76, 4980.78, 4980.81
Proprietary Interest – Prohibited	4980.43.3
Qualifications for Registration	4980.36, 4980.37, 4980.44
Remuneration from Clients – Prohibited	4980.43.3
Remuneration from Employer	4980.43.3
Renewal	4984.01
Subsequent Associate Registration	4984.01
Supervision (see SUPERVISION)	
Temporary Staffing Agency Placement	1833.05
Time Limit for Registration	4984.01
Unprofessional Conduct	4982, 1845
Volunteer Services	4980.43.3
Weekly Logs of Experience	1833
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST, LICENSED	
Continuing Education Requirements	29, 32, 4980.54, 1887 – 1887.15
Display of License	4980.31
Employment of Associates in Private Practice or Professional Corporation	4980.43, 4980.43.3, 4980.43.4, 4984.01
Fictitious Business Names	4980.46
Inactive License	4984.8
Renewal (see RENEWAL)	
Retired License	4984.41
Scope of Practice	4980.02
Statement of Experience, etc. to Clients	4980.55
Unprofessional Conduct	4982, 4987.6, 1845
Violation/Punishment	4983
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST CORPORATIONS (see CORPORATIONS)	
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST, TRAINEE	
Definition	4980.03
Employment	4980.42, 4980.43.3, 1833
Location of Services	4980.43.4
Notice to Clients	4980.48

## M (continued)

Practicum and Field Experience	4980.42
Professional Experience	4980.42, 4980.43
Proprietary Interest Prohibited	4980.43.3
Remuneration from Clients Prohibited	4980.43.3
School Responsibilities	4980.42
Services	4980.42
Supervision Requirements (also see SUPERVISION)	4980.42, 4980.43.2, 4980.43.3, 4980.43.4
Trainee Services	4980.42
Volunteer Services	4980.43.3
MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER EDUCATION FUND	4984.75, 4996.65, 4999.121
MENTAL ILLNESS OR CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY	820, 4982.1, 4989.26, 4990.28, 4992.35
MILITARY LICENSEES	114, 114.3, 115.4, 115.10
MILITARY SERVICE – APPLICATION INQUIRY	114.5
MILITARY SPOUSES	115.5, 115.6, 115.10
MINORS, MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT OF	Health and Safety Code § 124260 Family Code § 6924
MISREPRESENTATION OF LICENSE OR REGISTRATION	4982, 4989.54, 4992.3, 4999.72, 4999.90, 1881

## N

NAME CHANGE	27.5, 4984.9, 4989.46, 4992.8, 4999.118
NECESSITY OF LICENSE	
Clinical Social Worker	4996, 4996.9, 4996.13, 4996.14, 4996.15, 4996.16
Educational Psychologist	4989.14, 4989.16, 4989.50
Marriage and Family Therapist	4980, 4980.01, 4980.02
Professional Clinical Counselor	4999.30
NONEXEMPT SETTING DEFINITION	4980.06, 4996.14.2, 4999.26
NOTICE TO CLIENTS REQUIRED	4980.01, 4980.32, 4989.17, 4996.14, 4996.75, 4999.22, 4999.71

## O

OUT-OF-COUNTRY EDUCATION	4980.76, 4996.18, 4999.40, 1832
OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANT	
Licensure by Credential	4980.72, 4996.17.1, 4999.60
Licensure by Education and Experience	4980.74, 4980.78, 4980.81, 4996.17.2, 4999.61, 4999.62
OUT-OF-STATE EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE	
Clinical Social Worker	4996.17.1, 4996.17.2, 1870.5
Marriage and Family Therapist	4980.72, 4980.74, 4980.78, 4980.81, 1833.2
Professional Clinical Counselor	4999.60, 4999.61, 4999.62, 1821.2

## O (continued)

OUT-OF-STATE LICENSEES	
Clinical Social Worker	4996.16, 4996.17.1, 4996.17.2
Marriage and Family Therapist	4980.72, 4980.74, 4980.78, 4980.81
Professional Clinical Counselor	4999.60, 4999.61, 4999.62
Temporary Practice Allowance	4980.11, 4996.16.1, 4999.23
Tribal Health Programs	719
OUT-OF-STATE PASSING EXAM SCORES	4980.74, 4996.17.2, 4999.61

## P

PENALTY/VIOLATION	4983, 4989.66, 4996.12, 4999.86
PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT OR MODIFICATION	4990.30, 4990.31, 1814
PRIVATE PRACTICE DEFINITION	4980.06, 4996.14.2, 4999.26
PROBATION	4990.34
Petition for Modification of Penalty	4990.30, 4990.31
Placing of License or Registration on Probation	4982.15, 4990.34, 1888
Probation Monitoring Cost	4982.15, 4990.34
Probation Monitoring Program	4982.15, 4990.34
Requirement of Probationer to Obtain Training and Pass Exams	4982.15, 4990.36
PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR, APPLICANT FOR LICENSURE (also see EXPERIENCE and SUPERVISION)	4999.32, 4999.33, 4999.50
PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR, ASSOCIATE	
Clinical Setting – Definition	4999.12
Continuing Education Requirements	4999.55, 4999.76, 4999.100
Educational Requirements	4999.32, 4999.33, 4999.40, 4999.61, 4999.62
Employment as an Independent Contractor - Prohibited	4999.46.3
Employment in Private Practice or Professional Corporation	4999.46, 4999.46.4
Experience (see EXPERIENCE)	
Law and Ethics Exam	4999.53, 4999.55
Location of Services	4999.46.4
Notice to Clients	4999.46.1
Out-of-State Applicant	4999.60, 4999.61, 4999.62
Proprietary Interest - Prohibited	4999.46.3
Qualifications for Registration	4999.32, 4999.33, 4999.42
Remuneration from Clients - Prohibited	4999.46.3
Remuneration from Employer	4999.46.3
Renewal	4999.100
Subsequent Associate Registration	4999.46.1
Supervision (see SUPERVISION)	
Temporary Staffing Agency Placement	1820.3

## P (continued)

Time Limit for Registration	4999.100
Unprofessional Conduct	4999.90
Volunteer Services	4999.45, 4999.47
Weekly Logs of Experience	1820
<b>PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR, LICENSED</b>	
Continuing Education Requirements	4999.76, 1887 - 1887.15
Display of License	4999.70
Employment of Associates in Private Practice or Professional Corporation	4999.46, 4999.46.4
Fictitious Business Names	4999.72
Inactive License	4999.112
Information Regarding Counseling Relationship and Process to Clients	4999.74
Renewal (see RENEWAL)	
Retired License	4999.113
Scope of Practice	4999.20
Unprofessional Conduct	4999.90, 4999.124
Violation/Punishment	4999.86
<b>PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR, TRAINEE</b>	
Definition of a Trainee	4999.12
Employment	4999.46.3
Notice to Clients	4999.36
Practicum and Field Experience	4999.46.3
School Responsibilities	4999.36
Services	4999.27, 4999.36
Supervision Requirements	4999.36, 4999.46.3
Trainee Services	4999.27
Volunteer Services	4999.46.3
<b>PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS</b>	
Corporations Code Requirements	California Corporations Code §§ 13400 - 13410
Definition	4980.06, 4987.5, 4996.14.2, 4998, 4999.26, 4999.123
Directors, Shareholders and Officers	4987.8, 4988, 4998.3, 4998.4, 4999.126, 4999.127, 1850.7
Name	4987.7, 4998.2, 4999.125, 1850.6
Unprofessional Conduct	4987.6, 4988.1, 4998.1, 4998.5, 4999.124, 4999.128
<b>PROFESSIONAL THERAPY NEVER INCLUDES SEXUAL BEHAVIOR - BROCHURE</b>	728
<b>PUBLIC PROTECTION</b>	4980.34, 4990.16

# R

REACTIVATION OF LICENSE	4984.8, 4989.44, 4997, 4999.112
RECIPROCITY	
Clinical Social Worker	4996.16, 4996.17.1, 4996.17.2
Marriage and Family Therapist	4980.72, 4980.74, 4980.76, 4980.78, 4980.81
Professional Clinical Counselor	4999.60, 4999.61, 4999.62
RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENT	
Clinical Social Worker	4992.3, 4993
Educational Psychologist	4989.51, 4989.54
Marriage and Family Therapist	4980.49, 4982
Professional Clinical Counselor	4999.75, 4999.90
Supervisors	4980.43.5, 4996.21, 4999.46.5
RECORDS (Client Access to Records)	Health and Safety Code § 123110
RECOVERY COSTS	125.3
REGISTRATION: (See: CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER, ASSOCIATE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST, ASSOCIATE PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR, ASSOCIATE)	
REHABILITATION CRITERIA	1813, 1814
REINSTATEMENT OF REVOKED LICENSE AFTER EXPIRATION	4984.3, 4989.40, 4996.62, 4999.110
RENEWAL	
License Renewal	
Cancelled License	4984.4, 4989.42, 4996.6, 4999.106
Continuing Education Statement	4980.54, 4989.34, 4996.22, 4999.76, 1887.1
Expired License	4984.1, 4989.36, 4996.6, 4999.104, 4999.106
Fees	4984.7, 4984.75, 4989.68, 4996.3, 4996.6, 4999.120 1816
Inactive Status	4984.8, 4989.44, 4997, 4999.112
Military	114.3
Reactivation	4984.8, 4989.44, 4997, 4999.112
Requirements for Renewal	4984, 4989.32, 4996.6, 4999.102
Retired Status	4984.41, 4989.45, 4997.1, 4999.113
Revoked License	4984.3, 4989.40, 4996.62, 4999.110
Suspended License	4984.2, 4989.38, 4996.61, 4999.108
Time Limit for Renewal After Expiration	4984.4, 4989.36, 4996.6, 4999.104
Unexpired License	4984, 4999.32, 4996.6, 4999.102
Registration Renewal	4984.01, 4996.28, 4999.46.1, 4999.100, 1816
Continuing Education Statement	4984.01, 4996.28, 4999.100
Expiration	4984.01, 4996.28, 4999.100
Fees	4984.7, 4989.68, 4996.3, 4999.120, 1816
Maximum Number of Renewals	4984.01, 4996.28, 4999.46.1, 4999.100
Military	114.3

## R (continued)

Requirements for Renewal	4984.01, 4996.28, 4999.46.1, 4999.100
Revoked Registration	4984.3, 4989.40, 4996.62, 4999.110
Suspended Registration	4984.2, 4989.38, 4996.61, 4999.108
REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	
Child Abuse or Neglect	4989.54, 4999.90, 1845, 1881; Penal Code §§ 11165.1, 11166
Dependent Adult or Elder Abuse or Neglect	4989.54, 4999.90, 1845, 1881; Welfare and Institutions Code § 15630
RETIRED LICENSE	4984.41, 4989.45, 4997.1, 4999.113
REVENUE	
Expenditures	4990.22
Report and Payment of Revenue	4984.5
Surplus Funds	4990.22, 4999.116
REVOCAION OF LICENSE OR REGISTRATION	
Conduct of Proceedings	4982.3, 4989.62, 4990.42, 4996.11
Criteria for Rehabilitation – Suspension or Revocation	1814
Grounds for Suspension or Revocation	490
Unprofessional Conduct	
Clinical Social Worker	4992.3, 1881
Educational Psychologist	4989.54, 1858
Marriage and Family Therapist	4982, 1845
Professional Clinical Counselor	4999.90, 1823

## S

SCOPE OF PRACTICE	
Clinical Social Worker	4996.9
Educational Psychologist	4989.14
Marriage and Family Therapist	4980.02
Professional Clinical Counselor	4999.20
SEAL (Board)	4990.14
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS, CIVIL	143.5
SEX OFFENDERS - REVOCATION	1888.1
SEXUAL MISCONDUCT	
Clinical Social Worker	726, 729, 4992.3, 4992.33, 1881
Educational Psychologist	726, 729, 4989.54, 4989.58
Marriage and Family Therapist	726, 729, 4982, 4982.26
Professional Clinical Counselor	726, 729, 4999.90
SEXUAL MISCONDUCT BROCHURE	337, 728
SEXUAL ORIENTATION CHANGE EFFORTS	865, 865.1, 865.2
SOCIAL WORK/WORKER (see CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK/WORKER)	

## S (continued)

SPOUSAL OR PARTNER ABUSE ASSESSMENT TRAINING	
Applicant	4980.36, 4980.41, 4980.81, 4996.2, 4996.17.2, 4999.32, 4999.33
Licensee	4980.57, 4996.22
STATEMENT OF ISSUES (DENIAL OF APPLICATION)	485
STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS	4982.05, 4990.32
SUBSTANTIAL RELATIONSHIP CRITERIA	1812
SUICIDE RISK ASSESSMENT & INTERVENTION TRAINING	4980.396, 4989.23, 4996.27, 4999.66
SUNSET DATES	4989, 4990, 4990.04, 4990.24
SUPERVISION	
Alternative Supervision	4980.43.4, 4996.23.3, 4999.46.4
Audits of Supervisors	4980.43.5, 4996.21, 4999.46.5
Definition of Supervision	4980.43.1, 4996.20, 4999.12
Direct Supervisor Contact	4980.43.2, 4996.23.1, 4999.46.2
Educationally Related Mental Health Services	4989.14
Experience Gained Outside of California	4980.72 - 4980.78, 4980.81, 4996.17.1, 4996.17.2, 4999.60 - 4999.62, 1821.2, 1833.2, 1870.5
Group Supervision	4980.43.2, 4996.23, 4999.46.2
Individual or Triadic Supervision	4996.23.1, 4980.43.2, 4999.46.2
Substitute Supervisors	1821.1, 1833.1.5, 1870.3
Supervision Agreement	1820, 1833, 1869
Supervision in Private Practice or Professional Corporation Settings	4980.43.3, 4980.43.4, 4996.23.2, 4996.23.3, 4999.46.3, 4999.46.4
Supervision Ratios	4980.43.2, 4996.23.1, 4999.46.2
Supervision Under Relative/Spouse – Prohibited	4980.43.3, 4996.23.2, 4999.46.3
Supervisor is Deceased or Incapacitated	1815.8
Supervisor Qualifications	
Supervisors of Associate Clinical Social Workers	4996.20, 4996.23.2, 1870
Supervisors of Associate Marriage and Family Therapist and Trainees	4980.03, 4980.43.3, 1820.7, 1833.1
Supervisors of Associate Professional Clinical Counselors	4999.12, 4999.46.3, 1821
Supervisor Recordkeeping Requirements	4980.43.5, 4996.21, 4999.46.5
Supervisor Responsibilities	4980.43.1, 4996.18, 4999.46.1, 1821, 1833.1, 1870
Supervisor Self-Assessment Report	1821, 1833.1, 1870
Supervisor's Failure to Complete Training	1821.3, 1834, 1871
Supervisory Plan	1820, 1833, 1869
Temporary Staffing Agency	1820.3, 1833.05, 1869.3
Triadic Supervision	4996.23.1, 4980.43.2, 4999.46.2



## S (continued)

Unprofessional Conduct	4982, 4989.54, 4992.3, 4999.90, 1845, 1881
Verification of Experience	1820, 1833, 1869
Videoconference Supervision	4980.43.2, 4996.23.1, 4999.46.2
Weekly Log of Experience	1820, 1833, 1869
Written Notice of Intent not to Certify Further Hours of Experience	1821, 1833.1, 1870
Written Oversight Agreement	4980.43.4, 4996.23.3, 4999.46.4, 1820, 1833, 1869
<b>SUSPENSION OF LICENSE/REGISTRATION</b>	
Cease Practice Order	315.2, 315.4
Criteria for Rehabilitation - Suspension or Revocation	1814
Conduct of Proceedings	4982.3, 4990.42, 4992.4, 4996.11
Grounds for Suspension or Revocation	490
Renewal of Suspended License	4984.2, 4989.38, 4996.61, 4999.108

## T

TELEHEALTH	2290.5, 1815.5
TEMPORARY LICENSE (MILITARY)	115.6
TEMPORARY PRACTICE ALLOWANCE	4980.11, 4996.16.1, 4999.23
TITLE PROTECTION	4980, 4989.50, 4996, 4996.13, 4999.22
TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS	719

## U

UNLICENSED ASSISTANTS (SOCIAL WORK INTERN)	4996.15, 1880
<b>UNLICENSED PRACTICE</b>	
Aiding and Abetting Unlicensed Practice	4982, 4989.54, 4992.3, 4999.90, 1881
Citations for Unlicensed Practice	1886.10
Engaging in Practice – Prohibited	4980, 4989.50, 4996, 4999.30
<b>Exemptions</b>	
Clinical Social Work	4996.13, 4996.14, 4996.15
Educational Psychology	4989.16
Marriage and Family Therapy	4980.01
Professional Clinical Counseling	4999.22
Penalties	4983, 4989.66, 4996.12, 4999.86
<b>UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT</b>	
Clinical Social Worker	4992.3, 1881
Educational Psychologist	4989.54, 1858
Marriage and Family Therapist	4982, 1845
Professional Clinical Counselor	4999.90, 1823

## V

VIOLETIONS/PENALTIES	4983, 4989.66, 4996.12, 4999.86
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