



Board of Behavioral Sciences



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Gavin Newsom, Governor
State of California

Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
Department of Consumer Affairs

TEMPORARY PRACTICE ALLOWANCE FOR OUT-OF-STATE LICENSEES

The Board now offers a one-time per calendar year, 30-day temporary practice allowance, which allows qualifying marriage and family therapists, professional clinical counselors, and clinical social workers who are licensed in other states or jurisdictions of the U.S. to provide therapy services to an existing client while the client is travelling in California. If granted, the temporary practice allowance is valid for 30 consecutive days per calendar year.

To qualify for the temporary practice allowance, you must meet all of the following requirements:

- You must hold a license as either a marriage and family therapist, professional clinical counselor, or clinical social worker in another jurisdiction of the United States. That license must permit you to practice at the highest level for independent clinical practice in that jurisdiction.
- Your license must be current, active, and unrestricted.
- You must never have held a license that was suspended or revoked by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences.
- Your client must be located in California during the time for which you are seeking to provide care. The client must also be a current client of yours, and you must already have an established, ongoing client-provider relationship with that person.
- You must inform your client that you are not licensed in California, and that the services you are providing them while they are located in California are for a limited time.
- You must provide your client with the California Board of Behavioral Sciences' website address (www.bbs.ca.gov).

- You must inform your client of the jurisdiction in which you hold a license, and provide them with the type of license held and your license number.
- You must provide the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (Board) with the following information:
 - The name you are licensed under, mailing address, phone number, social security number or individual taxpayer identification number, and email address.
 - The jurisdiction in which you are licensed, type of license held, and license number.
 - The date on which you will begin providing services to your client while they are in California.
- If you are issued a temporary practice allowance, you are deemed to have agreed to be practicing under the Board's jurisdiction, and are bound by the laws of the State of California.

How to Apply

You will need to create an account on Breeze, which is the Board's online licensing system, by clicking [here](#). If you need assistance creating an account, see our [Breeze Helpful Hints](#).

Once you have created a Breeze account, under Start a New Application or Take an Exam section choose California Board of Behavioral Sciences from the first drop-down menu. Then choose Temporary 30 Day Practice Allowance (Out of State Licensees Only) from the next drop-down menu. It is important that you provide an email address and check the box to receive email notifications when applying, as all correspondence from the Board will be by email.

If you qualify and have been approved for a Temporary 30 Day Practice Allowance, you will receive a notice by email. (A paper certificate will NOT be issued.) The notice will contain instructions, including the start date and end date for your temporary practice allowance. At this point, you may proceed with practicing with your client during the dates specified on your notice.

FAQS

What is the purpose of the temporary practice allowance?

The purpose is to allow therapists licensed in other states to have continuity of care with their clients who may need to continue therapy sessions while they are in California. For example, a client may be vacationing or traveling for work in California, and may still wish to see their therapist during that time via telehealth. Or a client may be in the process of moving to California, and may wish to continue to see their old therapist for a short time while they are in the process of finding a new, California licensed therapist.

Is there a cost to obtain the temporary practice allowance?

No - it is free. You will need to create a Breeze account with the Board (also free).

Can I be granted multiple temporary practice allowances in a calendar year?

No. You can only be granted one temporary practice allowance per calendar year (January 1 through December 31), which is valid for 30 consecutive days.

If you find that you need multiple temporary practice allowances in any given year, we recommend that you consider obtaining a California license in your profession. If you have been actively licensed for at least 2 years in your home state, you may be eligible for a streamlined process of obtaining a California license. Information about the process for out-of-state licensees to obtain a California license can be found here:

- For LMFTs: https://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/mft/lmft_oos_req_chart_01012016.pdf
- For LPCCs: https://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/forms/lpc/lpcc_oos_req_guide.pdf
- For LCSWs: https://www.bbs.ca.gov/pdf/lcsw_guide.pdf

Can I see multiple clients during the time I have been granted a temporary practice allowance?

If you qualify for a temporary practice allowance and you have more than one client travelling in California during the dates it is valid, you may see them as long as each client meets the criteria. This means that each person needs to be a current client of yours, with whom you have an established, ongoing client-provider relationship with. You must also provide each client with all of the required information, as listed above.

For example, if you have current, established clients that are a couple or a family, and they are visiting California on vacation, then you may obtain a temporary practice allowance to continue treating them (for up to 30 consecutive calendar days) while they are on vacation.

Once I obtain the temporary practice allowance, can I change the start date?

No. When you apply for the temporary practice allowance, you enter the date in which you plan to start seeing your client while they are in California. From this, an end date 30 days later automatically generates, and your receipt letter will show the dates for which your allowance is valid. It is not possible to change the dates once the allowance is granted. If you do not yet know the dates that your client will be travelling in California, do not apply for the temporary practice allowance until you know them.

I am a pre-licensed associate or intern in another state. Can I obtain a temporary practice allowance?

No. The temporary practice allowance is only available to persons fully licensed in other states or U.S. jurisdictions as a marriage and family therapist, professional clinical counselor, or clinical social worker, at the highest level for independent clinical practice.

What do I need to know about California's laws?

When you are issued a temporary practice allowance, you are deemed to have agreed to practice under the jurisdiction of the California Board of Behavioral Sciences and to be bound by the laws of this state.

California has specific laws related to the practices of marriage and family therapy, professional clinical counseling, and clinical social work which may differ from those in the state in which you are licensed, and therefore you should become familiar with them. For example, some differences may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Differences in the processes for reporting child and elder abuse.
- California law prohibits engaging in sexual orientation change efforts with a patient under age 18.
- California has specific laws and regulations related to [telehealth](#).

We strongly recommend that you take a California Law and Ethics course prior to initiating services with a client in California. There are many online continuing education providers who offer such courses. If you have questions or need legal advice, you should contact your professional association or a qualified attorney.

What if I have further questions?

For questions, click here to [Message the Board](#) and choose Temporary Practice Allowance - Out of State Licensees Only.