

## **New Requirement for Existing Licensees and Applicants for Licensure: Training or Coursework in the Provision of Mental Health Services via Telehealth (3 Hours)**

The Governor recently signed AB 1759 (Chapter 520, Statutes of 2022). Under this new law, effective **July 1, 2023**, the Board will begin requiring both applicants for licensure and licensees to have completed a minimum of three hours of training or coursework in the provision of mental health services via telehealth, which must include law and ethics related to telehealth. There are two ways to meet this requirement:

- 1. Coursework may have been obtained as part of the graduate degree program that qualified you for licensure.** To use this option, you will need to obtain a written certification from the registrar or training director of your school or school program stating that the coursework was a required part of the curriculum for your graduation, or that you had completed the coursework.
  
- 2. The requirement can be met by taking a continuing education course from a provider that is acceptable to the Board.** You will need to obtain a certification of completion from the course provider. Information about acceptable continuing education providers can be found at the Board's website using the following link: [https://bbs.ca.gov/licensees/cont\\_ed.html](https://bbs.ca.gov/licensees/cont_ed.html)

### **Is there an age limit on the coursework?**

No. As long as you can obtain the appropriate proof, as described above, there is no age limit.

### **How often must I take this coursework?**

This is a one-time requirement.

### **Can the required content have been included as part of a broader course?**

Yes. This is acceptable as long as you can obtain appropriate proof that the content was covered.

### **What do I need to do if I am a Board licensee?**

If you are already a Board licensee, you should either gather required documentation that you previously had three hours of this coursework, or you should take a continuing education course to meet the requirement. At the time of your first renewal that takes place on or after **July 1, 2023**, you will be required to sign under penalty of perjury as part of your license renewal that you meet the requirement.

You will not be required to actually submit the certification paperwork to the Board at the time of your renewal, but you will be required to submit it if the Board audits you. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to gather the documentation now, and save it in a safe place, so that you have it easily accessible when needed.

If you choose to meet the requirement by taking a continuing education course, you can also count the course toward the required 36 hours of continuing education needed to renew your license, as long as the course was completed after your last renewal. The portion of the content that covered law and ethics related to telehealth may be used to count toward the required biennial 6 hours of continuing education content in law and ethics. However, if audited, you will need to be able to show a breakdown of the number of hours your 3 hour telehealth course spent covering law and ethics content.

### **What if my Board license is not active?**

You will be required to meet the requirement in order to reactivate or reinstate your license to active status if your request to reactive or reinstate your license is received on or after July 1, 2023.

### **What do I need to do if I am an associate or if I plan on applying for licensure soon?**

Associates and other future applicants for licensure should know that if their application for licensure is received on or after July 1, 2023, they will need to submit the certification documents showing that they meet the requirement, using one of the methods specified above, before they are approved to take the clinical exam. Having a plan to obtain the required documentation ahead of time will help avoid delays. If your application for licensure is received by the Board any time before July 1, 2023, you will be able to obtain approval to take the clinical exam without meeting this requirement. However, you will be required to certify compliance at your first license renewal.