



Board of Behavioral Sciences



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Gavin Newsom, Governor
State of California

Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
Department of Consumer Affairs

**FAQs Related to Executive Order N-39-20
Order Waiving License Renewal Requirements:
Law and Ethics Exam Attempt, Continuing Education, and Reactivating or Restoring a
Retired, Inactive, or Cancelled License**

Pursuant to the Governor's [Executive Order N-39-20](#), during the State of Emergency, the Director of the California Department of Consumer Affairs (Director) may waive any statutory or regulatory requirements with respect to a professional license issued pursuant to [Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code](#). This includes professional licenses issued by the Board of Behavioral Sciences (Board).

The Director has issued waivers related to required exam attempts, continuing education, and reactivating or restoring a retired, inactive or cancelled license. Below is information about each:

1. Waiver of Laws Requiring Individuals Renewing a License Take and Pass an Exam In Order to Renew.

Note: this waiver has been extended. It now applies to individuals whose registrations expire between March 31, 2020 and October 31, 2020.

a. What does this mean for BBS licensees/registrants?

This waiver does not do anything for BBS licensees because they are not required to pass any exams to renew their license.

It does mean that registrants (associate marriage and family therapists, associate clinical social workers, and associate professional clinical counselors) whose registrations expire between **March 31, 2020 and October 31, 2020** do not need to attempt the California Law and Ethics Examination in order to renew their registration.

b. I'm a registrant and my registration expires between March 31, 2020 and October 31, 2020. I have not attempted the California Law and Ethics Examination in my current renewal period yet. What do I need to do?

Log in to your online Breeze account to renew your registration. Answer the questions about the convictions and pay the renewal fee. Once this is done, you should be able to verify online that your registration expiration date has been extended.

c. Will I still eventually need to attempt the California law and ethics exam?

Yes. The date you must attempt it by depends on your registration expiration date, as follows:

- If your registration expired between March 31, 2020 and June 30, 2020, you must attempt the exam by September 30, 2020.
- If your registration expires between July 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020, you must attempt the exam by January 1, 2021.
- If your registration expires between September 1, 2020 and October 31, 2020, you must attempt the exam by March 1, 2021.

2. Waiver of Laws Requiring Individuals Renewing a License Complete Continuing Education Requirements

Note: this waiver has been extended. It now applies to individuals whose active licenses expire between March 31, 2020 and October 31, 2020.

a. What does this mean for BBS licensees?

Board licensees are required to complete 36 hours of continuing education related to their field of practice each renewal period. This order means that Board licensees who are set to renew between **March 31, 2020 and October 31, 2020** do not need to complete continuing education in order to renew their license.

b. Can I still complete continuing education during this time if I want to?

Yes! Many board-accepted continuing education providers offer courses online. If you have down time during this period, the Board highly encourages you to use it to ensure you are up-to-date on your continuing education.

c. Will I still eventually need to complete the required continuing education for my prior renewal period?

Yes. If you renew during the allowable time the continuing education is waived, you will still be required to complete your required 36 hours of continuing education for your past renewal period. Required completion dates depend on when your license expired, and are as follows:

- If your license expired between March 31, 2020 and June 30, 2020, you must complete the continuing education for your past renewal period by September 30, 2020.
- If your license expires between July 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020, you must complete the continuing education for your past renewal period by January 1, 2021.

- If your license expires between September 1, 2020 and October 31, 2020, you must complete the continuing education for your past renewal period by March 1, 2021.

Please keep in mind that continuing education courses taken for your past renewal cycle will not count toward your required continuing education for your current renewal cycle.

d. I'm required to take continuing education due to disciplinary action against my license. Does this waiver apply to me?

No. If you are required to take continuing education due to a disciplinary action, you are still required to complete that continuing education by the due date that has been prescribed by the Board.

3. Waiver of Laws Requiring Individuals Reactivating or Restoring a Retired, Inactive, or Cancelled License to Complete Continuing Education and Pay a Renewal or Delinquency Fee

a. What does this mean for BBS licensees?

This means that an individual with a retired, inactive, or cancelled license who wish to restore their license in order to help with the current State of Emergency may do so during this time without being subject to the normally required continuing education requirements and renewal and delinquency fees. This only applies to individuals whose license has been retired, inactive, or cancelled for no more than 5 years.

b. How do I do this?

Please visit the following link to restore your license: <https://covid-19.dca.ca.gov/backToActive>

c. If I reactivate or restore in this manner, how long will my license be valid for?

Your license will be valid for a maximum of six months, or when this State of Emergency ends, whichever is sooner.

d. What if my license was surrendered or revoked due to a disciplinary proceeding, or if after a disciplinary proceeding I decided to change my license status to retired, cancelled, or inactive?

Under these circumstances, this waiver does not apply.