



Board of Behavioral Sciences



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Gavin Newsom, Governor
State of California

Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
Department of Consumer Affairs

Extension of 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

Note: this waiver has been extended. Licenses reactivated or restored under this waiver are now valid until January 1, 2022.

a. What does this mean for BBS licensees?

This means that an individual with a retired, inactive, or cancelled license who wish to reactivate or 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 until January 1, 2022, or when the State of Emergency ends, whichever is sooner.

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

Under these circumstances, this waiver does not apply.



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Order Waiving Face-to-Face Training and Supervision Requirements

Please note that this waiver was previously set to expire on October 31, 2021. It has now been extended through December 31, 2021. Please note that the Department of Consumer Affairs has indicated that no further extensions of this waiver will be issued.

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-39-20, during the current 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 (BPC). This includes professional licenses issued by the Board of Behavioral Sciences (Board).

The Director has granted the Board's request to waive the following:

- The component of BPC sections [4980.43.2\(d\)](#), [4996.23.1\(f\)](#), and [4999.46.2\(d\)](#) that only permits Associate Marriage and Family Therapists (AMFTs), Associate Clinical Social Workers (ASWs), and Associate Professional Clinical Counselors (APCCs) to obtain their required weekly direct supervisor contact via videoconferencing if they are working in an exempt setting. (An exempt setting is defined as a government entity, a school, college or university, or an institution that is both nonprofit and charitable.)
- BPC sections [4980.36\(d\)\(1\)\(B\)\(ii\) and \(d\)\(1\)\(B\)\(vi\)\(II\)](#) for MFT trainees, and [4999.33\(c\)\(3\)\(K\)](#) for PCC trainees, that specifically requires provision of "face-to-face" mental health services in order to complete required practicum hours

A link to the text of the waiver can be found [here](#).

What does this mean?

For Associates:

The waiver means that, regardless of the type of setting that they are working in (including private practices), associates are not required by law to meet with their supervisor in-person during this state of emergency. Instead, they may gain their required weekly direct supervisor contact via two-way, real-time videoconferencing.

For Trainees:

Under this waiver, MFT and PCC trainees are not required to gain their practicum hours in person, but instead may do so via telehealth. Although the law already implies in-person or videoconferencing is permitted for practicum hours (during normal times, “face-to-face” may be in person or via videoconference), the Board sought this waiver as a clarifying measure, and all forms of telehealth are permitted while the waiver is in effect. In addition, the Board will be seeking legislation to clarify this law permanently within the next year.

Does the supervision waiver apply to trainees also?

Current law does not specifically address supervision of trainees via videoconferencing. Therefore, the Board is interpreting the law to also allow supervision via videoconferencing for trainees. Under this interpretation, this waiver applies to trainees as well.

It remains the responsibility of the supervisor and the school to determine if supervision via videoconferencing is appropriate for a particular trainee given individual circumstances.

How long is the waiver effective for?

This waiver was previously effective until October 31, 2021. However, it has now been extended to be effective through December 31, 2021. No further extensions of this waiver will be issued.

May I supervise (or receive supervision) via telephone?

Supervision via telephone is not permitted because it does not have a video component. Supervision must be via two-way, real-time videoconferencing.