



Board of Behavioral Sciences



1625 North Market Blvd., Suite S-200
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 574-7830
www.bbs.ca.gov

Gavin Newsom, Governor
State of California

Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
Department of Consumer Affairs

Order Extending Eligibility Periods to Take or Retake Examinations for Marriage and Family Therapist, Educational Psychologist, Clinical Social Worker, and Professional Clinical Counselor Applicants

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 extend examination eligibility for marriage and family therapist (LMFT), educational psychologist (LEP), clinical social worker (LCSW) and professional clinical counselor (LPCC) applicants that failed to take or retake a required examination, and whose one-year eligibility to take or re-take the examination expired between March 31, 2020 and November 30, 2020.

Instead of having one year to take or retake the examination, these individuals will instead have 20 months to take or retake the examination. For individuals who have not taken the required exam yet, the 20-month timeframe starts on the date the applicant was notified of initial eligibility to take the examination. For individuals who need to retake a required exam, the 20-month timeframe starts on the date the applicant most recently participated in the exam.

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

My one-year timeframe to take a required exam for the first time expired during the March 31, 2020 and November 30, 2020 time period. What does this mean for me?

It means that you now have additional time to take the exam without having to submit an entirely new application and meet all current requirements for licensure. To determine your deadline to take the exam, find the date you were notified of initial eligibility to take the exam. You have 20 months from that date to take the exam.

My one-year timeframe to retake a required exam expired during the March 31, 2020 and November 30, 2020 time period. What does this mean for me?

It means that you now have additional time to take the exam again without having to submit an entirely new application and meet all current requirements for licensure. To determine your deadline to take the exam again, find the date you most recently participated in the exam. You have 20 months from that date to retake the exam.

What if I cannot schedule my exam in time?

Your exam eligibility date cannot be extended past the allowed 20 months. Because of this, if you are close to your expiration date, we recommend scheduling your exam immediately. If you are having difficulty finding a time frame at your preferred location, we recommend that you expand your search to other times and locations. Also, as availability changes daily due to candidates cancellations and reschedules, we recommend checking availability on a daily basis.

What if my one-year eligibility to take or re-take the exam expires after November 30, 2020?

At this time, the extension of exam eligibility only applies to those whose one-year eligibility expires during the March 31 – November 30, 2020 timeframe. It is unknown at this time if any further extensions will be issued.