



Board of Behavioral Sciences



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Gavin Newsom, Governor
State of California

Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
Department of Consumer Affairs

Order Waiving California Law and Ethics Examination Requirement for Associate Marriage and Family Therapists, Associate Clinical Social Workers, and Associate Professional Clinical Counselors

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

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 requirement that associate marriage and family therapists, associate clinical social workers, and associate professional clinical counselors (collectively referred to as "associates" from here forward) must pass the California Law & Ethics Examination before a subsequent registration number is issued. The waiver applies to all associates who are in their last year of renewal, if that renewal expires between March 31, 2020 and October 31, 2020.

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

What if my registration already expired?

This waiver is effective retroactively. It applies to associates with a registration number in its last year if the registration number expires between March 31, 2020 and October 31, 2020.

If my registration number already expired during this timeframe, or if it expires by October 31, 2020, what should I do?

If you have not already done so, you will need to submit a subsequent registration application. If you meet all requirements other than the passing of the California Law & Ethics Examination, your application will be approved, and your subsequent registration will be issued. The application can be found at www.bbs.ca.gov.

I received a subsequent registration number under the waiver without passing the California Law & Ethics Examination. When do I need to pass the examination?

You will be required to pass the California Law & Ethics Examination within the next year. It must be passed in order to renew your new number.

Can I be employed or volunteer in a private practice with a subsequent registration number?

No. The law has not changed in regard to this. You may not be employed or volunteer in a private practice with a subsequent associate registration number.