



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

FAQs Related to Executive Order N-39-20

March 31, 2020

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).

To date, the Director has issued the following waivers. Below is information about each:

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

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 June 30, 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 June 30, 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. You must attempt the California Law and Ethics Exam within six months of the date of this order (By September 30, 2020), unless this order is extended.

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

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 June 30, 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 are required to have your required 36 hours of continuing education for your past renewal period completed within six months of the date of this (By September 30, 2020), unless this order is extended. 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.