STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING AGENCY • GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

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Order Waiving Face-to-Face Training and Supervision Requirements for Marriage Family Therapists, Professional Clinical Counselors, and Clinical Social Workers

On March 4, 2020, the Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the impacts of COVID-19 to make additional resources available, formalize emergency actions already underway across multiple state agencies and departments, and help the state prepare to respond to an increasing number of individuals requiring medical care and hospitalization as a result of a broader spread of COVID-19.

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-39-20, during the State of Emergency, the Director of the California Department of Consumer Affairs may waive any statutory or regulatory professional licensing requirements pertaining to individuals licensed pursuant to Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, including requirements related to the education, training, and experience necessary to obtain licensure as a Licensed Marriage Family Therapist, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, and Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

Accordingly, the Director waives Business and Professions Code section 4980.36, subdivisions (d)(1)(B)(ii) and (d)(1)(B)(vi)(II) and section 4999.33, subdivision (c)(3)(K) to the extent they require student trainees to provide "face-to-face" mental health services in order to complete their required training.

Presently, Business and Professions Code sections 4980.43.2, subdivision (d), 4996.23.1, subdivision (f), and 4999.46.2, subdivision (d) permit Associate Marriage and Family Therapists, Associate Clinical Social Workers, and Associate Professional Clinical Counselors to be supervised by two-way, real-time videoconferencing when they are working in a governmental entity, school, college, university, or an institution that is nonprofit and charitable. Associates working in other settings, however, must receive "face-to-face" supervision.

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order, the Director waives the work setting limitation in Business and Professions Code sections 4980.43.2, subdivision (d), 4996.23.1, subdivision (f), and 4999.46.2, subdivision (d), so that all associates may be supervised via two-way, real-time videoconferencing, irrespective of their work setting.

This order is effective immediately but may be amended as circumstances require.

This order terminates 60 days from the date of the order, unless further extended.

Dated: May 6, 2020

Signature on File

Kimberly Kirchmeyer
Director