STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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

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

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 examinations necessary to obtain licensure as a marriage family therapist, educational psychologist, clinical social worker, and professional clinical counselor.

Accordingly, for marriage and family therapist, educational psychologist, clinical social worker, and professional clinical counselor applicants whose applications are deemed abandoned between March 31, 2020, and November 30, 2020, due to the applicant failing to take a required examination, the Director waives California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1806, subdivision (b)(1), section 1822.52, subdivision (a)(1), section 1829.3, subdivision (a)(1), and section 1877.3, subdivision (a)(1), to the extent they require applicants to take an examination within one year, subject to the condition that such applicants must take the examination within 20 months of the date the applicant was sent a notification approving the license application, or the date the applicant was notified of initial eligibility to take the examination, as applicable.

For marriage and family therapist, educational psychologist, clinical social worker, and professional clinical counselor applicants whose applications are deemed abandoned between March 31, 2020, and November 30, 2020, due to the applicant failing to retake a required examination, the Director waives California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1806, subdivision (b)(2), section 1822.52, subdivision (a)(2), section 1829.3, subdivision (a)(2), and section 1877.3, subdivision (a)(2), to the extent they require applicants to retake an examination within one year, subject to the condition that such applicants must retake the examination within 20 months of the date the applicant most recently

participated in the examination, or the date the applicant was notified of failing the examination, as applicable.

For marriage and family therapist, educational psychologist, clinical social worker, and professional clinical counselor applicants that failed the clinical or written examination, as applicable, and whose one-year eligibility to retake the examination expires between March 31, 2020, and November 30, 2020, the Director waives Business and Professions Code sections 4984.72, subdivision (a), 4989.22, subdivision (b), 4996.4, subdivision (a), and 4999.64, subdivision (a), to the extent they limit eligibility to retake the examination to one year, subject to the condition that such applicants shall be eligible to retake the examination for 20 months after notification of failing the examination.

On June 23, 2020, the Director issued an Order Extending Eligibility Period to Retake Examinations for Marriage Family Therapist, Educational Psychologist, Clinical Social Worker, and Professional Clinical Counselor Applicants. The Director's June 23, 2020, Order is hereby withdrawn and superseded.

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

Dated: October 12, 2020.

Signature on File

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Kimberly Kirchmeyer
Director