



March 26, 2020

## **Pennsylvania Waives Certain Requirements for Cosmetologists and Barbers During COVID-19 Emergency**

A number of practical ramifications have arisen as a result of the COVID-19 emergency that may make it difficult for licensees and other parties to transact business with the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA).

Paying licensing fees may become challenging for someone whose place of employment is closed or who has been laid off and has no alternate sources of income. Many people may be unable to leave their residences because of a “shelter-in place” order from the government, self-isolation/quarantine, or simply because they do not feel it is safe. People without a computer, smart phone or access to the internet, or whose wireless or internet services have been cut-off, may be unable to perform online transactions, such as payment of a required board fee, or participate in electronic communication, such as sending emails to and receiving emails from their licensing board. For many, in the midst of the stress and distractions of the emergency, they may simply forget that action is needed to maintain their license.

In response, the Department of State has extended filing deadlines and waived or suspended certain other licensing requirements to prevent licenses and temporary permits from lapsing or expiring during this trying time.

The department requested, and Governor Wolf granted, temporary waivers to the following board requirements during the COVID-19 emergency:

### **State Board of Barber Examiners**

- To prevent expiration of all temporary barber student licenses that would normally expire within the next 90 days, those licenses are automatically extended 90 days.

### **State Board of Cosmetology – Cosmetologists, Estheticians, Nail Technicians and Natural Hair Braiders, and Cosmetology Schools**

- To prevent expiration of all temporary permits issued to applicants for the cosmetologist examination, or any of the limited license examinations, that would normally expire within the next 90 days, those licenses are automatically extended 90 days.

- All cosmetology schools are required to submit a quarterly hour report to the board by January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of each year. A separate report must be completed for each curriculum. Each report includes an alphabetical listing of all students who earned hours in that curriculum during the quarter. The reports must be notarized. Given the many logistical and other issues that make notarization challenging during the COVID-19 emergency, the notarization requirement is suspended for the duration of the emergency. The department shall continue to receive the information provided in these quarterly reports from each school, but the reports do not have to be notarized.