



March 26, 2020

Certain Requirements Temporarily Waived for Those Seeking Licensure as Psychologists, Social Workers, Therapists and Counselors

Governor Wolf granted the Department of State's request to temporarily waive additional regulations concerning the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors (SW/MFT/PC Board) and the State Board of Psychology (Psychology Board). **This temporary waiver specifically applies to individuals who are not yet licensed practitioners.**

The Department of State and the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) previously obtained approval from the governor to waive certain regulations that increased the ability of health care practitioners to make use of telemedicine. That waiver, [Licensed Health Care Practitioners Can Provide Telemedicine Services to Pennsylvanians During Coronavirus Emergency](#) (issued March 18, 2020) was limited to health care professionals licensed under BPOA's boards and commissions, as well as licensed practitioners in other states.

The department also previously issued certain waivers, suspensions and related guidance applicable to licensees under the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors (SW/MFT/PC Board) and the State Board of Psychology (Psychology Board): [Pennsylvania Suspends Certain Licensure Requirements for State Board of Psychology, and State Board of Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Professional Counselors](#) (issued March 22, 2020). Those waivers enable a supervisor to provide hours of supervised clinical experience that call for "in-person" supervision via electronic means instead, for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.

This latest temporary waiver is similar to the two prior waivers, with one key distinction: **this involves as-yet unlicensed practitioners**, who are working towards satisfying particular prerequisites to apply for licensure by the respective board. More specifically, it involves the completion of at least 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience.

The Department received approval from the governor that during the COVID-19 emergency the following clarifications and interpretations be applied to the regulations identified below:

- For licensed **Clinical Social Workers**, individuals who are receiving supervision for clinical experience may provide teletherapy services so long as they are receiving supervision from a supervisor who complies with all required regulatory requirements.
- For **Marriage and Family Therapists**, individuals who are receiving supervision for clinical experience may provide teletherapy services so long as they are receiving supervision from a supervisor who complies with all required regulatory requirements.
- For **Professional Counselors**, individuals who are receiving supervision for clinical experience may provide teletherapy services so long as they are receiving supervision from a supervisor who complies with all required regulatory requirements.

- For **Psychologists**, individuals who are receiving supervision for experience qualifications may provide teletherapy services so long as they are receiving supervision from a supervisor who complies with all required regulatory requirements.