

visible to patients in their office. However, the following exemptions apply (BPC §680.5):

- Persons who provide medical services to enrollees of a health care service plan that exclusively contracts with a single medical group in a specific geographic area are exempt.
- Persons who work in a facility licensed under Health and Safety Code (HSC) §1250 or in a clinical laboratory licensed under BPC §1265 are exempt. This exemption includes general acute care hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, correctional treatment centers, nursing facilities, and hospice facilities.

This Bill:

- 1) Allows an employer or agency of a licensee or registrant to make an exception to the requirement that the written notice provided to each client contain the licensee or registrant's full name, license or registration number, type of license, and expiration date based on individual safety concerns in the following settings (BPC §§4980.32, 4989.17, 4996.75, 4999.71):
 - a. An acute psychiatric hospital (defined in HSC §1250)
 - b. A correctional treatment center (defined in HSC §1250)
 - c. Any setting where mental health services are provided to incarcerated individuals under the jurisdiction of a local, state, or federal correctional authority.
- 2) Requires that if these settings exercise this discretion, they must have an established process by which the client may request and obtain sufficient identification information to file a complaint with the Board, that process must be disclosed to the client as part of the written notice, and a copy of the written notice must be preserved as part of the client's records. (BPC §§4980.32, 4989.17, 4996.75, 4999.71)
- 3) Requires that if the discretion is exercised, the licensee or registrant is responsible for ensuring the process to request and obtain the required identifying information to file a complaint with the Board is in place. (BPC §§4980.32, 4989.17, 4996.75, 4999.71)

Comment:

- 1) **Author's Intent.** The author explains that since the passage of SB 1024, constituents working in correctional settings have raised concerns that the requirement to disclose their full name and license number on the required written notice could expose them and their families to safety risks. They emphasize that effective legislation should proactively anticipate potential harm rather than

respond only after it occurs. This bill is intended to address those concerns by strengthening protections for mental health professionals.

- 2) **Background.** All Board licensees and registrants are required to provide each client with a written notice containing specified language stating that they are licensed or registered by the Board and the contact information for the Board where a complaint can be filed, prior to initiating psychotherapy services.

In 2024, the Board sponsored a bill, SB 1024 (Chapter 160, Statutes of 2024), that also required the written notice to contain the licensee or registrant's full name as filled with the Board, their license or registration number, type of license, and expiration date.

Since SB 1024's enactment, Board staff has heard from numerous licensees working with incarcerated populations who have expressed safety concerns about the disclosure requirements. They state that requiring disclosure of their full name and license number may pose significant safety risks to themselves and their families, noting that their job makes them particularly vulnerable to harassment and retaliation.

- 3) **Additional Research.** Staff reached out to several agencies within the correctional system to gather information regarding their complaint processes, their policies to protect providers' personal information, and implementation challenges related to SB 1024. California Correctional Health Care Services (CCHCS), which oversees medical, dental, and mental health care for individuals incarcerated in all of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) 31 institutions, responded with detailed feedback.

CCHCS confirmed that historically, mental health providers in CDCR facilities typically identify themselves verbally using their last name and professional title (e.g., "Ms. Jones, LCSW"), and written materials generally include only the last name and title unless otherwise required by law. These practices are consistent with CDCR's longstanding security protocols aimed at minimizing risks of harassment or retaliation.

CCHCS also outlined existing policies that protect provider identity, including not using full legal names in patient-facing documents and internal procedures that allow incarcerated individuals to file complaints without needing full provider identification. These include CDCR's Health Care Grievance Process and supervisory review mechanisms that allows leadership to identify the provider even when the patient does not know the full legal name, and in the case of complaints made directly to the Board, CDCR assistance to the Board in identifying the provider.

Concerns regarding the disclosure of full legal names and licensing details were echoed by CCHCS. They noted that while providers have some tools to protect

personal privacy, such as using institutional addresses or professional mailing services, these do not fully address the risks posed by mandatory written disclosures.

- 4) **Previous Board and Committee Discussion.** The Policy and Advocacy Committee discussed this issue at its meetings on October 24, 2025 and January 15, 2026. At the January 15, 2026 meeting, the Board directed staff to bring draft language to the Board for consideration as a legislative proposal.

The Board considered the proposed language at its February 20, 2026 meeting. However, Board members noted transparency concerns, especially in light of the current national climate. They opted not to move forward with pursuing the proposed language as legislation.

However, Senator Ochoa Bogh, who previously carried SB 1024, has emphasized that this matter was brought to her as a constituent concern and presents safety implications for therapists working with incarcerated individuals. As a result, she has chosen to proceed with the legislation.

- 5) **Previous Legislation.** SB 1024 (Ochoa Bogh, Chapter 160, Statutes of 2024) added the requirement that the notice that Board licensees or registrants provide to their client upon initiating psychotherapy services must contain the licensee or registrant's full name as filled with the Board, their license or registration number, type of license, and expiration date.

- 6) **Staff Recommended Position.** Staff recommends that the Board consider remaining neutral, or not taking a position, on this bill.

- 7) **Support and Opposition.**

Support:

- AFSCME Council 57 (Sponsor)
- AFSCME Local 2620 (Sponsor)

Opposition: None at this time.

- 8) **History.**

04/08/26 From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on B. P. & E.D.

04/08/26 Re-referred to Com. on B. P. & E.D.

03/19/26 From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on RLS.

02/18/26 Referred to Com. on RLS.

02/09/26 From printer. May be acted upon on or after March 8.

02/05/26 Introduced. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment. To print.

9) Resources:

Link 1: [BPC §680.5](#)

Link 2: [HSC §1250](#)

Link 3: [BPC §1265](#)

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AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 8, 2026
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 19, 2026

SENATE BILL

No. 993

Introduced by Senator Ochoa Bogh

February 5, 2026

An act to amend ~~Section 4980.32~~ Sections 4980.32, 4989.17, 4996.75, and 4999.71 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

legislative counsel's digest

SB 993, as amended, Ochoa Bogh. ~~Marriage and family therapists. Board of Behavioral Sciences: licensees: notices.~~

Existing law establishes the Board of Behavioral Sciences and sets forth its powers and duties, including, but not limited to, the licensing, registration, and regulation of marriage and family ~~therapists. therapists, educational psychologists, clinical social workers, and professional clinical counselors.~~ Existing law requires a marriage and family therapist ~~these licensees and registrants~~ to provide a client with a written notice stating that the board receives and responds to complaints regarding services provided by ~~marriage and family therapists the licensee or registrant~~ and containing specified information about the ~~therapist licensee or registrant~~ and their license.

This bill would authorize the employing entity or agency of the ~~therapist, licensee or registrant,~~ in specified practice settings, to exercise discretion whether to disclose any or all of the information about the ~~therapist licensee or registrant~~ and their license in the notice based on individual safety concerns if certain requirements are met.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4980.32 of the Business and Professions
2 Code is amended to read:

3 4980.32. (a) A licensee or registrant shall provide a client with
4 a notice written in at least 12-point type prior to initiating
5 psychotherapy services, or as soon as practicably possible
6 thereafter, that reads as follows:

7

8 NOTICE TO CLIENTS

9 The Board of Behavioral Sciences receives and responds to
10 complaints regarding services provided within the scope of practice
11 of marriage and family therapists. You may contact the board
12 online at www.bbs.ca.gov, or by calling (916) 574-7830.

13

14 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), upon initiation of
15 psychotherapy services with a client, the notice described in
16 subdivision (a) shall also include the licensee's or registrant's full
17 name as filed with the board, the license or registration number,
18 the type of license or registration, and the license or registration
19 expiration date.

20 (2) (A) In any of the following practice settings, an employing
21 entity or agency of a licensee or registrant may exercise discretion
22 whether to include any or all of the information required by
23 paragraph (1) in the notice required by subdivision (a) based on
24 individual safety concerns if the setting has an established process
25 by which the client may request and obtain sufficient identification
26 information to file a complaint with the board, that process is
27 disclosed to the client as part of the notice, and a copy of the notice
28 is preserved as part of the client's records:

29 ~~(A)~~

30 (i) An acute psychiatric hospital, as defined in Section 1250 of
31 the Health and Safety Code.

32 ~~(B)~~

33 (ii) A correctional treatment center, as defined in Section 1250
34 of the Health and Safety Code.

35 ~~(C)~~

36 (iii) Any setting where mental health services are provided to
37 incarcerated individuals under the jurisdiction of a local, state, or
38 federal correctional authority, including, but not limited to, a state

1 prison, county jail, juvenile detention facility, or other correctional
2 setting operated by, or under contract with, a governmental entity.

3 *(B) If the discretion authorized by this paragraph is exercised,*
4 *the licensee or registrant shall be responsible for ensuring the*
5 *process to request and obtain identification information required*
6 *by subparagraph (A) is in place.*

7 (c) Delivery of the notice required by this section to the client
8 shall be documented.

9 *SEC. 2. Section 4989.17 of the Business and Professions Code*
10 *is amended to read:*

11 4989.17. (a) A licensee shall provide a client with a notice
12 written in at least 12-point type prior to initiating psychological
13 services, or as soon as practicably possible thereafter, that reads
14 as follows:

15
16 NOTICE TO CLIENTS

17 The Board of Behavioral Sciences receives and responds to
18 complaints regarding services provided within the scope of practice
19 of licensed educational psychologists. You may contact the board
20 online at www.bbs.ca.gov, or by calling (916) 574-7830.

21
22 ~~(b) On and after July 1, 2025,~~ *(1) Except as provided in*
23 *paragraph (2), upon initiation of psychological services with a*
24 *client, the notice described in subdivision (a) shall also include*
25 *the licensee’s full name as filed with the board, the license number,*
26 *the type of license, and the license expiration date.*

27 *(2) (A) In any of the following practice settings, an employing*
28 *entity or agency of a licensee may exercise discretion whether to*
29 *include any or all of the information required by paragraph (1)*
30 *in the notice required by subdivision (a) based on individual safety*
31 *concerns if the setting has an established process by which the*
32 *client may request and obtain sufficient identification information*
33 *to file a complaint with the board, that process is disclosed to the*
34 *client as part of the notice, and a copy of the notice is preserved*
35 *as part of the client’s records:*

36 *(i) An acute psychiatric hospital, as defined in Section 1250 of*
37 *the Health and Safety Code.*

38 *(ii) A correctional treatment center, as defined in Section 1250*
39 *of the Health and Safety Code.*

1 (iii) Any setting where mental health services are provided to
2 incarcerated individuals under the jurisdiction of a local, state,
3 or federal correctional authority, including, but not limited to, a
4 state prison, county jail, juvenile detention facility, or other
5 correctional setting operated by, or under contract with, a
6 governmental entity.

7 (B) If the discretion authorized by this paragraph is exercised,
8 the licensee shall be responsible for ensuring the process to request
9 and obtain identification information required by subparagraph
10 (A) is in place.

11 (c) Delivery of the notice required by this section to the client
12 shall be documented.

13 SEC. 3. Section 4996.75 of the Business and Professions Code
14 is amended to read:

15 4996.75. (a) A licensee or registrant shall provide a client with
16 a notice written in at least 12-point type prior to initiating
17 psychotherapy services, or as soon as practicably possible
18 thereafter, that reads as follows:

19

20 NOTICE TO CLIENTS

21 The Board of Behavioral Sciences receives and responds to
22 complaints regarding services provided within the scope of practice
23 of clinical social workers. You may contact the board online at
24 www.bbs.ca.gov, or by calling (916) 574-7830.

25

26 (b) ~~On and after July 1, 2025,~~ (1) Except as provided in
27 paragraph (2), upon initiation of psychotherapy services with a
28 client, the notice described in subdivision (a) shall also include
29 the licensee's or registrant's full name as filed with the board, the
30 license or registration number, the type of license or registration,
31 and the license or registration expiration date.

32 (2) (A) In any of the following practice settings, an employing
33 entity or agency of a licensee or registrant may exercise discretion
34 whether to include any or all of the information required by
35 paragraph (1) in the notice required by subdivision (a) based on
36 individual safety concerns if the setting has an established process
37 by which the client may request and obtain sufficient identification
38 information to file a complaint with the board, that process is
39 disclosed to the client as part of the notice, and a copy of the notice
40 is preserved as part of the client's records:

1 (i) *An acute psychiatric hospital, as defined in Section 1250 of*
2 *the Health and Safety Code.*

3 (ii) *A correctional treatment center, as defined in Section 1250*
4 *of the Health and Safety Code.*

5 (iii) *Any setting where mental health services are provided to*
6 *incarcerated individuals under the jurisdiction of a local, state,*
7 *or federal correctional authority, including, but not limited to, a*
8 *state prison, county jail, juvenile detention facility, or other*
9 *correctional setting operated by, or under contract with, a*
10 *governmental entity.*

11 (B) *If the discretion authorized by this paragraph is exercised,*
12 *the licensee or registrant shall be responsible for ensuring the*
13 *process to request and obtain identification information required*
14 *by subparagraph (A) is in place.*

15 (c) *Delivery of the notice required by this section to the client*
16 *shall be documented.*

17 *SEC. 4. Section 4999.71 of the Business and Professions Code*
18 *is amended to read:*

19 4999.71. (a) *A licensee or registrant shall provide a client with*
20 *a notice written in at least 12-point type prior to initiating*
21 *psychotherapy services, or as soon as practicably possible*
22 *thereafter, that reads as follows:*

23

24 NOTICE TO CLIENTS

25 The Board of Behavioral Sciences receives and responds to
26 complaints regarding services provided within the scope of practice
27 of professional clinical counselors. You may contact the board
28 online at www.bbs.ca.gov, or by calling (916) 574-7830.

29

30 (b) ~~On and after July 1, 2025,~~ *(1) Except as provided in*
31 *paragraph (2), upon initiation of psychotherapy services with a*
32 *client, the notice described in subdivision (a) shall also include*
33 *the licensee’s or registrant’s full name as filed with the board, the*
34 *license or registration number, the type of license or registration,*
35 *and the license or registration expiration date.*

36 (2) (A) *In any of the following practice settings, an employing*
37 *entity or agency of a licensee or registrant may exercise discretion*
38 *whether to include any or all of the information required by*
39 *paragraph (1) in the notice required by subdivision (a) based on*
40 *individual safety concerns if the setting has an established process*

1 *by which the client may request and obtain sufficient identification*
2 *information to file a complaint with the board, that process is*
3 *disclosed to the client as part of the notice, and a copy of the notice*
4 *is preserved as part of the client's records:*
5 *(i) An acute psychiatric hospital, as defined in Section 1250 of*
6 *the Health and Safety Code.*
7 *(ii) A correctional treatment center, as defined in Section 1250*
8 *of the Health and Safety Code.*
9 *(iii) Any setting where mental health services are provided to*
10 *incarcerated individuals under the jurisdiction of a local, state,*
11 *or federal correctional authority, including, but not limited to, a*
12 *state prison, county jail, juvenile detention facility, or other*
13 *correctional setting operated by, or under contract with, a*
14 *governmental entity.*
15 *(B) If the discretion authorized by this paragraph is exercised,*
16 *the licensee or registrant shall be responsible for ensuring the*
17 *process to request and obtain identification information required*
18 *by subparagraph (A) is in place.*
19 *(c) Delivery of the notice required by this section to the client*
20 *shall be documented.*

O