



Board of Behavioral Sciences



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Gavin Newsom, Governor  
State of California

Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency  
Department of Consumer Affairs

## Order Waiving Practicum Enrollment Requirement for Marriage and Family Therapist Trainees

***Note: this waiver has been extended. It now applies to trainees who were last enrolled in a practicum course between March 31, 2020 and December 31, 2020***

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-39-20, during the current State of Emergency, the Director of the California Department of Consumer Affairs (Director) may waive any statutory or regulatory requirements with respect to a professional license issued pursuant to Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code (BPC). This includes professional licenses issued by the Board of Behavioral Sciences (Board).

Under current law, marriage and family therapist trainees (MFT trainees) are permitted to gain experience hours outside of practicum, but they must be enrolled in a practicum course to counsel clients. However, the law permits MFT trainees to counsel clients while not enrolled in practicum if the period of lapsed enrollment is less than 90 calendar days, and if that period is immediately preceded by enrollment in a practicum course and immediately followed by enrollment in a practicum course or completion of the degree program.

The Director has issued a law waiver that extends the lapsed enrollment period from 90 days to 180 days. The waiver applies to trainees who were last enrolled in a practicum course between March 31, 2020 and December 31, 2020. These trainees are permitted to counsel clients while not enrolled in practicum if the period of lapsed enrollment is less than 180 calendar days, and if that period is immediately preceded by enrollment in a practicum course and immediately followed by enrollment in a practicum course or completion of the degree program.

A link to the text of the waiver can be found [here](#).

**What if my practicum course ends in January (I was enrolled during the time specified in the waiver, but the course ended outside of the timeframe given in the waiver)?**

As long as you were officially enrolled in the practicum course sometime between the dates of March 31, 2020 and December 31, 2020, the 180-day lapsed enrollment allowance applies to you, regardless of when your practicum course ended thereafter. The 180-day period would start the day after your practicum course ended.