



**NORTH CAROLINA BOARD  
of  
LICENSED CLINICAL  
MENTAL HEALTH  
COUNSELORS**

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To Whom It May Concern,

In keeping with the “Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0.”, Session Law 2020-97, s. 3.20 (c) (H 1105) (the “Act”), the North Carolina Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors (the “Board”) submits the following interim report on its efforts to exercise regulatory flexibility under Section 3.20 of the Act.

Specifically, on 24 July and 16 October 2020, the Board determined that due to the impacts of the coronavirus, it was in the public interest, including the public health, safety, and welfare and the economic well-being of the citizens and businesses of the State, to delay the collection of fees and late payments and to delay the renewal dates for licensees, as follows:

On July 24, 2020, pursuant to “Covid-19 Recovery Act,” Session Law 2020- 3, s. 4.38 (SB 704), due to the impact of the coronavirus, the Board extended the following deadlines:

- 1) The licenses, including suspended licenses for failure to pay the biennial renewal fee pursuant to 21 NCAC 53 .0503 (a), that were due to be renewed on June 30, 2020 did not expire until October 10, 2020.
- 2) The applicants for renewal had to return the properly completed documentation for renewal (“Board’s Notice for License Renewal”), together with a renewal fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00), and evidence of continuing counselor education as approved by the Board, by September 30, 2020 (rather than by June 20, 2020 as required by the Board’s Administrative Rule).
- 3) The biennial renewal fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) was due and payable by September 30, 2020. Failure to pay the biennial renewal fee by June 20, 2020 did not suspend the license.
- 4) A licensee, who allowed the license to lapse for failure to apply for renewal by September 30, 2020, was subject to the late renewal fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00).

5) Failure to apply for renewal of an expired license, which was due to be renewed in 2020, by June 30, 2021 required that a license be reissued only upon application as for an original license.

6) The deadline for completing continuing education requirements implemented by the Board was extended to September 30, 2020.

7) The deadline to satisfy the requirements for applications which were due to be satisfied between March 10, 2020 and June 25, 2020 pursuant to the Administrative Rule 21 NCAC 53 .0308, was extended to September 25, 2020.

8) The deadline to satisfy the requirements for applications which were due to be satisfied between June 25, 2020 and December 31, 2020 pursuant to the Administrative Rule 21 NCAC 53 .0308, was extended by three (3) months.

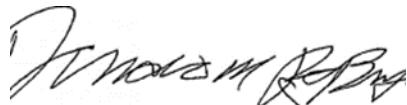
The Board further determined that the above extensions did not affect any other deadlines or renewal periods as stated in the North Carolina Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors Act or the Board's Administrative Rules.

Pursuant to the Act, on October 16, 2020, due to the impact of the coronavirus, the Board has decided to do the following:

- 1) To further extend the renewal deadline to December 31, 2020. All documents and payment have to be submitted to the Board by or on December 31, 2020.
- 2) To refund the late fee payments (in the amount of \$75.00) to the licensees who have paid them after October 10, 2020 and, if those licensees have completed an additional 20 (or less) hours of continuing counselor education for the purpose of renewal of the expired license, those hours may be applied to the next renewal period.

The Board posted its decisions on the Board's website and communicated them to the licensees *via* e-blast.

Respectfully submitted,



Denaupo Robinson, Chair