

North Carolina Psychology Board



Helen T. Brantley, Ph.D.
Chairperson

895 State Farm Road, Suite 101, Boone, NC 28607
Telephone (828) 262-2258
Fax (828) 265-8611
www.ncpsychologyboard.org

Daniel P. Collins
Executive Director

Marc B. Davis, M.A.
Staff Psychologist

November 23, 2020

Virginia Barlow
Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee
virginia.barlow@ncleg.gov

Susie Esealuka
Carrie Hollis
Office of State Budget & Management
susie.e sealuka@osbm.nc.gov
carrie.hollis@osbm.nc.gov

Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations
govops@ncleg.net

Pursuant to Section 3.20(c) of SL 2020-97 (HB 1105), below are efforts taken by the North Carolina Psychology Board to exercise regulatory flexibility during the coronavirus emergency:

- With the rapid expansion in the provision of psychological services via telehealth due to the temporary closure of many psychological practices, the Board waived the notification and approval requirement for temporary practice site changes so that there would be no delay in licensees continuing to provide psychology services to patients.
- Given the increased need for providers of psychological services, the Board streamlined the approval process to grant requests from out of state licensed psychologists, psychology students, and retired psychologists to provide psychological services to North Carolina residents, with nearly 700 such requests approved to date.
- With the closure of universities and psychology training centers across the country, the Board extended application completion deadlines and waived certain document submission requirements so approval of new licensees to enter the North Carolina workforce would not be significantly delayed.
- As licensing exam testing centers across North Carolina and the rest of the country have closed or have limited their seating capacity, the Board granted extensions to licensure testing deadlines, so that applicants could continue to provide needed psychological services without incurring the expense of restarting the entire application process.

- Due to the reduced ability for applicants to be fingerprinted by law enforcement as a result of office closures to the public, the Board extended the deadline for submission of fingerprint cards as part of the application process, so approval of new licensees to enter the North Carolina workforce would not be significantly delayed (background checks will still be completed prior to licensure).
- To assist licensees who may be having financial difficulties renewing their licenses, the Board waived the late license renewal fee and also delayed the date for automatic license suspensions due to nonrenewal.
- With the need for practicing social distancing, the Board expanded the types of documents that can be electronically submitted to the Board and waived the requirement of notarized signatures, so licensees and applicants do not need to leave their homes to complete and/or physically mail documents to the Board.
- In order to reduce the need for licensees to leave their homes to submit paper renewal forms, the Board waived the credit card convenience fee for an extended period of time in order to encourage licensees to use the Board's online license renewal system.
- Similarly, the Board has also waived the convenience fee for licensees to renew their professional corporations and professional limited liability companies online.

The Board will continue to monitor the impact of the ongoing coronavirus emergency and will take additional steps as necessary to assist licensees and applicants while continuing to fulfil its mission to protect the citizens of North Carolina from the practice of psychology by unqualified or unethical persons.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen T. Brantley, Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Helen T. Brantley, Ph.D.
Chairperson