California Law and Ethics Examination – Effect on Registration Renewal

The Board continues to work to remind all registrants that they must have taken the California Law and Ethics Exam in order to be able to renew their registration. There are no exceptions to this requirement. The Law and Ethics exam fee is $100 and is in addition to the renewal fee.

If the exam is not taken, the registration will remain delinquent until this requirement is satisfied, even if the Board has cashed your check.

To avoid any delays in processing their renewal, we strongly advise registrants to submit their application to take the California Law and Ethics examination early, well in advance of their registration expiration date. We strongly recommend mailing this application using a method that includes tracking.

Once this application is processed and approved, PSI, the Board’s testing vendor, will email the candidate and mail a Candidate Handbook as notice of exam eligibility. Once the registrant receives the email and/or Candidate handbook, the registrant may contact PSI to schedule the exam.

Applicants who attempt the California law and ethics examination during their renewal period, but fail the exam, are allowed to renew their intern registration (if eligible for renewal). However, he or she must take (and show proof of taking) a 12-hour course in California law and ethics before being able to participate in the California law and ethics exam during that next renewal cycle.

Subsequent Registration Numbers

The Board also wants to remind long-time registrants of an upcoming change effective January 1, 2017.

Currently, an all interns that a registration number may be renewed a maximum of five times (this works out to six years). After this, the intern must apply for a subsequent registration number.

- Effective January 1, 2017, an individual cannot be granted a subsequent registration number unless he or she has passed the Law and Ethics Exam. There are no exceptions.
LMFT Clinical Exam

Beginning on December 1, 2016, the Department of Consumer Affair’s Office of Professional Examination Services unit will be conducting one more review of the LMFT clinical exam. During this review, scores will be held and given to test-takers at a later date. The exam unit indicates a 6-8 week delay to receive scores while the review is underway; however, past reviews have ended up having a shorter delay.

LPCC Program Updates

The following upcoming changes will affect LPCCs or those seeking LPCC licensure or registration:

- **No remediation of “Assessment” and “Diagnosis” Core Content Areas**: Per the recent passage of AB 1917, as of January 1, 2017, an applicant for LPCC licensure or registration, (whether in-state or out-of-state) may not have a degree that is deficient in the “Assessment, Appraisal, and Testing of Individuals,” and/or the “Principals of the Diagnostic Process” core content areas. These two core content areas may not be remediated, and deficient individuals will not be eligible for licensure.

  Schools offering degrees leading to LPCC licensure should ensure that all students fulfill these requirements prior to graduation.

- **LPCC Treatment of Couples and Families**: Also effective January 1, 2017, LPCCs who wish to assess and treat couples or families are required to obtain Board confirmation of meeting the additional qualifications to treat couples and families, and must provide a copy of that confirmation to the following:
  - Couple or family clients prior to commencement of treatment
  - Any supervisees that are marriage and family therapist trainees or interns; or LPCCs or PCC interns who are gaining supervised experience necessary to be able to treat couples or families.

Title Change for Marriage and Family Therapist Interns and Professional Clinical Counselor Interns

Effective January 1, 2018, the title for MFT and PCC registrants from “intern” to “associate”. Permissible titles will be as follows:

  - Associate Marriage and Family Therapist
  - Registered Associate Marriage and Family Therapist
  - Associate Professional Clinical Counselor
  - Registered Associate Professional Clinical Counselor

The one-year delayed implementation of this title change allows current interns/registrants to learn of the change and prepare for it. It also allows the Board time to run regulations to change its advertising regulations (this is currently being done).

Registrants are **not permitted** to use the “associate” title until January 1, 2018. After this date, if the Board’s regulations to change the advertising guidelines is approved, there will be a one
year grace period in which registrants can use either the “intern” or “associate” title (in order to use up existing stock of business cards, etc.)

The Board will be placing further information about this change, including FAQs, on its website in early to mid-2017.

**Continuing Education Audits**

At the beginning of 2016, the Board resumed random continuing education audits of its licensees. To date, the Board has audited approximately 300 licensees, and the audit failure rate is approximately 25%.

The top 3 reasons applicants are failing audits are as follows:

1. The licensee failed to complete the required law and ethics course within his or her renewal period.
2. The licensee did not complete the total required 36 hours of continuing education within his or her renewal period.
3. One or more continuing education courses were not taken from an acceptable continuing education provider (Specified in regulation Section 1887.4.3).

**Website Redesign**

The Board is in the process of redesigning its website. The goal of the redesign is to make the site easier to navigate, and to make it easier to find needed information.

The Board expects to launch its new website in early 2017.

**Pending Regulations: English as a Second Language**

This pending regulation proposal would allow the Board to grant time-and-a-half (1.5x) on a Board-administered examination to an English as a second language (ESL) applicant, if the applicant meets specific criteria demonstrating limited English proficiency. This regulation package is currently under review. Watch the Board’s website and subscriber email list for updates.

**Supervision Committee Update**

The Supervision Committee held its final meeting on August 18, 2016. At the November 4th Board meeting, the Board approved proposed language to be run as legislation and regulations.

Since legislation and corresponding implementing regulations cannot be run concurrently, the proposed language will be pursued in two phases. First, the amendments to statute will be pursued as a bill proposal during the 2017 Legislative Session. If this language passes and is signed by the Governor, the Board will next pursue the amendments that are in regulations.
Other Upcoming Meetings

- The first meeting of the Board’s new Exempt Setting Committee will be held on Friday, January 20 from 10 am - 2 pm in Sacramento, CA. The meeting location will be announced on the Board’s website.

- The next Policy and Advocacy Committee meeting will be held on February 3, 2017 in Sacramento, CA. The exact time and location of the meeting will be announced on the Board’s website.

- The next Board meeting will be held on March 1-3, 2017. The time and location will be announced on the website at a later date. This meeting will also be webcast.