



Monterey County Behavioral Health Policies and Procedures

Policy Number	143
Policy Title	Psychologists Waivers and Licensure Requirements
References	California Business and Professions Code Chapter 6.6 California Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 5751.2 California Department of Mental Health (CA DMH) Letter 10-03 Monterey County Behavioral Health Policy 107 – Licensure Requirements and Verification of Licensure California Business and Professions Code Sections 2913 & 2914 BHIN-24-033 Mental Health Professional Licensure Waiver
Effective	September 25, 2014 January 30, 2023 Revised: October 4, 2024 (Only references added)

Policy

It is the policy of Monterey County Behavioral Health (MCBH) to comply with all relevant State statutes and regulations regarding waivers and licensure of psychologists.

Licensed Psychologists

All licensed psychologists will either:

1. Possess and maintain licensure from the California Board of Psychology (CA BOP); or,
2. If licensed in another state, obtain in cooperation with MCBH Quality Improvement (QI) a waiver from the California Department of Health Care Services (CA DHCS) in accordance with California Welfare and Institutions Code (CA W&IC) 5751.2.
 - A. MCBH expects that out-of-state licensed psychologist will obtain a CA licensure within a time frame not to exceed the duration of the CA DHCS waiver.
 - B. Out-of-state licensed psychologists hired by MCBH cannot provide and bill for services that require licensure as a psychologist until the waiver from CA DHCS is obtained
 - i. The above applies regardless of the payer source for the services.

Psychologist Candidates (Unlicensed)

Per CA W&IC 5751.2, each psychologist candidate who meets the minimum requirements specified by statute or regulation and gaining experience required for licensure must obtain, in cooperation with MCBH QI, a waiver from the CA DHCS.

Each psychologist candidate must obtain a waiver, even if they are registered with their licensing board.

1. Psychologist candidates include any non-licensed psychologist candidate, such as doctoral students who meet the minimum statutory and regulatory educational minimums, post-doctoral/pre-licensure psychologist candidates, etc.
2. Psychologist candidates in placements/internships or employed by MCBH cannot perform and bill for services that require a waiver until the waiver from CA DHCS is obtained.
 - a. The above applies regardless of the payer source for the services.

Obtaining Waivers

All out-of-state licensed psychologists and psychologist candidates not in possession of a valid CA license must obtain in cooperation with MCBH QI a waiver from the CA DHCS. A waiver issued to an out-of-state licensed psychologist or psychology candidate while employed and/or gaining experience at a different mental health plan or organization, per State statute and regulation, cannot be accepted and utilized by MCBH and a new waiver must be obtained.

The out-of-state licensed psychologist or psychologist candidate and their supervisor will contact MCBH QI to begin the process of obtaining a waiver immediately upon the commencement of their placement, internship, employment, etc. with MCBH. Failure to do so will be an issue immediately directed to and addressed by MCBH Administration and/or Monterey County Health Department Human Resources.

Out-of-state licensed psychologists or psychologist candidates are expected to fully cooperate with MCBH QI to compile all the requirements (i.e., documents) for the waiver process. The waiver process generally requires that the out-of-state licensed psychologist or the psychologist candidate provide MCBH QI, at a minimum, a copy of their current transcript and resume. Other items may be required. MCBH QI will not obtain these items from any other sources, such as from Monterey County Health Department Human Resources, so they must be provided directly to MCBH QI unless it is absolutely required by law for MCBH QI to acquire them directly.

Once all necessary materials are gathered by MCBH QI from the out-of-state licensed psychologist or psychologist candidate, MCBH QI will forward the required materials to the CA DHCS and inform the out-of-state licensed psychologist or the psychologist candidate and their supervisor/manager once the waiver is received.

The CA DHCS Mental Health Professional Licensing Waiver Request can be viewed by conducting a search on the CA DHCS website (<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov>) for "Mental health Professional Licensing Waiver."

Again, it is important to note that the out-of-state licensed psychologist or the psychologist candidate must not provide services or bill for services in which a

psychology license or waiver is required until the actual waiver from CA DHCS is received by MCBH QI.

Verification of Licensure and Waivers

Refer to MCBH Policy 107 – Licensure Requirements and Verification of Licensure.

Psychology Licensing Supervision

A person other than a licensed psychologist may perform psychological functions in preparation for licensure as a psychologist only if all of the following conditions are met (Section 2913):

1. The person is registered with the board as a “registered psychological associate.” This registration shall be renewed annually in accordance with regulations adopted by the board.
2. The person has completed or is any of the following:
 - A. Completed a master’s degree in psychology.
 - B. Completed a master’s degree in education with the field of specialization in educational psychology, counseling psychology, or school psychology.
 - C. Is an admitted candidate for a doctoral degree in any of the following:
 - I. Psychology with the field of specialization in clinical, counseling, school, consulting, forensic, industrial, or organizational psychology.
 - II. Education, with the field of specialization in educational psychology, counseling psychology, or school psychology.
 - III. A field of specialization designed to prepare graduates for the professional practice of psychology after having satisfactorily completed three or more years of postgraduate education in psychology and having passed preliminary doctoral examinations.
 - D. Completed a doctoral degree that qualifies for licensure under Section 2914.
3. The board shall make the final determination as to whether a degree meets the requirements of this subdivision.
4. The registered psychological associate is supervised by a licensed psychologist. Any supervision may be provided in real time, which is defined as through in-person or synchronous audiovisual means, in compliance with federal and state laws related to patient health confidentiality. The registered psychological associate’s primary supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring that the extent, kind, and quality of the psychological services performed are consistent with the registered psychological associate’s and the primary supervisor’s training and experience. The primary supervisor shall be responsible for the registered psychological associate’s compliance with this chapter and regulations. A primary supervisor may delegate supervision as prescribed by the board’s regulations.
 - I. A licensed psychologist shall not supervise more than three registered psychological associates at any given time.
5. A registered psychological associate shall not do either of the following:
 - I. Provide psychological services to the public except as a trainee pursuant to this section.
 - II. Receive payments, monetary or otherwise, directly from clients.

An applicant for licensure shall not be subject to denial of licensure under Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475; Section 2914).

1. On and after January 1, 2020, an applicant for licensure shall possess an earned doctoral degree in any of the following:
 - A. Psychology with the field of specialization in clinical, counseling, school, consulting, forensic, industrial, or organizational psychology.
 - B. Education with the field of specialization in counseling psychology, educational psychology, or school psychology.
 - C. A field of specialization designed to prepare graduates for the professional practice of psychology.
2. Except as provided in subparagraph, the degree or training obtained pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be obtained from a college or institution of higher education that is accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.
 - A. Subparagraph (2) does not apply to any student who was enrolled in a doctoral program in psychology with the field of specialization in clinical, counseling, school, consulting, forensic, industrial, or organizational psychology or in education with the field of specialization in counseling psychology, educational psychology, or school psychology at a nationally accredited or approved institution as of December 31, 2016.
3. The board shall make the final determination as to whether a degree meets the requirements of this subdivision.
4. Until January 1, 2020, the board may accept an applicant who possesses a doctoral degree in psychology, educational psychology, or in education with the field of specialization in counseling psychology or educational psychology from an institution that is not accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education, but is approved to operate in this state by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education on or before July 1, 1999, and has not, since July 1, 1999, had a new location, as described in Section 94823.5 of the Education Code.
5. An applicant for licensure trained in an educational institution outside the United States or Canada shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board that the applicant possesses a doctoral degree in psychology or education as specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) that is equivalent to a degree earned from a regionally accredited academic institution in the United States or Canada by providing the board with an evaluation of the degree by a foreign credential evaluation service that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES), or by the National Register of Health Services Psychologists (NRHSP), and any other documentation the board deems necessary. The member of the NACES or the NRHSP shall submit the evaluation to the board directly and shall include in the evaluation all of the following:
 - A. A transcript in English, or translated into English by the credential evaluation service, of the degree used to qualify for licensure.
 - B. An indication that the degree used to qualify for licensure is verified using

primary sources.

- C. A determination that the degree is equivalent to a degree that qualifies for licensure pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2).
6. An applicant for licensure shall have engaged for at least two years in supervised professional experience under the direction of a licensed psychologist, the specific requirements of which shall be defined by the board in its regulations, or under suitable alternative supervision as determined by the board in regulations duly adopted under this chapter, at least one year of which shall have occurred after the applicant was awarded the qualifying doctoral degree. Any supervision may be provided in real time, which is defined as through in-person or synchronous audiovisual means, in compliance with federal and state laws related to patient health confidentiality. The supervisor shall submit verification of the experience to the trainee as prescribed by the board. If the supervising licensed psychologist fails to provide verification to the trainee in a timely manner, the board may establish alternative procedures for obtaining the necessary documentation. Absent good cause, the failure of a supervising licensed psychologist to provide the verification to the board upon request shall constitute unprofessional conduct.
- A. This act is an urgency statute, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of the California Constitution and will go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:
 - I. In order to preserve access to psychological care by allowing continued real time supervision of registered psychological associates and licensed psychologist applicants, including synchronous audiovisual means that comply with federal and state laws related to patient health confidentiality, it is necessary for this act to take effect immediately.
7. The board shall establish qualifications by regulation for supervising psychologists.
- A. An applicant for licensure shall take and pass the examination required by Section 2941 unless otherwise exempted by the board under this chapter.
 - B. An applicant for licensure shall complete coursework or provide evidence of training in the detection and treatment of alcohol and other chemical substance dependency.
 - C. An applicant for licensure shall complete coursework or provide evidence of training in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention.