



Alabama Board of Examiners in Counseling

2777 Zelda Road • Montgomery, Alabama 36106

COVID-19 CONCERNS

The sudden and ongoing crisis of the Coronavirus has created uncharted territory for all of us worldwide. The pandemic requires us to adapt to a changed and changing world and this certainly includes licensees of the ABEC, their clients and even several rules and regulations of the Board. This document is meant to address immediate concerns and hardships related to COVID-19.

DISTANCE COUNSELING

Continuity of care for clients is essential and abandonment is forbidden. Social distancing is also essential. Many licensees have turned to distance counseling as a solution. Please see section A. 12 of the Code of Ethics for guidance in the use of technology and "teletherapy". One major concern is that many clients have had to move back to their home states outside of Alabama. Know that Alabama licensees may work with out-of-state clients **AS LONG AS THAT STATE APPROVES**. Alabama licensees **MUST** check with out-of-state counseling licensure boards to confirm that they are welcome to provide counseling services outside of Alabama. If not, assistance with appropriate referral should be made available. If distance counseling is not an option, please follow CDC and ADPH guidelines regarding COVID-19 to help prevent exposure and spreading of the virus.

CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

The ABEC is well aware that many training opportunities have been cancelled and there are currently fewer opportunities for live, interactive, real-time experiences. In response to this hardship:

- The ABEC is waiving the 75% Real-Time Participation in Continuing Education Activities requirement (255-X-7-.01(e)) for Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) through the July 31, 2021 renewal cycle. **LPCs MUST STILL RENEW THEIR LICENSES BEFORE THE JULY 31 DEADLINE.**
- The ABEC is waiving the 75% Real-Time Participation in Continuing Education Activities requirement (255-X-7-.02(e)) for Associate Licensed Counselors (ALC) renewing beginning 1/15/21 until the end of the year (12/31/2021). **ALCs MUST STILL RENEW BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THEIR LICENSE.**
- The Continuing Education Policy and what is considered "acceptable" remains applicable. (see://abec.alabama.gov/applications.aspx).



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ALC RENEWAL PROCESSES

Until the COVID-19 pandemic is no longer declared a Federal or State emergency, ALC renewals will not be required to be voted on and approved by the ABEC Board (255-X-4-.05). However, all ALC renewal applications will continue to be administratively reviewed by the ABEC office per standard operating procedure and, if the application is found to be complete (with filled-out and signed renewal form, acceptable continuing education documentation, and correct fee payment), the renewed ALC licensure certificate will be summarily approved and sent to the applicant.

FACE-TO-FACE SUPERVISION

Until the COVID-19 pandemic is no longer declared a Federal or State emergency, 100% of face-to-face supervision and 100% of "other" supervision may be conducted virtually.

NOTARY REQUIREMENTS

Until the COVID-19 pandemic is no longer declared a Federal or State emergency, required evidence of a Notary Public stamp on any ABEC document is waived.

ABEC OFFICE DURING COVID-19

The office (2777 Zelda Rd, Montgomery, AL) is open 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday through Friday. There is a cart outside the front door, along with a storage container. Please drop your items off in the container, as the office is closed to the public due to COVID19.

Stay safe,

Handwritten signature of Anna Barksdale in cursive script.

Anna Barksdale – ABEC Chair

Handwritten signature of Keith Cates in cursive script, followed by a horizontal line.

Keith Cates – ABEC Executive Director