

Executive Order 318 Temporary Rule Waivers for Affected Counties

Purpose:

On September 26, 2024, Hurricane Helene entered the State of North Carolina as a tropical storm, inflicting significant damage on public and private property. An emergency declaration has been issued for North Carolina by both the State and the federal governments. On October 5, 2024, North Carolina Governor Cooper issued Executive Order 318 to, among other things, increase the pool of certain professional health care workers in North Carolina

Pursuant to Executive Order 318, Governor Cooper has delegated to certain professional health care licensure boards, including the North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board (the “Board”), the authority to waive or modify enforcement of rules promulgated by the Board that would prevent or impair the following:

- (1) allowing persons to provide care if they are licensed in other states, territories, or the District of Columbia, but not licensed in North Carolina;
- (2) allowing persons to provide care if they are retired or if their licenses are inactive;
- (3) allowing skilled, but unlicensed volunteers to provide care; and/or
- (4) allowing students at an appropriately advanced stage of professional study to provide care.

Executive Order 318 provides that any such waivers or modifications shall be allowed or disallowed at the Board’s discretion, and that the Board shall have the authority to impose conditions on any persons authorized to provide care pursuant to such waivers or modifications.

As directed by Executive Order 318, the Board hereby documents and shall post on its website the following waivers and modifications directed by the Board:

Waivers and Modifications:

- **2024 License Renewal Period:**

The Board will extend the deadline for receiving renewal applications, thereby temporarily waiving rule requirements for renewal applications found in 21 N.C. Admin. Code Chapter 63, Section .0400 for licensees residing in the following counties:

Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yancey.

The Board already has identified licensees in the affected counties and will issue further communications to notify those affected when the waiver of renewal requirements will end. At that time, affected licensees will be required to submit the required renewal documentation.

- **Temporary Licensure for Out-of-State Social Workers:**

Pursuant to G.S. 90B-4(b), social workers licensed in other jurisdictions may provide social work services in North Carolina for up to five (5) days in a single calendar year to maintain continuity of care of clients. Further, the Board has an existing rule permitting Temporary Licenses, 21 N.C. Admin. Code 63 .0213, which provides that social workers licensed in another jurisdiction may provide services in North Carolina for six months under a temporary license upon submission of an application and \$25 fee.

At this time, the Board is *not* waiving 21 N.C. Admin 63 .0213 and will continue to require out-of-state social workers either to limit the provision of social work services to five (5) days of practice per G.S. 90B-4(b), or to submit an application for temporary licensure per 21 N.C. Admin. Code 63 .0213.

Duration:

The waivers and modifications set forth herein are temporary and shall be in effect only for the duration of Executive Order 318 or until the Board decides to rescind any such waivers or modifications, whichever shall occur first.