NC MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY LICENSURE BOARD

Executive Order No. 318

MEETING NORTH CAROLINA'S RESPONSE AND RECOVERY NEEDS IN SUPPORT OF HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF EFFORTS

October 22, 2024

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 Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board ("NCMFTLB"), the authority to waive or modify enforcement of laws and regulations 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 NCMFTLB's discretion, and that NCMFTLB 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, NCMFTLB hereby documents and shall post on its website the following waivers and modifications directed by NCMFTLB:

Waivers & Modifications that WILL Be Allowed

1. Allowing practice in North Carolina by fully licensed LMFTs that are currently licensed in VA, SC, TN, or GA and have been for at least two (2) years, but are not licensed in North Carolina, under the following terms and conditions:
   - Out-of-state LMFTs must complete the NCMFTLB's online Emergency Waiver application located on the Board's website. Services in NC cannot be provided until the form is approved by the NCMFTLB.
   - The out-of-state LMFT must be currently licensed in one of the listed states for a minimum of two years and the license must be in good standing.
   - The out-of-state LMFT must upload an official verification from the respective state board that their license is in good standing with the other jurisdiction's state occupational licensing board.
   - While engaged in practice in North Carolina, the out-of-state health care professional shall comply with the Board's Code of Ethics (the AAMFT Code of Ethics) and all Ethical Principles of Conduct, set forth in NCGS 90.270.60.

2. Allowing retired or inactive LMFT to provide care, under the following terms and conditions:
   - Retired or inactive LMFT must contact the Board directly to inquire about reactivating their license to an Emergency Waiver.
   - Retired or inactive LMFT must have been in good standing with the NCMFTLB prior to retiring or relinquishing credential.
   - While engaged in practice in North Carolina, the retired or inactive LMFT shall comply with the Board's Code of Ethics (the AAMFT Code of Ethics) and all Ethical Principles of Conduct, set forth in NCGS 90.270.60.

Upon expiration of the Emergency Waiver, the temporary LMFT must refere all client to a North Carolina licensed LMFT within 10 days and ensure continuity of care.

Waivers & Modifications that WILL NOT Be Allowed to engage in the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy under these waivers:

1. Volunteers that are not licensed in NC or the listed states as LMFT.
2. Students enrolled in an LMFT program.

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 modification, whichever shall occur first.