



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS
P.O. BOX 2649
HARRISBURG, PA 17105-2649**

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
Telephone: (717) 214-1891
Fax: (717) 783-0510
www.dos.state.pa.us

August 5, 2021

From: K. Kalonji Johnson, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs
To: Licensees
RE: PA Professional Licensing Waivers

Dear Professional Licensees,

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the health and safety of our fellow Pennsylvanians during the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand that you are concerned and may have questions about what will happen to various waivers once the extension expires on September 30, 2021.

When the disaster declaration ends, our authority to grant or extend these waivers will expire, and they will no longer be in effect. Beginning August 17, the Department of State will expire waivers in several phases, starting with the waivers that have already served their purpose in pandemic response but have not been formally rescinded.

You can find a list of all the waivers and their expiration dates on our [website](#).

We know that some of these waivers were vital to you continuing to practice and learn during the pandemic and that these waivers should be made permanent so that you and those you serve can continue to benefit from them. Our offices of Legislative Affairs, Policy, and Intergovernmental

Affairs remain engaged with the General Assembly to articulate your needs and concerns regarding those beneficial waivers.

As valued members of our professional communities dedicated to protecting public health and safety, we urge all of you, first, to act safely and responsibly by taking the reasonable and necessary steps to come into compliance by September 30. That may mean simply spending these next several weeks reviewing and reacclimating to the regulations governing your scope of practice. Or, your preparations to return to a pre-pandemic scope of practice may be more involved depending on the waivers that currently apply to your license type.

Equally important, we ask each of you to stay informed and educated by actively participating and engaging in our public board and commission meetings. We further encourage you to personally contact your local elected officials with your concerns and feedback.

As professionals and as citizens, you enjoy the benefit and privilege of very active and informed professional licensing committees in the General Assembly. However, it is your impassioned and intentional advocacy through your professional communities and associations that will empower your elected officials to make informed and educated decisions about the rules and regulations that govern your respective professions and affect you personally.

I know that the last 17 months have been difficult for you, because they have been difficult for all of us. On behalf of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, we thank you and appreciate your enduring support and patience as we have moved through this pandemic together. The Department of State, BPOA, and your respective boards and commissions will continue working for you with equity, transparency, and integrity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Kalonji Johnson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

K. Kalonji Johnson
Commissioner
Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs