



New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
Toney Anaya Building ▪ 2550 Cerrillos Road ▪ Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504
Information (505) 476-4500 ▪ Direct (505) 476-4508 ▪ Fax (505) 476-4511

April 28, 2020

Michelle Lujan Grisham
GOVERNOR

Marguerite Salazar
SUPERINTENDENT

Claudia Armijo
DEPUTY
SUPERINTENDENT

Priscilla Garcia
DIRECTOR

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW MEXICO SIGNED LANGUAGE INTERPRETING PRACTICES BOARD

PROCEDURES FOR THE EXTENSION OF PROVISIONAL LICENSES DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

On March 11, 2020, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham declared a public health emergency and issued Executive Order 2020-004. The New Mexico Signed Language Interpreting Practices Board (Board) is aware that many states, like New Mexico, have also declared public health emergencies that have impacted the availability of certain services.

Among those impacted are signed language interpreter testing centers around the nation who have ceased operations at this time. The closures have resulted in the cancellation of testing for those individuals scheduled to take the tests required by the New Mexico Signed Language Interpreting Practices Act (Act) to for licensure as a community signed language interpreter or as an educational signed language interpreter.

The Board recognizes that the impact of the closures of the testing could also result in the expiration of provisional licenses already issued pursuant to the Act and that are necessary to provide interpreting services to the deaf and hard of hearing community in New Mexico. Therefore, the Board is hereby extending all provisional licenses that are set to expire in 2020 for a period not to exceed six (6) months from the date of the lifting of the public health emergency, through the use of the following procedures:

1. Individuals whose provisional licenses are impacted by the closure of the testing centers and whose provisional licenses are set to expire in 2020 should submit a written statement requesting an extension via email to the Board's Administrator at signlanguage.board@state.nm.us.
2. The written statement should inform the Board of the circumstances surrounding their request for an extension.

Alcohol and Gaming Division
(505) 476-4875

Boards and Commissions Division
(505) 476-4600

Construction Industries Division
(505) 476-4700

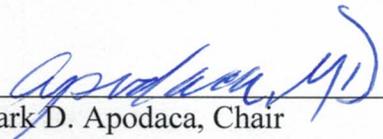
Financial Institutions Division
(505) 476-4885

Manufactured Housing Division
(505) 476-4770

Securities Division
(505) 476-4580

Administrative Services Division
(505) 476-4800

3. The Board Administrator will send each request to the Board Chair, who will review and approve an extension not to exceed six (6) months from the date the public health emergency is lifted.
4. The Board Administrator will send notice to the licensee that an extension has been granted. The Board Administrator will keep a log of all requests, written statements and approvals and provide them to the Board at its next regular meeting for ratification.
5. At the conclusion of the public health emergency all licensees granted an extension will be required to present documentation that the individual sat for or have scheduled a date to take the exam within six (6) months of the date that the public health emergency is lifted.
6. If an individual is not able to sit for or schedule an exam within six (6) months from the date of the lifting of the public health emergency, the individual should notify the Board as soon as is practicable. Failure to sit for, schedule an exam or notify the Board that an individual has been unable to do either, could result in disciplinary action against the individual's provisional license by the Board.
7. The Board will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation, its impacts on applicants and licensees, and will adjust this policy as warranted.
8. Any questions regarding this Notice should be directed to the Board via the Board Administrator email address: signlanguage.board@state.nm.us.



Mark D. Apodaca, Chair

New Mexico Signed Language Interpreting Practices Board