

On Sunday, March 22, 2020, Governor Reynolds issued A Proclamation of Disaster Emergency providing for, among other things, Professional Licensure Relief as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19. Proclamation of Disaster Emergency [hereinafter *Proclamation*], §§ 3-15 (March 22, 2020),

<https://governor.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Public%20Health%20Proclamation%20-%202020.03.22.pdf>.

The Proclamation provides relief by, among other things, suspending various regulatory requirements relating to in-person continuing education, and licensure renewal deadlines. Pursuant to the Proclamation, Governor Reynolds directed individual licensing boards to “provide additional guidance to licensees regarding the effect of these suspensions.” *Id.*; *see also* Iowa Code § 29C.19 (“Any order issued or rule promulgated by a state agency during a declared disaster emergency and pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall be exempt from being issued or promulgated as provided in chapter 17A.”). In light of and consistent with the foregoing, the Iowa Interior Design Examining Board (“Board”) hereby issues the following Guidance regarding the effect of these suspensions.

1. Pursuant to SECTION FIVE of the Proclamation, Governor Reynolds temporarily suspended the regulatory provisions of the Iowa Code and corresponding implementing regulations to the extent they impose requirements for in-person continuing education as a condition of professional license renewal or impose continuing education deadlines or requirements that are unable to be satisfied due to COVID-19. For licensees of the Board, at the present time this means:
 - If your registration is set to expire on June 30, 2020, per (2) below your license will instead expire on July 31, 2020, and you may satisfy your continuing education requirements with contact hours earned between July 1, 2018, and July 31, 2020. *See* Iowa Admin. Code ch. 193G—3. In other words, you have an additional month to complete a minimum of 10 contact hours of continuing education. Contact hours earned between July 1, 2020, and July 31, 2020 that are used for your 2020 renewal may not be used for your 2022 renewal.
 - You are encouraged to complete distance learning or online continuing education programs which meet the requirements of Iowa Administrative Code rule 193G—3.2.
2. Pursuant to SECTION SIX of the Proclamation, Governor Reynolds temporarily suspended the regulatory provisions of the Iowa Code and corresponding implementing regulations to the extent they set an expiration date or renewal requirement for a professional license that expires during the duration of the Proclamation. Currently, the Proclamation is set to expire on April 16, 2020. For licensees of the Board, at the present time this means:
 - If your registration is set to expire on June 30, 2020, your license will instead expire on July 31, 2020. *See* Iowa Admin. Code r. 193G—2.2.
 - Registrants may renew their registration between May 15 and July 31, 2020 for the regular renewal period and between August 1 through August 30, 2020 for the late renewal period, with no late fee will be assessed. *See* Iowa Admin. Code r. 193G—2.2.
3. To the extent any provision in this Guidance is inconsistent with a provision in the Proclamation, the provision of the Proclamation shall prevail.

