

**The State Board of Examiners of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors Website
Posting as a Result of EO 20-16**

The office of the State Board of Examiners in Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (Board) has received several requests concerning a waiver of the Board's rule that no more than 50% of a counselors forty (40) hours of continuing education may be obtained online during the two year cycle. Numerous conferences and meetings that licensees had planned to attend over the next few months have been cancelled or are moving online due to the COVID-19 public health situation. The concern is that there are some provisions within the Board's rules that may prevent or hinder the Board from rendering maximum assistance to the citizens of Arkansas while they are trying to adhere to guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Rule 180.01.4:VII. Continuing Education. places a limit on the number of online hours that a licensee can obtain in each two-year renewal cycle. Considering the State's COVID-19 response and the Governor's call for social distancing, this rule will be suspended pursuant to EO 20-16 until the current state of emergency is declared over by the Governor which will make it possible for licensees to obtain as many continuing education hours as they need online during this renewal cycle.