



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Dear Stakeholder:

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the Department of State, Board of Medicine promulgated regulations to allow for the licensure of a Behavior Specialist. These regulations were in accordance with Act 62 calling for such licensure.

Act 62 also calls for Behavior Specialist's to be licensed within one year of the regulations being promulgated in order to bill either private insurance or Medical Assistance for the Behavior Specialist service. This means individuals working with children with Autism to "design, implement, or evaluate a behavior modification plan" who desire to bill for the service should plan on becoming a licensed Behavior Specialist prior to May 26<sup>th</sup> 2013.

The intent of this communication is to encourage all Behavior Specialists, including those Behavior Specialist Consultants (BSCs) who intend to continue to work with children with Autism, to obtain licensure prior to May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Given that this is a new license and it is anticipated that a large number of individuals are likely to apply for this license we encourage individuals to apply for the license as soon as possible. This will allow for timely processing of the applications and avoid any potential disruptions in staff being reimbursed for behavior specialist services they may be providing.

As stated in the Behavior Specialist regulations, certain licensed individuals, such as social workers and psychologists, will not need to obtain the additional Behavior Specialist licensure.

Questions regarding the behavior specialist license, application or process should be directed to:

State Board of Medicine  
P.O. Box 2649, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649  
Phone - (717) 783-1400  
Fax - (717) 787-7769  
[ST-MEDICINE@pa.gov](mailto:ST-MEDICINE@pa.gov)

The application for the Behavior Specialist license can be found at:  
[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/state\\_board\\_of\\_medicine/12512/licensure\\_information/599413](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/state_board_of_medicine/12512/licensure_information/599413)

Information regarding the enrollment, provision and payment of the Behavior Specialist service will be forthcoming from the Department of Public Welfare.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nina Wall-Cote".

Nina Wall-Cote  
Director, Bureau of Autism Services  
Office of Developmental Programs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stanley Mrozowski".

Stanley Mrozowski  
Director, Bureau of Children's Behavioral Health Services  
Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Service