

# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

## Commissioner's Bulletin # B-0008-20

March 24, 2020

**To: All TDI-regulated carriers, agents, adjusters, and licensees**

**Re: COVID-19: Suspension of certain licensing requirements and fees**

On March 13, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott issued a disaster declaration in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor authorized the use of all available state and local government resources necessary to cope with the disaster.

TDI expects carriers to work with their policyholders as they prepare for and respond to the spread of COVID-19. Carriers should look to the Governor's ongoing declarations related to COVID-19 for guidance on how long to extend relief.

### **Suspension of licensing requirements and fees for licensees**

On March 23, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott approved suspension of certain licensing requirements and fees for Texas-licensed insurance agents, adjusters, title agents, escrow officers, fire alarm licensees, fire extinguisher licensees, fire sprinkler licensees, life settlement brokers, and life settlement providers.

- For licenses that expired on or before February 29, 2020, the renewal period is extended to May 31, 2020.
- For licenses that expire between March 31, 2020, and April 30, 2020, late fees and continuing education fines will be waived if the license is renewed by May 31, 2020.
- All current temporary licenses and new temporary licenses issued will remain active until further notice.
- The \$100 additional fee for a temporary license is waived until further notice.
- The requirement that temporary agent licensees obtain training in a classroom setting is waived. Instead, applicants seeking a temporary license may take approved webinars and courses listed as "classroom equivalent" to satisfy the 10 hours of classroom training.
- The requirement to submit fingerprints for a temporary license is delayed until further notice.
- The requirement that, during any two consecutive quarters, at least 70% of an organization's applicants for temporary licenses take the required licensing examination is waived.

For questions about this bulletin, contact the Agent and Adjuster Licensing Office by calling 512-676-6500 or by email at [License@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:License@tdi.texas.gov)

# TDI adjusts licensing, continuing education requirements

Governor Greg Abbott has approved waiving certain licensing requirements for insurance agents and adjusters at the request of the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI). These measures will ensure services remain available during the state's response to coronavirus COVID-19.

## New and temporary licenses

Most testing and fingerprinting facilities are closed due to the coronavirus outbreak. To address that issue, TDI will:

- Issue temporary agent licenses, without required testing or additional fees. All training can be completed online, and fingerprints will be submitted later. Temporary applications should be [submitted online](#). Paper applications will not be accepted.
- Temporary licenses will remain active until further notice.
- Waive the additional \$100 fee for a temporary license.
- Issue only emergency adjuster licenses until testing and fingerprinting sites reopen.

## License renewals and continuing education

For those with licenses set to expire in March or April, TDI will:

- Extend the time to renew a license by two months and waive late fees.
- Allow agents more time to complete continuing education and waive continuing education fines.

# TDI EMERGENCY ADJUSTER LICENSE

## Apply for an emergency adjuster license

### Exam

You do not need to take an exam for an emergency adjuster license.

### Fingerprint background check

You do not need to get a fingerprint background check for an emergency adjuster license.

### Application

- You can apply for a 90-day emergency adjuster license during a disaster.
- You must be sponsored by:
  - Another person or business that has an active Texas adjuster license.
- or
- An insurance company licensed in Texas and in good standing.
- You must apply online by using [Sircon](#).
  - If you live in Texas (resident), click on the “New Adjuster License” button on the [Sircon website](#).
  - If you don’t live in Texas (non-resident), click on the “Other Licenses” button on the [Sircon website](#).
- The application fee is **\$20**.

<https://www.tdi.texas.gov/agent/adjuster-emergency-apply.html>