

Florida CE extensions due to recent hurricanes

Florida has granted a 60-day CE extension to all licensees with CE originally due in the following months: 10/2-24, 11/2024, or 12/2024. The extensions have already been applied, and the CE due dates have been updated in Florida's system. Extensions were not given to licensees who had already completed the full requirement, since they are already compliant.

A copy of the emergency order that gave the Department authority to do this is attached.

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER EMERGENCY ORDER 2024-03**

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2024, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order Number 24-214, which immediately declared a state of emergency in Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Citrus, Collier, Desoto, Flagler, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St Johns, St Lucie, Sumter and Volusia counties.

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2024, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order Number 24-215, which added additional counties and immediately declared a state of emergency in Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Columbia, DeSoto, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Glades, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lafayette, Lake, Lee, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami Dade, Monroe, Nassau, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, and Volusia, counties.

WHEREAS, the Department of Financial Services, Division of Insurance Agent and Agency Services regulates Insurance Agencies and Customer Representatives pursuant to Section 626.016, Florida Statutes.

WHEREAS, Customer Representatives engage in transacting insurance with insureds, including by assisting with the claims filing process.

WHEREAS, Sections 626.7352 and 626.7354(4), Florida Statutes, prohibit Customer Representatives from transacting insurance outside the office where their insurance agency is located.

WHEREAS, the Department of Financial Services is aware that many insurance professionals are under mandatory evacuation orders, due to the impending landfall of Hurricane Milton, and that Customer Representatives subject to evacuation orders will be unable to transact insurance by operation of the provisions of Sections 626.7352 and 626.7354(4), Florida Statutes.

WHEREAS, Section 626.732(5), Florida Statutes, authorizes the Department of Financial Services to grant an extension of time during which the continuing education requirements of section 626.732, Florida Statutes may be completed.

WHEREAS, the Department of Financial Services deems the magnitude of hurricane Milton to be “good cause” for extending deadlines provided in Section

626.732, Florida Statutes, so that continuing education compliance does not slow down claims processing for insured Floridians.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, JIMMY PATRONIS, as Chief Financial Officer for the state of Florida, and acting under my powers as the agency head for the Department of Financial Services, hereby issue the following Emergency Order:

Section 1. Sections 626.7352 and 626.7354(4) are waived to the extent they prohibit a Customer Representative from transacting insurance at a location other than the office of the agent or agency whom the customer representative represents.

Section 2. The deadlines for complying with the continuing education requirements that would otherwise occur during the months of October 2024, November 2024, and December 2024, pursuant to Section 626.2815, Florida Statutes, are hereby extended for a period of 60 days.

Section 3. This Directive shall remain in effect for a period of 60 days.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Department of Financial Services to be affixed, this 7th day of October 2024.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmy Patronis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jimmy" and last name "Patronis" clearly distinguishable.

Signed, Jimmy Patronis
Chief Financial Officer
State of Florida