Benefits of Licensure for Behavior Analysts

1. **Consumer protections**: If a consumer of behavior analytic services knows that their provider is a licensed behavior analyst, the consumer can feel assured that the person has met specific competency standards. Disciplinary actions are documented by way of the state licensing board.

2. **Provider protections**: Should a claim be made against a licensed behavior analyst, the state licensing board has a formal process of handling these claims.

3. **Recognition of the discipline**: A license helps to affirm that behavior analysis is a distinct discipline, separate from other practices such as speech and language pathology, occupational therapy, or counseling.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the practice of behavior analysis?** (Md. Code Ann., Hlth Occ. Art II, 17–6A–01(F)):
   - The design, implementation, and evaluation of systematic instructional and environmental modifications to produce socially significance improvement in human behavior. The practice of behavior analysis includes:
     - i. The empirical identification of functional relations between behavior and environmental factors, known as functional assessment and analysis; and
     - ii. Interventions based on scientific research and the direct observation and measurement of behavior and environment.

2. **What types of services are excluded from the practice of behavior analysis?** (Md. Code Ann., Hlth Occ. Art II, 17–6A–01(F)):
   - The practice of behavior analysis does not include psychological testing, diagnosis of a mental or physical disorder, neuropsychology, psychotherapy, cognitive therapy, sex therapy, psychoanalysis, hypnotherapy, counseling, or any sub discipline of psychology as treatment modalities.

3. I am a BCBA and hold no other state or national credential or license, and I am not supervised by a licensed behavior analyst or another health care provider licensed under the Health Occupations Article who is authorized to practice behavior analysis in the state of Maryland. Am I required to apply for licensure as a behavior analyst if I plan on practicing Behavior Analysis in Maryland?
   - Yes.
4. I am a BCBA. Can I continue to carry out my practice after December 31, 2015 without holding a license with this Board?
   - No. All BCBA's must have a license by December 31, 2015 or the behavior analyst may be subject to disciplinary action.

5. I am a BCaBA. Am I required to apply for licensure as a behavior analyst?
   - No. There is no license currently available at the BCaBA level.

6. I am a BCaBA. Can I practice behavior analysis in Maryland?
   - No, unless under the supervision of a licensed behavior analyst or another health care provider licensed under the Health Occupations Article who is authorized to practice behavior analysis in the State of Maryland.

7. I am practicing behavior analysis according to the statute, but I do not qualify for a license, may I practice in Maryland?
   - No, unless under the supervision of a licensed behavior analyst or another health care provider licensed under the Health Occupations Article who is authorized to practice behavior analysis in the State of Maryland.

8. I am having trouble with billing/authorization/obtaining payment for my behavior analytic services from an insurance company. What can I do?
   - Questions about insurance coverage can be directed to the individual insurance company or the Maryland Insurance Administration (www.mdinsurance.state.md.us).

9. I am a BCBA and moving to Maryland, can I start the licensure process before I move to Maryland?
   - Yes.
   Please follow this link: http://health.maryland.gov/bopc/pdfs/behavioranalystapplication.pdf