

*Amended: November 1, 2019*

**STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE ACT  
Title 59 O.S., Sections 888.1 - 888.16**

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### **888.1. Short title**

This act shall be known and cited as the "Occupational Therapy Practice Act".

### **888.2. Purpose**

In order to safeguard the public health, safety and welfare, to protect the public from being misled by incompetent and un-authorized persons, to assure the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants, and to assure the availability of occupational therapy services of high quality to persons in need of such services, it is the purpose of this act to provide for the regulation of persons offering occupational therapy services to the public.

### **888.3. Definitions**

As used in this the Occupational Therapy Practice Act:

1. "Occupational therapy" is a health profession for which practitioners provide assessment, treatment, and consultation through the use of purposeful activity with individuals who are limited by or at risk of physical illness or injury, psycho-social dysfunction, developmental or learning disabilities, poverty and cultural differences or the aging process, in order to maximize independence, prevent disability, and maintain health. Specific occupational therapy services include but are not limited to the use of media and methods such as instruction in daily living skills and cognitive retraining, facilitating self-maintenance, work and leisure skills, using standardized or adapted techniques, designing, fabricating, and applying selected orthotic equipment or selective adaptive equipment with instructions, using therapeutically applied creative activities, exercise, and other media to enhance and restore functional performance, to administer and interpret tests which may include sensorimotor evaluation, psycho-social assessments, standardized or nonstandardized tests, to improve developmental skills, perceptual and motor skills, and sensory integrative function, and to adapt the environment for the handicapped. These services are provided individually, in groups, via telehealth or through social systems;
2. "Occupational therapist" means a person licensed to practice occupational therapy pursuant to the provisions of the Occupational Therapy Practice Act;
3. "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to provide occupational therapy treatment under the general supervision of a licensed occupational therapist;
4. "Occupational therapy aide" means a person who assists in the practice of occupational therapy and whose activities require an understanding of occupational therapy, but do not require the technical or professional training of an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant;
5. "Board" means the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision;

6. "Person" means any individual, partnership, unincorporated organization or corporate body, except only an individual may be licensed pursuant to the provisions of the Occupational Therapy Practice Act;

7. "Committee" means the Oklahoma Occupational Therapy Advisory Committee;

8. "Telehealth" means the use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support and promote access to clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health and health administration; and

9. "Telerehabilitation" or "teletherapy" means the delivery of rehabilitation and habilitation services via information and communication technologies (ICT), also commonly referred to as "telehealth" technologies.

#### **888.4. License required - Application of act**

A. No person shall practice occupational therapy or hold himself or herself out as an occupational therapist, or as being able to practice occupational therapy, or to render occupational therapy services in this state unless he or she is licensed in accordance with the provisions of this act. The licensing provisions of this act shall not be applicable to a person who assists in the practice of occupational therapy as an occupational therapy aide.

B. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to authorize occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistants to practice medicine and surgery within the meaning of Section 492 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

C. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this act, a plan of care developed by a person authorized to provide services within the scope of the Occupational Therapy Practice Act shall be deemed to be a prescription for purposes of providing services pursuant to the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Amendment of 1997, Public Law 105-17, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

#### **888.5. Practices, services and activities not prohibited**

Nothing in the Occupational Therapy Practice Act shall be construed to prevent or restrict the practice, services, or activities of:

1. Any persons of other licensed professions or personnel supervised by licensed professions in this state from performing work incidental to the practice of their profession or occupation, if that person does not represent himself as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant;

2. Any person employed as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant by

the Government of the United States if such person provides occupational therapy solely under the direction or control of the organization by which he or she is employed;

3. Any person pursuing a course of study leading to a degree or certificate in occupational therapy at an accredited educational program if such activities and services constitute a part of a supervised course of study, if such a person is designated by a title which clearly indicates his status as a student or trainee;

4. Any person fulfilling the supervised field work experience requirements of Section 888.6 of this title, if such activities and services constitute a part of the experience necessary to meet the requirements of that section;

5. Any person performing occupational therapy services in this state, if services are performed for no more than ninety (90) days in a calendar year in association with an occupational therapist licensed pursuant to the provisions of this act, if:

a. such person is licensed according to the laws of another state which has licensure requirements equal to or surpassing the requirements of the Occupational Therapy Practice Act, or

b. such person is certified as an occupational therapist registered (O.T.R.) or a certified occupational therapy assistant (C.O.T.A.), by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy;

6. Any person employed or working under the direct supervision of an occupational therapist as an occupational therapy aide; or

7. A certified recreational therapist in the area of play and leisure.

#### **888.6. Application for license - Information required**

An applicant applying for a license as an occupational therapist or as an occupational therapy assistant shall file written application on forms provided by the Board, as recommended by the Committee, showing to the satisfaction of the Board that the applicant meets the following requirements:

1. Residence: Applicants need not be a resident of this state;

2. Character: Applicants shall meet the standards of the Code of Ethics and if licensure rules adopted by the Board to safeguard the public;

3. Education: Applicants shall present evidence satisfactory to the Board of having successfully completed the academic requirements of an educational program in occupational therapy recognized by the Board, with concentration in biological or physical

science, psychology and sociology, and with education in selected manual skills. For an occupational therapist the educational program shall be accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). For an occupational therapy assistant, such a program shall be approved by ACOTE;

4. Experience: Applicants shall submit to the Board evidence of having successfully completed a period of supervised field work experience at a recognized educational institution or a training program approved by the educational institution where he or she met the academic requirements. For an occupational therapist, a minimum of six (6) months of supervised field work experience is required. For an occupational therapy assistant, a minimum of two (2) months of supervised field work experience is required;

5. Examination: Applicants shall submit to the Board evidence of having successfully completed an examination as provided for in Section 888.7 of this title.

#### **888.7. Application for license - Form - Examination and reexamination**

A. A person applying for a license shall demonstrate his or her eligibility in accordance with the requirements of Section 888.6 of this title and shall make application for examination upon a form in such a manner as the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) shall prescribe. A person who fails the examination may make reapplication for reexamination accompanied by the prescribed fee.

B. Each applicant for licensure pursuant to the provisions of this the Occupational Therapy Practice Act shall be examined on the applicant's knowledge of the basic and clinical sciences relating to occupational therapy and occupational theory and practice, including the application of professional skills and judgment in the utilization of occupational therapy techniques and methods and such other subjects as the Board may deem useful to determine the applicant's fitness to practice. The Board shall approve an examination and establish standards for acceptable practice. NBCOT shall be the approved provider for the examination according to national standards for entry-level practice.

C. Applicants for licensure shall be examined at a time and place as NBCOT may determine. Applicants must pass the examination by a score determined by the NBCOT. Examinations shall be given at least two times each year at such places as NBCOT may determine.

D. In case of failure of any examination the applicant shall have the privilege of a second examination on payment of the regular fees. In case of a second failure, the applicant shall be eligible for the third examination, but shall, in addition to the requirements for previous examinations have to wait a specific period as determined by NBCOT, not to exceed one (1) year, before reexamination. The waiting period may include completion of academic or clinical work as prescribed by rules promulgated by the Board. A temporary license may be issued

pursuant to the provisions of Section 888.8 of this title. Further testing shall be at the discretion of the Board and NBCOT guidelines.

E. Applicants shall be given their examination scores in accordance with such rules and regulations as the Board may establish.

**888.8. Waiver of examination, education or experience requirements**

A. The Board shall waive the examination and grant a license to any person certified prior to the effective date of this act as an occupational therapist registered (O.T.R.) or a certified occupational therapy assistant (C.O.T.A.) by the American Occupational Therapy Association. The Board may waive the examination, education, or experience requirements and grant a license to any person so certified after the effective date of this act if the Board considers the requirements for such certification to be at least equivalent to the requirements for licensure in this act.

B. The Board may waive the examination, education, or experience requirements and grant a license to any applicant who shall present proof of current licensure as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant in another state, the District of Columbia, or territory of the United States which requires standards of licensure considered by the Board to be at least equivalent to the requirements for licensure in this act.

C. An applicant may be licensed as an occupational therapist if he has first practiced as an occupational therapy assistant for four (4) years and has completed the requirements of paragraph 4 of Section 6 of this act before January 1, 1988, and has passed the examination for occupational therapist.

**888.9. Denial, refusal, suspension, revocation, censure, probation and reinstatement of license**

A. The Board may deny or refuse to renew a license, or may suspend or revoke a license, or may censure a licensee, publicly or otherwise, or may impose probationary conditions where the licensee or applicant for license has been guilty of unprofessional conduct which has endangered or is likely to endanger the health, welfare, or safety of the public. Such unprofessional conduct includes:

1. Obtaining a license by means of fraud, misrepresentation, or concealment of material facts;
2. Engaging in unprofessional conduct as defined by the rules established by the Board, or violating the Code of Ethics adopted and published by the Board;
3. Being convicted of a felony crime that substantially relates to the occupation of occupational therapy or poses a reasonable threat to public safety;

4. Violating any lawful order, rule, or regulation rendered or adopted by the Board;  
and
5. Violating any provisions of this act.

B. Such denial, refusal to renew, suspension, revocation, censure, or imposition of probationary conditions upon a license may be ordered by the Board in a decision made after a hearing in the manner provided by the rules and regulations adopted by the Board. One (1) year from the date of the revocation, refusal of renewal, suspension, or probation of the license, application may be made to the Board for reinstatement. The Board shall have discretion to accept or reject an application for reinstatement and may, but shall not be required to, hold a hearing to consider such reinstatement.

C. As used in this section:

1. “Substantially relates” means the nature of criminal conduct for which the person was convicted has a direct bearing on the fitness or ability to perform one or more of the duties or responsibilities necessarily related to the occupation; and
2. “Poses a reasonable threat” means the nature of criminal conduct for which the person was convicted involved an act or threat of harm against another and has a bearing on the fitness or ability to serve the public or work with others in the occupation.

#### **888.10. Renewal of license - Continuing education**

A. Licenses under this act shall be subject to annual renewal and shall expire unless renewed in the manner prescribed by the rules and regulations of the Board, upon payment of a renewal fee provided for in Section 11 of this act. The Board may provide for the late renewal of a license upon payment of a late fee in accordance with its rules and regulations, but no such late renewal of a license may be granted more than five (5) years after its expiration. A hearing before the Board may be required in addition to a late fee.

B. A suspended license is subject to expiration and may be renewed as provided in this section, but such renewal shall not entitle the licensee, while the license remains suspended and until it is reinstated, to engage in the licensed activity, or in any conduct or activity in violation of the order or judgment by which the license was suspended. If a license revoked on disciplinary grounds is reinstated, the licensee as a condition of reinstatement, shall pay the renewal fee and any late fee that may be applicable.

C. The Board may establish continuing education requirements to facilitate the maintenance of current practice skills of all persons licensed under this act.

#### **888.11. Fees**

The Board shall prescribe and publish, in the manner established by its rules and regulations, fees in the amounts determined by the Board for the following:

1. Initial license fee;
2. Renewal of license fee; and
3. Late renewal fee.

**888.12. Oklahoma Occupational Therapy Advisory Committee - Creation - Membership - Term - Vacancies - Removal - Liability**

An Oklahoma Occupational Therapy Advisory Committee of the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision is hereby created. The Committee shall consist of five (5) members appointed by the Board, upon recommendation of the Oklahoma Occupational Therapy Association, for staggered terms of three (3) years, except for the first Committee appointed hereunder. Three members shall be occupational therapists with at least five (5) years' experience, one member shall be an occupational therapy assistant with at least three (3) years' experience, and one member shall be a consumer. All of the therapists shall be licensed except for the first members of the Committee who shall be licensed as soon after their appointments as possible. Said licensing shall take place within ninety (90) days after this act becomes effective.

The terms of the members shall be for three (3) years and until their successors are appointed and qualify; except of those first appointed, one shall serve for one (1) year, one shall serve for two (2) years, and three shall serve for three (3) years. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment for the unexpired portion of the term only. The Board after notice and opportunity for hearing may remove any member of the Committee for neglect of duty, incompetence, revocation or suspension of license, or other dishonorable conduct. A member of the Committee is not liable to civil action for any act performed in good faith in the execution of his duties in this capacity.

**888.13 Oklahoma Occupational Therapy Advisory Committee - Officers - Meetings - Rules - Records - Expenses**

A. The members of the Oklahoma Occupational Therapy Advisory Committee shall elect from their number a chairman. Special meetings of the Committee shall be called by the chairman on the written request of any three members. The Committee shall recommend to the Board for adoption rules as necessary to govern its proceedings and implement the purposes of this act.

B. The Board shall keep a written record of each meeting of the Committee and maintain a register containing names of all occupational therapists licensed under this act, which shall be at all times open to public inspection. On March 1, of each year, the Board shall transmit an



official copy of the list of licensees to the Secretary of State for a permanent record, a certified copy of which shall be admissible as evidence in any court in the state.

C. Members of the Committee shall be reimbursed for all actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of duties required by this act in accordance with the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

#### **888.14 Powers and duties of Committee**

A. The Oklahoma Occupational Therapy Advisory Committee shall recommend to the Board for approval a list of applicants for licenses at least twice each year at such reasonable times and places as shall be designated by the Board in its discretion.

B. The Board shall approve the examination as described in Section 7 of this act.

C. The Board may investigate complaints, issue, suspend, deny, and revoke licenses, reprimand licensees and place them on probation, issue subpoenas, and hold hearings.

D. The Committee shall propose rules to the Board consistent with this act to carry out its duties in administering this act.

E. The Board may hire individuals as it deems necessary to implement the purposes of this act.

F. The Board shall assist the proper legal authorities in the prosecution of all persons violating any provisions of this act.

G. The Board shall issue a license to any person who meets the requirements of this act upon payment of the prescribed license fee.

#### **888.15 Titles and abbreviations - Misrepresentation - Penalties**

A. Any person holding a license as occupational therapist issued by the Board may use the title "Occupational Therapist", "Registered Occupational Therapist", "Licensed Occupational Therapist", or the letters "O.T.", "O.T.R.", or "O.T.R./L.". Any person holding a license as an occupational therapy assistant issued by the Board may use the title "Occupational Therapy Assistant", "Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant", or "Licensed Occupational Therapy Assistant" or use the letters "O.T.A.", "C.O.T.A.", or "O.T.A./L.". No other person shall in any way, orally or in writing, in print, or by sign or transmission of sound or sight, directly or by implication, represent himself as an occupational therapist. Such misrepresentation, upon conviction, shall constitute a misdemeanor and shall be punishable as herein provided; provided, however, that nothing in this act shall prohibit any person who does not in any way assume or represent himself to be an occupational therapist, registered occupational therapist, licensed occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant, certified occupational therapy assistant, or licensed occupational therapy assistant, from doing other types of therapies as may be authorized

by law.

B. Any person who obtains, or attempts to obtain, licensure as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant by any willful misrepresentation, grossly negligent misrepresentation, or any fraudulent misrepresentation, upon conviction, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punishable as herein set forth.

C. Any person who violates any provisions of this act, upon conviction, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by a fine of not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or by imprisonment in the county jail in the county in which such conviction occurred for not less than five (5) days or more than thirty (30) days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Each day upon which this act shall be violated shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punishable as such.