

WHAT IS THE STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL BOARD?

The Board is established by the Legislature to protect the public by licensing and supervising physical therapy and occupational therapy practice. The Board is located within the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing. The Board controls all matters pertaining to the licensing of physical and occupational therapists, physical and occupational therapy assistants, and the practice of physical and occupational therapy.

WHAT DOES THE STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD DO?

The Board reviews applications and issues licenses to applicants. The Board is responsible for protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Alaska who receive therapy services.

The Board implements regulations in accordance with statutory authority. All persons who provide therapy services in Alaska must be licensed by the Board unless specifically exempted by statute.

The Board meets semiannually to conduct business and to review complaints

HOW IS THE BOARD ORGANIZED?

The seven-member Board is made up of three licensed physical therapists, two licensed occupational therapists, one licensed physician, and one public member. Members are appointed by the Governor to serve a four-year term, and may be reappointed for a second term.

The Board is assisted by the Licensing Examiner who is located in Juneau. The examiner is the first point of contact on behalf of the Board and implements the Board's policies and rules.

HOW DOES A PERSON BECOME LICENSED AS A PHYSICAL THERAPIST AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST?

Therapists have presented evidence satisfactory to the Board of having successfully completed the academic requirements of an accredited program approved by the Board. Therapists have taken and passed an examination which tests the knowledge of the basic and clinical sciences relating to physical therapy and occupational therapy. Therapists must also meet licensing requirements set in statute and regulation.

HOW DOES THE BOARD MONITOR COMPETENCY OF LICENSEES?

The Board requires that each licensee participate in continued competence and continuing education for the purpose of updating and developing skills in order to provide appropriate physical therapy and occupational therapy services. Ten percent of licensees are randomly selected for audit of continued competency and continuing education at license renewal.

WHY YOU MAY WANT TO CONTACT THE BOARD

1. The physical therapist/occupational therapist has behaved in an unprofessional manner.
2. You are dissatisfied with the physical therapy/occupational therapy services provided and have not received satisfaction after notifying the therapist and/or the employer.
3. You want to know if a specific physical therapist/occupational therapist has had any disciplinary actions taken against him/her.
4. You have any question regarding physical therapy/occupational therapy services.

HOW ARE COMPLAINTS FILED?

Contact the Investigative Unit of the Division. A complaint may be filed by anyone; a patient, family member, another health care worker/professional.

WHEN DOES THE BOARD TAKE DISCIPLINARY ACTION?

When the Investigations Unit has proven that a therapist has:

- Practiced physical therapy/occupational therapy in a manner detrimental to the public health and welfare;
- Been negligent in practicing or assisting in the practice of physical therapy/occupational therapy;
- Obtained or attempted to obtain a license by fraud or deception;
- Failed to comply with the required continued education and license renewal requirements;
- Engaged in unprofessional conduct relating to federal or state laws or rules.

Please contact the Licensing Board office if you have any questions or concerns.

Alaska State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

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The Division's website at:

www.commerce.state.ak.us/occ

(contains additional information that may be of interest)