



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES
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Attachment L



To: Senator Irene Aguilar
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From: Kara Nett Hinkley
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Date: Updated: November 27, 2012

Subject: Licensure of Occupational Therapists (and/or OT Assistants)

Terie T. Norelli
 Minority Leader
 New Hampshire House
 Regulation of
 Occupational
 Therapists
 Fathy Spaw
 Texas Senate
 Staff Chair, NCSL

William Powell
 Executive Director
 According to the
American Occupational Therapy As
 "Occupational
 therapy is regulated
 in all 50 states, the
 District of
 Columbia, Puerto
 Rico and
 Guam. Different
 states have various

types of regulation that range from licensure, the strongest form of regulation, to title protection or trademark law, the weakest form of regulation. The major purpose of regulation is to protect consumers in a state or jurisdiction from unqualified or unscrupulous practitioners. State laws and regulations significantly affect the practice of occupational therapy. Laws or statutes are enacted by legislators, who are elected public officials. Regulations specifically describe how the intent of the laws will be carried out. These regulations are developed by regulators, who are appointed public officials of various departments in state government. Both kinds of officials make decisions that directly and indirectly affect occupational therapy practitioners." (<http://www.aota.org/Practitioners/Licensure/State>)

"All states and territories (DC and Puerto Rico) license OTs except Hawaii and Colorado. These two states currently register but don't license OTs. There is legislation to provide licensure in these states but it is currently pending.

One thing to keep in mind is that Hawaii and Colorado treat OTs and OTAs differently. They register OTs (but don't license) so there is at least a certain amount of regulation. However, there are no regulations for OTAs in these two states."

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According to the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, "one jurisdiction has a title protection law that does not contain any form of disciplinary action, reporting, or continued competency. Two others do not regulate occupational therapy assistants at all, and one licenses occupational therapists, but only registers occupational therapy assistants (not requiring passage of an exam). There are no uniform licensure or continuing competence requirements among the states. While 40 jurisdictions request a defined number of continuing education units or contact hours, the remaining jurisdictions have virtually no requirements beyond completing an application

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and paying a fee to that jurisdiction or regulatory entity.” (http://www.nbcot.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=13&Itemid=43)

Regulation of Occupational Therapy Assistants

An Overview of State Regulatory Supervision Requirements for Occupational Therapy Assistants is available [here](http://www.nbcot.org/pdf/statutes_and_regulations.pdf) (http://www.nbcot.org/pdf/statutes_and_regulations.pdf). This comprehensive document provides 50-state regulatory details and was last updated October 5, 2012.

State Contacts- Regulation of Occupational Therapists and/or OT Assistants

Alabama

Alabama State Board of Occupational Therapy
64 N. Union Street Suite 734
Montgomery, AL
36130-4510
Phone: 334-353-4466
Fax: 334-353-4465
Email: ann.cosby@ot.alabama.gov
Website: www.ot.alabama.gov
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Alaska

Alaska State PT & OT Board
P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, AK
99801-0806
Phone: (907) 465-2580
Fax: 907-465-2974
Email: connie.petz@alaska.gov
Website: <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/occ/pphy.htm>
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Arizona

Arizona Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners
4205 N. 7TH AVENUE, STE. 305, Suite 209
Phoenix, AZ
85013-
Phone: 602-589-8353
Fax: 602-589-8354
Email: vicki.cgurrola@otboard.az.gov
Website: <http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.az.gov/>
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Arkansas

Arkansas State Occupational Therapy Examining Committee
1401 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 340
Little Rock, AR
72201-2936
Phone: 501-296-1978
Fax: 501-296-1972
Email: adr@armedicalboard.org
Website: <http://www.armedicalboard.org/Professionals/pro.aspx?type=4>
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California

California Board of Occupational Therapy
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 2050
Sacramento, CA
95815-
Phone: 916-263-2294
Fax: (916) 263-2701
Email: cbot@dca.ca.gov
Website: <http://www.bot.ca.gov/>
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Colorado

Office of Occupational Therapist
Registration
1560 Broadway, Suite 1350
Denver, CO
80202-
Phone: 303.894.2987
Fax: 303.869.0280
Email: occupational-therapists@dora.state.co.us
Website: <http://www.dora.state.co.us/occupational-therapists/index.htm>
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Connecticut

Department of Public Health
Occupational Therapy Licensure
410 Capital Avenue Mail Stop # 12APP
PO BOX 340308
Hartford, CT
06134
Phone: 860-509-7603 option 7
Fax: 860-509-8457
Email: oplc.dph@po.state.ct.us
Website: http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3121&q=389526&dphNav_GID=1821&dphPNavCtr=|#MNO
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Delaware

Department of Administrative Services
Professional Regulation
861 Silver Lake Blvd. Suite 203
Dover, DE
19904
Phone: 302-677-7304
Fax: 302-739-2711
Email: customerservice.dpr@state.de.us
Website: <http://dpr.delaware.gov/boards/occupationaltherapy/index.shtml>

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District of Columbia

District of Columbia Board of Occupational Therapy
899 North Capitol Street NE Suite 200
Washington, DC
20002-
Phone: 202-442-4782
Fax: 202-724-8677
Email: mavis.azariah@dc.gov
Website: <http://hpla.doh.dc.gov/hpla/cwp/view,A,1195,Q,488449,hplaNav,|30661|,asp>
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Florida

Florida Board of Occupational Therapy Practice
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin # C05
Tallahassee, FL
32399
Phone: 850-245-4373
Fax: 850-414-6860
Email: Deb.Bourwell@doh.state.fl.us
Website: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/occupational/index.html>
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Georgia

Georgia State Board of Occupational Therapy
237 Coliseum Drive
Macon, GA
31217
Phone: 478-207-2440
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Website: <http://www.sos.state.ga.us/plb/ot>
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Hawaii

Hawaii Professional & Vocational Licensing Division
DCCA/PVL-Occupational Therapist Program PO Box 3469
Honolulu, HI
96801
Phone: 808-586-2693
Fax: 808-586-2874
Email: occ_therapist@dcca.hawaii.gov
Website: <http://www.hawaii.gov/dcca/are>