



CENTRAL ISSUES

News from the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) central agency and regulated professions

Grandfathering

Applicants without licensure have until March 2009

Sex offender therapists **who do not hold active mental health licensure** may still obtain certification through a one-time, time-limited grandfathering provision.



2008-09

ISSUE BRIEFING: Sex Offender Treatment

At the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA), we think better informed licensees, consumers and other agency stakeholders (those who have a stake or interest in what and how we regulate) are better able to participate in the regulatory process.

What are the key regulatory issues for the sex offender treatment profession in Oregon?

Grandfathering Provision: Sex offender therapists without current mental health licensure have until March 14, 2009 to obtain certification through a time-limited grandfathering provision.

Licensing Fees: OHLA has reduced fees and continues to find efficiencies to keep fees as low as possible.

Certification Standards: Sex offender therapists may continue to practice in Oregon without certification. However, they cannot use the clinical/associate certified title.

Sex Offender Treatment Board

Grandfathering applicants have until March 14, 2009 to obtain certification.

Grandfathering qualification requirements for clinical-level certification are different than requirements for clinical-level certification for applicants with active mental health licensure.

The Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA), in consultation with the Sex Offender Treatment Board (SOTB), has **revised application materials and developed answers to frequently answered questions (FAQs).**

These resources are enclosed and can be accessed on the OHLA Web site at www.oregon.gov/OHLA/SOTB.

Why Obtain Certification?

Public safety, professional standards, lower fees

The Oregon State Legislature recognized that sex offender therapists “occupy a vital role in protecting the public” in establishing professional certification.

The Legislature also found that curtailing the incidence of recidivism in sex offenders and enhancing the protection of victims and potential victims, “is undermined by a lack of regulated standards of practice and professional responsibility.”

Initial qualifying and professional standards are now in place, thanks to the work of OHLA, the SOTB and our stakeholders. **(continued on reverse)**

How to Reach Us

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How to Stay Informed

Visit our Web site for updates on legislative action, administrative rule changes, and other news affecting the health and related professions licensed and regulated by OHLA.

www.oregon.gov/OHLA

If you can't find the information you're looking for on our Web site, e-mail us or call us. We'll try to answer your question as quickly and thoroughly as possible.

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How to Request Agency Outreach

If you would like OHLA to participate in an event related to any of our regulated professions, please contact us at your convenience.

Certification, *continued*

While work continues to develop model treatment plans for juvenile, adult and developmentally disabled sex offenders and to refine existing standards — such as establishing waivers for applicants who may not be able to document supervised experience — OHLA and the SOTB are actively reaching out to the sex offender treatment community to promote the benefits of certification.

“We have developed qualifying and professional standards that have set the foundation,” says SOTB Chair Dr. William Davis. “Now we'd like to get the word out that certification is available, viable and in the best interests of therapists and the state.”

Revised Applications, FAQs Ease Certification

Applications have been revised to better guide candidates through the different qualification and documentation requirements necessary to obtain associate, clinical or clinical through grandfathering certification.

Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) for each have also been developed and can be accessed at www.oregon.gov/OHLA/SOTB.

“We have attempted to reduce some of the initial complexity inherent in the application process by better organizing and presenting information to candidates for certification,” says OHLA Director Susan K. Wilson. “While qualifying standards are high, the application process should be as simple as possible.”

Questions about qualifying requirements or the application process? Contact OHLA at your convenience at 503-378-8667 or ohla.info@state.or.us.

Application and Certification Fees Reduced

OHLA, in consultation with the SOTB and in response to stakeholder feedback, reduced application and certification fees to reduce the financial impact on therapists.

The following reduced fees are effective October 1, 2008:

- ☞ Application for certification: **\$75**
- ☞ Original certificate (*clinical via grandfathering*): **\$325** (valid for one year; deadline to apply March 14, 2009)
- ☞ Original certificate (*clinical and associate*): **\$650** (valid for two years)

Visit www.oregon.gov/OHLA/SOTB/fees for more information or contact OHLA with specific questions.