

OREGON Occupational Therapy Licensing Board

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www.oregon.gov/otlb

Director: Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us

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NEWSLETTER

BOARD MEMBERS:

Alan King, OTR/L, Chair
Robert Bond, Public Member, Vice Chair
Mitch Schreiber, Public Member

Mashelle Painter, BS, COTA
Linda Harthun Smith, OTR/L

Staff: Director, Felicia Holgate

Office Specialist, Gayle Shriver (2 hours/day)

Please update your email address and other contact information.

You need to see correspondence and newsletters for important news.

Your e-mail is kept confidential. You can provide a public email address if you wish.

Mission Statement: To protect the public by supervising occupational therapy practice.
The Board is charged with assuring safe & ethical delivery of occupational therapy services

Renewals Start in March - due May 1, 2012

The link to renew will be on the web site at www.oregon.gov/otlb starting in March. The renewal deadline is May 1st. The online process is fast and easy - you can pay either by credit card, or send in a check with the signed renewal form you print out.

Fees are staying low: \$150 for a 2-year OT license
\$100 for a 2-year OT Assistant license

We are not printing paper copies. If you do not have a computer, be ready to renew at work, the public library, or on a family or friend's computer. The workforce questions will be asked on a link you access during the online process. We save a great deal of time and cost by doing renewals online, so we can keep your license fees low.

You will not need a printer if you pay by credit card. You will get a receipt with your license. If you pay by check, you **will** need to print the renewal confirmation page and send it signed and dated with a check. **If you do not wish to renew** be sure to let the Director know in writing (E-mail to Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us is best).

Happy New Year

Continuing Education, CE AUDITS & Renewals

When you go online to renew you will see whether you are being audited for CE. Get your log form and CE certificates to the Board in time to get them approved by the volunteer Board members before the deadline (May 1). Go to <http://www.oregon.gov/OTLB/CE.shtml> to find suggestions about CE audits. Please do not wait until the last minute, as there are many renewal issues for the Board to deal with before licenses expire in May.

SUPERVISION for Licensed OT Assistants

All OT Assistants who are working must have a Statement of Supervisor form for LICENSING filed with the Board. You only need one licensing OT supervisor, unless you work in different facilities and the first supervisor has no contact with you at the second facility

If you are an OT Assistant working in Oregon and we have your Statement of Supervision form filed in the office during the online renewal, you type in your supervision information in the online "Supervision Box":



OT Assistant: Type in the name of your licensing OT supervisor(s)

Supervising OT: Type in the name of OT Assistant(s) you are supervising for licensing purposes.

This does not mean the OT Assistant lists every OT they work with, and the work supervisor might not be the licensing supervisor. We cross check what the OT and OT Assistant list during renewals. Any time your supervisor changes, send in a new Statement of Supervision form prior to start of work. The law in Oregon states that OT Assistant must have a Supervision form filed with the Board.

Working For You

The Board continues to be busy as license numbers grow. There are over 1850 total licensees. 290 are OT Assistants – previously the highest number of Assistants was 273 in 1999.

The Board is small: full time Director Felicia Holgate, and ¼ time Assistant Gayle Shriver. We keep costs down, but need your help to keep us current. Rather than calling or sending a letter, send us an E-mail so we can copy the information directly into the data base.

If you have a **name change**: Send us the legal document showing the change and show exactly how you want your name to read and include changes to contact information. It is frustrating to send out a new license and have it returned because the address was not current.

If you need a **license verification sent** to another state: E-mail the exact address where it needs to go to Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us so we can copy the address directly into our data base form, reducing errors and saving us both time and cost. There is NO charge.

Please check the **web site** at www.oregon.gov/otlb for answers to your questions. There is a left menu bar called **Information Requests** as well as one for **Issues, Questions and Topics**.

The Director will receive training in Feb. for changes to the **state web site**. It should appear seamless for you. All the work will be on our end. If you have comments on how to make the web site more useful, please send them as we always try to find ways to improve our services.

The next OT Licensing Board meeting is on Friday, Feb. 3 in Portland



WORK OF THE BOARD

Contact the Director at Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us for the Agenda or other board information you need.

- The new Ethics/Law Exam was “tested” on the OTA students at Linn Benton CC and will be tested on Pacific OT students. After rules are issued, the exam will be part of the application.
- The Directors of the Health Boards are looking at what the Governor and State’s plan is for “consolidation” of boards; and at the pros and cons of Semi Independence.
- The Board had a presentation on Telehealth by Sandra Pelham Foster
- The Board had a presentation about large caseloads for OTs in education
- There were **8 discipline cases** the Board considered last year:
 - ✓ 2 dismissed with no evidence of misconduct by the therapist
 - ✓ 1 surrender of OT license under Consent Order due to felony conviction
 - ✓ 3 monitored by the Board and required closer supervision
 - ✓ 2 pending

There will not be OT Licensing Board legislative bills in this Feb 2012 **legislative session**, but the Board will continue to monitor subjects such as:

- requiring continuing education in “cultural competency” for health professionals
- Bills and rules regarding changes to the Oregon Healthcare system

The Board’s minutes are posted on the web site under “About the Board”.

Legislative Day in Salem on Tuesday Feb. 21st

OT and OT Assistant students and clinicians meet on Tuesday Feb. 21st to interact with legislators, and learn about the legislative process. You can also obtain CE for the day through your state Association: Go to www.otao.com

The **OT Association of Oregon** has an exciting updated web site, including a new Jobs Search or posting.



Proposed Rules on background checks and Ethics/law exam for applicants

Note: new language is **bold and underlined** and current language is not

New: 339-010-00XX Law Ethics Exam Requirement

Applicants for licensure for an Oregon Occupational Therapy license may be required to take and successfully pass an Oregon Law/ethics examination with a passing score set by the board.

Amend: 339-010-0012 Background Checks and Fingerprinting Requirements

The Board may require **Oregon or National criminal history checks, including** fingerprints **or other background checks such as the Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS)**, from any applicants for a license as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant, a limited permit, an applicant to reinstate a lapsed license, and applicant or licensee under investigation to determine their fitness. The fingerprints will be on forms prescribed by the Board. The Board will provide information on where acceptable fingerprints may be obtained and what acceptable procedure is to be used for submitting them. The Board will use the fingerprints to conduct Criminal History Checks. Fingerprint cards will be destroyed as required by law.

Please feel free to comment by contacting the Director: Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us

Happy New Year

*Occupational Therapy:
Skills for the job of living*