



# Oregon Occupational Therapy Licensing Board

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[www.otlb.state.or.us](http://www.otlb.state.or.us)

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## NEWSLETTER

**The OT Licensing Board has a bill in this 2007 legislative session to change the definition of Occupational Therapy. Why change the definition?** The current one was drafted in 1977 when the original legislation passed to license Occupational Therapists. The OT profession fought for credibility, and recognition as a profession. Reimbursement issues are also a very important aspect of licensure. There was a time during the “sunset review” process when state OT licensure was close to being lost in Oregon. Keeping licensure and having a current definition of “occupational therapy” that conforms to current practice is important for the profession. The primary licensure function is to protect the public from fraud, abuse and poor service, and the profession needs a definition that aligns with current practice.

The current definition states: *“Occupational therapy’ means the analysis and use of purposeful activity with individuals who are limited by physical injury or illness, developmental or learning disabilities, psycho-social dysfunctions or the aging process in order to maximize independence, prevent disability and maintain health. The practice of occupational therapy encompasses evaluation, treatment and consultation. Specific occupational therapy services includes but is not limited to: Activities of daily living (ADL); perceptual motor and sensory integrated activity; development of work and leisure skills; the design, fabrication or application of selected orthotics or prosthetic devices; the use of specifically designed crafts; guidance in the selection and use of adaptive equipment; exercises to enhance functional performance; prevocational evaluation and training; performing and interpreting manual muscle and range of motion test; and appraisal and adaptation of environments for people with mental and physical disabilities. The services are provided individually, in groups, or through social systems.”*

The proposed changes:

**(1) "Occupational Therapy" means the analysis and therapeutic use of everyday life activities with individuals or groups to promote participation in the home, at school, in the workplace, in the community and in other settings to address physical, cognitive, psychosocial and sensory performance to promote health, wellbeing and quality of life.**

**(2) "Practice of Occupational Therapy" means providing occupational therapy services through purposeful activities to promote health, wellness and independence to those who have or are at risk of developing illness, injury, disease, disorder, disability, activity limitation, or the affects of aging.**

The Board would appreciate all your comments as we will have the opportunity to refine the definition and present amendments to the committee. The Board will closely follow the process and testify at legislative committee hearings. If you are interested in learning more about the legislative process, or wish to testify, please contact the Board Director. We will also work closely with OTA and its board members. In addition, the **Board will start drafting Rules to define the scope of practice that reflect national standards for the practice of OT.**

The Board also monitors other legislation that affects Occupational Therapists. Topics may include items such as administrative laws or hearing changes, requirements for confidentiality or disclosure of investigative disciplinary materials, and proposed requirements for fingerprinting of applicants.



The board prepares information and fiscal impact statements and may give testimony on these issues.

**The next OT Licensing Board meeting is set for Friday, January 19, 2007** at the Portland State Office Building in Room 445. Please look at the web site at [www.otlb.state.or.us](http://www.otlb.state.or.us) for more details or call the Director, Felicia Holgate.

### **Learning about OT through shadowing, internships, volunteering**

The OT Director, Felicia Holgate is trying to collect information from any Occupational Therapists or facility where those interested in learning about the OT profession can find out more through such means as shadowing, volunteering and/or internships. We will define the differences in each approach, what it means to volunteer and all that it entails, especially as it affects confidentiality of patients and HIPAA laws. Please pass on any information to Felicia Holgate.

#### **Board Members:**

**Genevieve deRenne, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA, Chair**  
**Alan King, OTR/L**  
**Joyce Browne, OTA/L**  
**Jeffrey Roehm, Ph.D. Public Member, Vice-Chair**  
**Tom Ruedy, Public Member**

#### **OTLB Staff:**

**Felicia M. Holgate, Director**  
**Gayle Shriver, Office Assistant (2 hours/day)**  
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