

IDAPA 24 – DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

STATE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY LICENSURE BOARD

24.06.01 – Rules for the Licensure of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants

Who does this rule apply to?

This rule applies to applicants, temporary permit holders, and license holders for:

- Occupational Therapists
- Occupational Therapist Assistants

What is the purpose of this rule?

This rule governs the practice of occupational therapy in Idaho to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. This rule establishes:

- Minimum standards of competency and qualifications for applicants;
- Fees related to licensure;
- Continuing education for licensure;
- Requirements for supervision; and
- Standards of practice

What is the legal authority for the agency to promulgate this rule?

This rule implements the following statute passed by the Idaho Legislature:

Professions, Vocations, and Businesses -

- [54-3701 through 54-3722, Idaho Code](#) – Occupational Therapy Practice Act

Who do I contact for more information on this rule?

State Occupational Therapy Licensure Board

Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mountain Time (except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays)

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**24.06.01 – RULES FOR THE LICENSURE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS
AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS**

000. LEGAL AUTHORITY.

These rules are promulgated pursuant to Section 54-3717(2), Idaho Code. (7-1-21)T

001. SCOPE.

These rules govern the practice of occupational therapy in Idaho. (7-1-21)T

002. -- 009. (RESERVED)

010. DEFINITIONS.

01. Client-Related Tasks. Client-related tasks are routine tasks during which the aide may interact with the client but does not act as a primary service provider of occupational therapy services. (7-1-21)T

02. Direct Line-of-Sight Supervision. Direct line-of-sight supervision requires the supervisor's physical presence when services are being provided to clients by the individual under supervision. (7-1-21)T

03. Direct Supervision. Direct supervision requires daily, in-person contact by the supervisor at the site where services are provided to clients by the individual under supervision. (7-1-21)T

04. Evaluation. Evaluation is the process of obtaining and interpreting data necessary for treatment, which includes, but is not limited to, planning for and documenting the review, specific observation, interviewing, and administering data collection procedures, which include, but are not limited to, the use of standardized tests, performance checklists, and activities and tasks designed to evaluate specific performance abilities. (7-1-21)T

05. General Supervision. General Supervision requires in-person or synchronous interaction at least once per month by an occupational therapist and contact by other means as needed. Other means of contact include, but are not limited to, electronic communications such as email. (7-1-21)T

06. Routine Supervision. Routine Supervision requires in-person or synchronous interaction at least once every two (2) weeks by an occupational therapist and contact by other means as needed. Other means of contact include, but are not limited to, electronic communications such as email. (7-1-21)T

011. SUPERVISION.

An occupational therapist shall supervise and be responsible for the patient care given by occupational therapy assistants, limited permit holders, aides, and students. An occupational therapist's or occupational therapy assistant's failure to provide appropriate supervision in accordance with these rules is grounds for discipline. (7-1-21)T

01. Occupational Therapy Assistants. Occupational therapy assistants must be supervised by an occupational therapist. General Supervision must be provided at a minimum. (7-1-21)T

02. Limited Permit Holders. Limited permit holders must be supervised by an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant. Direct supervision must be provided at a minimum. The occupational therapist is responsible for the overall use and actions of the limited permit holder. (7-1-21)T

03. Occupational Therapy Aides. Occupational therapy aides do not provide skilled occupational therapy services. An aide must be trained by an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant to perform specifically delegated tasks. The occupational therapist is responsible for the overall use and actions of the aide. The occupational therapist must oversee the development, documentation, and implementation of a plan to supervise and routinely assess the ability of the occupational therapy aide to carry out non-client related and client-related tasks. The occupational therapy assistant may contribute to the development and documentation of this plan. (7-1-21)T

a. The following factors must be present when an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant assigns a selected client-related task to the aide: (7-1-21)T

i. The outcome of the assigned task is predictable; (7-1-21)T

ii. The situation of the client and the environment is stable and will not require that judgment, interpretations, or adaptations be made by the aide; (7-1-21)T

iii. The client has demonstrated some previous performance ability in executing the task; and

- (7-1-21)T
- iv. The task routine and process have been clearly established. (7-1-21)T
 - b. Before assigning client-related and non-client related tasks to an aide, the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant must ensure that the aide is able to competently perform the task. (7-1-21)T
 - c. The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant must train the aide to perform client-related and non-client related tasks at least once per month. (7-1-21)T
 - d. An aide must perform client-related tasks under the direct line-of-sight supervision of an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant. (7-1-21)T
 - e. Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants must document all training and supervision of an aide. (7-1-21)T

04. Students. Students must be under the direct on-site supervision of an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant who is appropriately supervised by an occupational therapist. The occupational therapist is responsible for the overall use and actions of the student. (7-1-21)T

05. Supervision Requirements. Supervision is the direction and review of service delivery, treatment plans, and treatment outcomes. Unless otherwise specified in this rule, General Supervision is the minimum level of supervision that must be provided. Methods of supervision may include, but are not limited to, Direct Line-of-Sight Supervision, Direct Supervision, Routine Supervision, or General Supervision, as needed to ensure the safe and effective delivery of occupational therapy. (7-1-21)T

- a. An occupational therapist and an occupational therapy assistant must ensure the delivery of services by the individual being supervised is appropriate for client care and safety and must evaluate: (7-1-21)T
 - i. The complexity of client needs; (7-1-21)T
 - ii. The number and diversity of clients; (7-1-21)T
 - iii. The skills of the occupational therapist assistant, aide, or limited permit holder; (7-1-21)T
 - iv. The type of practice setting; (7-1-21)T
 - v. The requirements of the practice setting; and (7-1-21)T
 - vi. Other regulatory requirements applicable to the practice setting or delivery of services. (7-1-21)T
- b. Supervision must be documented in a manner appropriate to the supervised position and the setting. The documentation must be kept as required by Section 013 of these rules. (7-1-21)T
- c. Supervision must include consultation at appropriate intervals regarding evaluation, intervention, progress, reevaluation and discharge planning for each patient. Consultation must be documented and signed by the supervisor and supervisee. (7-1-21)T

012. DEEP THERMAL, ELECTROTHERAPEUTIC, MECHANICAL PHYSICAL AGENT MODALITIES, AND WOUND CARE.

01. Qualifications. Except as provided in Subsection 012.02 of these rules, a person may not utilize occupational therapy techniques involving deep thermal, electrotherapeutic, or mechanical physical agent modalities or perform wound care management unless the person is licensed by the Board as an occupational therapist and certified by the Hand Therapy Commission. In lieu of being certified by the Hand Therapy Commission, the person must have obtained education and training as follows. (7-1-21)T

a. If the person utilizes techniques involving deep thermal, electrotherapeutic, or mechanical physical agent modalities, the person must have successfully completed thirty (30) contact hours in the application of deep thermal, electrotherapeutic modalities, and mechanical physical agent modalities, along with forty (40) hours of supervised, on-the-job or clinical internship or affiliation training pertaining to such modalities. (7-1-21)T

b. If the person manages wound care, the person must have successfully completed fifteen (15) contact hours in wound care management, along with forty (40) hours of supervised, on-the-job or clinical internship or affiliation training pertaining to wound care management. (7-1-21)T

c. If the person utilizes both deep thermal, electrotherapeutic, or mechanical physical agent modalities and manages wound care, the forty (40) hours of supervised components may be obtained concurrently. (7-1-21)T

02. Obtaining Education and Supervised Training. A student occupational therapist, graduate occupational therapist, and an occupational therapist may utilize deep thermal, electrotherapeutic, or mechanical physical agent modalities or manage wound care while working towards obtaining the education and supervised training described in Section 012 of these rules. The supervisor must provide at least direct supervision to the student occupational therapist, and at least routine supervision to the graduate occupational therapist or occupational therapist. An occupational therapy assistant may apply deep thermal, electrotherapeutic, or mechanical physical agent modalities under routine supervision if the occupational therapy assistant has obtained the education and training described in this section. Otherwise, the occupational therapy assistant must work under direct line-of-sight supervision while applying such modalities. (7-1-21)T

03. Supervised Training by Qualified Individual. The supervised training described in Section 012 of these rules must be provided by an occupational therapist who is qualified pursuant to Subsection 012.01, or by another type of licensed health care practitioner whose education, training, and scope of practice enable the practitioner to competently supervise the person as to the modalities utilized and wound care management provided. (7-1-21)T

013. RECORD KEEPING.

Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants must maintain adequate records that are consistent with the standard business practices of the setting in which the licensee is providing occupational therapy or supervision and that show necessary client care, supervision provided by the licensee, and compliance with regulatory requirements applicable to the setting. (7-1-21)T

014. -- 019. (RESERVED)

020. GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE.

01. Applicant. The Board may refuse licensure if it finds the applicant has engaged in conduct prohibited by Section 54-3718, Idaho Code; provided, the Board shall take into consideration the rehabilitation of the applicant and other mitigating circumstances. (7-1-21)T

02. Education. Each applicant shall provide evidence of successful completion of the academic requirements of an educational program in occupational therapy that is accredited by the American Occupational Therapy Association's Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), or by a predecessor or successor organization recognized by the United States Secretary of Education, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or both. (7-1-21)T

03. Examination. Each applicant shall either pass an examination required by the Board or shall be entitled to apply for licensure by endorsement or limited permit. (7-1-21)T

a. The written examination shall be the examination conducted by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT) and the passing score shall be the passing score established by the NBCOT. (7-1-21)T

b. An applicant for licensure by examination who fails to pass the examination on two (2) attempts must submit a new application. (7-1-21)T

021. APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE.

01. Licensure by Endorsement. An applicant may be eligible for licensure without examination if he or she meets all of the other qualifications prescribed in Section 54-3709, Idaho Code, and also holds a current valid license or registration from some other state, territory or district of the United States, or certified by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy providing they meet Idaho standards and are equivalent to the requirements for licensure pursuant to these rules. (7-1-21)T

02. Limited Permit. The Board may issue a Limited Permit to a graduate occupational therapist or graduate occupational therapy assistant who meets the requirements set forth by Sections 54-3706(1) and 54-3706(2), Idaho Code, who has not yet passed the examination as required in Paragraph 020.04.a. of these rules. (7-1-21)T

a. A Limited Permit shall only allow a person to practice occupational therapy in association with and under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist. (7-1-21)T

b. A Limited Permit shall be valid six (6) months from the date of issue. (7-1-21)T

c. A Limited Permit may be extended by the Board for good cause. (7-1-21)T

04. Temporary License. The Board may issue a temporary license to a person applying for licensure as an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant if the person is currently licensed and in good standing to practice in another jurisdiction and meets that jurisdiction's requirements for licensure by endorsement. (7-1-21)T

a. A temporary license shall automatically expire once the Board has processed the person's application for licensure and issued or denied the applied-for license, or in six (6) months after the date on which the Board issued the temporary license, whichever is sooner. (7-1-21)T

05. Personal Interview. The Board may, at its discretion, require the applicant to appear for a personal interview. (7-1-21)T

022. WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SUITABILITY FOR LICENSURE.

An applicant who, or whose license, has a criminal conviction, finding of guilt, withheld judgment, or suspended sentence for any crime under any municipal, state, or federal law other than minor traffic offenses, or has been subject to discipline by any state professional regulatory agency or professional organization must submit with the application a written statement and any supplemental information establishing the applicant's current suitability for licensure. (7-1-21)T

01. Consideration of Factors and Evidence. The Board shall consider the following factors or evidence: (7-1-21)T

a. The severity or nature of the crime or discipline; (7-1-21)T

b. The period of time that has passed since the crime or discipline under review; (7-1-21)T

c. The number or pattern of crimes or discipline or other similar incidents; (7-1-21)T

d. The circumstances surrounding the crime or discipline that would help determine the risk of repetition; (7-1-21)T

e. The relationship of the crime or discipline to the practice of occupational therapy; (7-1-21)T

f. The applicant's activities since the crime or discipline under review, such as employment, education, participation in treatment, payment of restitution, or any other factors that may be evidence of current rehabilitation; and (7-1-21)T

g. Any other information regarding rehabilitation or mitigating circumstances. (7-1-21)T

02. Interview. The Board may, at its discretion, grant an interview of the applicant. (7-1-21)T

03. Applicant Bears the Burden. The applicant shall bear the burden of establishing the applicant's current suitability for licensure. (7-1-21)T

023. -- 024. (RESERVED)

025. CONTINUING EDUCATION.

In order to protect public health and safety and promote the public welfare, the Board has adopted the following continuing education requirement of all licensees: (7-1-21)T

01. Requirement. Each licensee shall successfully complete, in the twelve (12) months preceding license renewal, a minimum of ten (10) contact hours of continuing education, as approved by the Board. (7-1-21)T

a. One (1) contact hour is equivalent to one (1) clock hour for the purpose of obtaining continuing education. (7-1-21)T

b. The Board shall waive the continuing education requirement for the first license renewal after initial licensure. (7-1-21)T

02. Attestation. The licensee must attest, as part of the annual license renewal process, that the licensee is in compliance with the continuing education requirement. (7-1-21)T

03. Courses and Activities. At least five (5) contact hours must directly relate to the delivery of occupational therapy services. The remaining contact hours must be germane to the practice of occupational therapy and relate to other areas of a licensee's practice. A licensee may take online or home study courses or self-competency assessments, as long as a course completion certificate is provided. (7-1-21)T

a. The delivery of occupational therapy services may include: models, theories or frameworks that relate to client care in preventing or minimizing impairment, enabling function within the person/environment or community context. (7-1-21)T

b. Other areas may include, but are not limited to, occupation based theory assessment/interview techniques, intervention strategies, and community/environment as related to the licensee's practice. (7-1-21)T

c. Continuing education acceptable to the Board includes, but is not limited to, programs or activities sponsored by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), the Idaho Occupational Therapy Association (IOTA), or National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT); post-professional coursework completed through any approved or accredited educational institution; or otherwise meet all of the following criteria: (7-1-21)T

i. The program or activity contributes directly to professional knowledge, skill, and ability; (7-1-21)T

ii. The program or activity relates directly to the practice of occupational therapy; and (7-1-21)T

iii. The program or activity must be objectively measurable in terms of the hours involved. (7-1-21)T

04. Carry Over and Duplication. A maximum of ten (10) continuing education hours may be carried forward from the immediately preceding year, and may not be carried forward more than one renewal year. If the licensee completes two (2) or more courses having substantially the same content during any one (1) renewal period, the licensee only will receive continuing education credit for one (1) of the courses. (7-1-21)T

05. Documentation. A licensee need not submit documentation of continuing education when the licensee renews a license. However, a licensee must maintain documentation verifying that the licensee has completed the continuing education requirement for a period of four (4) years from the date of completion. A licensee

must submit the verification documentation to the Board if the licensee is audited by the Board. A percentage of occupational therapists and certified occupational therapy assistants will be audited every year. Documentation for all activities must include licensee's name, date of activity or when course was completed, provider name, course title, description of course/activity, and number of contact hours. (7-1-21)T

a. Continuing education course work. The required documentation for this activity is a certificate or documentation of attendance. (7-1-21)T

b. In-service training. The required documentation for this activity is a certificate or documentation of attendance. (7-1-21)T

c. Professional conference or workshop. The required documentation for this activity is a certificate or documentation of attendance. (7-1-21)T

d. Course work offered by an accredited college or university, provided that the course work is taken after the licensee has obtained a degree in occupational therapy, and the course work provides skills and knowledge beyond entry-level skills or knowledge. The required documentation for this activity is a transcript. (7-1-21)T

e. Publications. The required documentation for this activity is a copy of the publication. (7-1-21)T

f. Presentations. The required documentation for this activity is a copy of the presentation or program listing. Any particular presentation may be reported only once per reporting period. (7-1-21)T

g. Interactive online courses and evidence-based competency assessments. The required documentation for this activity is a certificate or documentation of completion. (7-1-21)T

h. Development of instructional materials incorporating alternative media such as video, audio and/or software programs to advance professional skills of others. The required documentation for this activity is a program description. The media/software materials must be available if requested during audit process. (7-1-21)T

i. Professional manuscript review. The required documentation for this activity is a letter from the publishing organization verifying review of manuscript. A maximum of five (5) hours is allowed per renewal period for this category. (7-1-21)T

j. Guest lecturer for occupational therapy related academic course work (academia not primary role). The required documentation for this activity is a letter or other documentation from instructor. (7-1-21)T

k. Serving on a professional board, committee, disciplinary panel, or association. The required documentation for this activity is a letter or other documentation from the organization. A maximum of five (5) hours is allowed per renewal period for this category. (7-1-21)T

l. Level II fieldwork direct supervision of an occupational therapy student or occupational therapy assistant student by site designated supervisor(s). The required documentation for this activity is the name of student(s), letter of verification from school, and dates of fieldwork. (7-1-21)T

06. Exemptions. A licensee may request an exemption from the continuing education requirement for a particular renewal period for reasonable cause. The licensee must provide any information requested by the Board to assist in substantiating the licensee's need for a claimed exemption: (7-1-21)T

026. -- 029. (RESERVED)

030. INACTIVE STATUS.

01. Request for Inactive Status. Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants requesting an inactive status during the renewal of their active license must submit a written request and pay the established fee. (7-1-21)T

- 02. Inactive License Status.** (7-1-21)T
- a.** Licensees may not practice in Idaho while on inactive status. (7-1-21)T
- b.** All continuing education requirements will be waived for any year or portion thereof that a licensee maintains an inactive license and is not actively practicing or supervising in Idaho, subject to Subsection 030.03 of these rules. (7-1-21)T
- 03. Reinstatement to Full Licensure from Inactive Status.** (7-1-21)T
- a.** Return to Active Status of License - Inactive for Five (5) or Fewer Years. An inactive license holder whose license has been inactive for five (5) or fewer years may convert from inactive to active license status by: (7-1-21)T
- i.** Providing documentation to the Board showing successful completion within the previous twelve (12) months of the continuing education requirements for renewal of an active license; and (7-1-21)T
- ii.** Paying a fee equivalent to the difference between the current inactive fee and the active renewal fee. (7-1-21)T
- b.** Return to Active Status of License - Inactive for Greater than Five (5) Years. An inactive license holder whose license has been inactive for greater than five (5) years may convert from inactive to active license status by: (7-1-21)T
- i.** Providing documentation to the Board showing successful completion within the previous twelve (12) months of the continuing education requirements for renewal of an active license; and (7-1-21)T
- ii.** Providing proof that the licensee has actively engaged in the practice of occupational therapy in another state or territory of the United States for at least three (3) of the immediately preceding five (5) years, or provide proof that the licensee is competent to practice in Idaho. (7-1-21)T
- iii.** The Board may consider the following factors when determining proof of competency: (7-1-21)T
- (1) Number of years of practice prior to transfer from active status; (7-1-21)T
- (2) Employment in a field similar to occupational therapy; and (7-1-21)T
- (3) Any other factors the Board deems appropriate. (7-1-21)T
- 031. (RESERVED)**
- 032. DENIAL OR REFUSAL TO RENEW, SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE.**
- 01. Grounds for Discipline.** In addition to the grounds set forth in Section 54-3718, Idaho Code, applicants may be denied or refused licensure and licensees are subject to discipline upon the following grounds, including but not limited to: (7-1-21)T
- a.** Obtaining a license by means of fraud, misrepresentation, or concealment of material facts; (7-1-21)T
- b.** Being guilty of unprofessional conduct or violating the Code of Ethics in Appendix A, incorporated herein by reference governing said licensees, including the provision of health care which fails to meet the standard of health care provided by other qualified licensees in the same community or similar communities, taking into account the licensee's training, experience and the degree of expertise to which he holds himself out to the public; (7-1-21)T
- c.** The unauthorized practice of medicine; (7-1-21)T

d. Failure to properly supervise persons as required in these rules. (7-1-21)T

02. Penalties. In addition to any other disciplinary sanctions the Board may impose against a licensee, the Board may impose a fine of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per violation, or in such greater amount as the Board may deem necessary to deprive the licensee of any economic advantage gained by the licensee through the conduct that resulted in discipline and that reimburses the Board for costs of the investigation and disciplinary proceedings. (7-1-21)T

033. -- 040. (RESERVED)

041. FEES.

FEE TYPE	AMOUNT (Not to Exceed)	RENEWAL FEE (Not to Exceed)
Initial Licensure for Occupational Therapists	\$80	\$40
Initial Licensure for Occupational Therapy Assistants	\$60	\$30
Limited Permit or Temporary License	\$25	
Reinstatement Fee	As provided in Section 67-2614, Idaho Code.	
Inactive License Renewal	\$20	
Inactive to Active License	The difference between the current inactive and active license renewal fees	

(7-1-21)T

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