



State-Level Changes to the Rules and Laws for Occupational Therapy

AUTHOR: MARY THELANDER HILL

It is the responsibility of every Occupational Therapist (OT) and Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) to stay up-to-date on the rules and laws of Occupational Therapy. Those rules and laws are updated by the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department (NM RLD). The NM RLD maintains a state-level board to advise on the changes of rules and regulations for occupational therapy.

Acknowledgements: This article was heavily influenced by an informative and timely presentation by Sarah Porte, MOT, OT/L at the 2022 NMOTA Annual Conference. Sarah has served the occupational therapy profession in many ways (including past leadership on the NMOTA Board) and currently serves on the New Mexico Rules and Laws - Occupational Therapy Board by appointment of the Governor. Thank you Sarah for your leadership to our profession!

The Rules and Laws were updated on 2/15/2022 by the NM RLD Board. There are numerous changes about which the OT community should be aware. This article will list some of the larger changes related to CEUs and supervision. However - every OT and OTA should read through the document to stay current with the rules and regulations in NM. The link to the updated rules and laws is at the end of this article. Here is a list of specific updates that may be of interest to NMOTA membership.

Occupational Therapy and Occupational Therapy Licensing Updates:

- The specific list of criminal offenses that may result in a license being denied or suspended (16.15.2.9)
- The procedure and expectations for expedited licensure for military service members, spouses and veterans (16.15.2.19)

Supervision Updates:

- A specific list of support services that may be completed by therapy techs is delineated - tasks such as cleaning equipment, assisting in patient transport, clerical activities.... (16.15.3.7-I).
 - Specific language from Item B in standard is added (16.15.3.8-B): “Non-licensed personnel do not provide skilled occupational therapy services.”
- The number of OTAs that an OT may supervise is indicated (16.15.3.8-A-5, 6)
 - First-year OTs are limited to supervising three or fewer OTAs.
 - OTs with more than one year of experience must determine the number of OTAs that can be appropriately supervised depending on: “...the experience of the occupational therapy assistant, complexity of the patient or client needs and the setting of care.”



State-Level Changes to the Rules and Laws for Occupational Therapy

AUTHOR: MARY THELANDER HILL

Continuing Education Requirement Updates:

- Fifteen Continuing Education Contact (CEUs) hours are required each year (16.15.4.8).
- The full list of ways to earn CEUs is important for all OTs and OTAs to know (16.15.4.9). Specific changes are listed below - but reviewing the full list in the standard may help OTs and OTAs strategically consider which ways will provide the most benefit to their practices.
 - Changes to the limits to some types of CEUs are updated:
 - There is no limit to the number of books that may be used to acquire CEUs (provide a name of the book, number of pages and how the book relates to your OT practice area). Two CEUs may be obtained for each book.
 - There is no limit to the number of CEUs from audio or visual media

No changes were made to the general provision, disciplinary proceedings or fee schedule portions of the rules and laws with the 2022 updates.

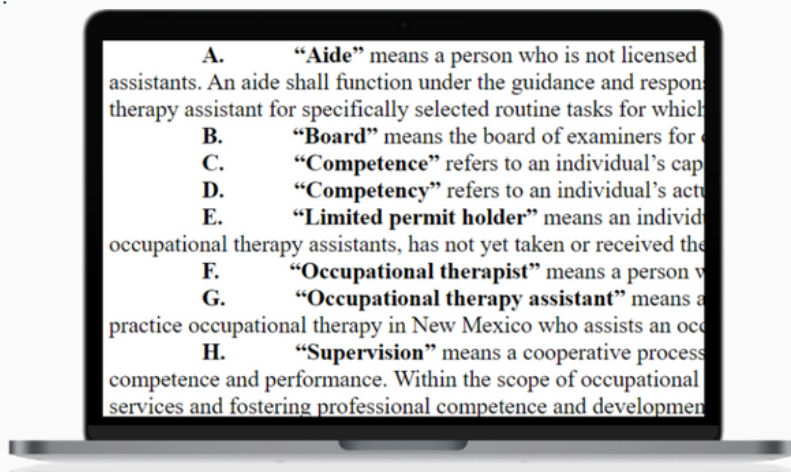


Image above is from the updated Rules and Laws of Occupational Therapy.

The full rules and laws can be found at:

<https://www.srca.nm.gov/nmac-home/nmac-titles/title-16-occupational-and-professional-licensing/chapter-15-occupational-therapists/>

More information about the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department Board can be found at: NM Regulation and Licensing Department Website:

<https://www.rld.nm.gov/boards-and-commissions/individual-boards-and-commissions/occupational-therapy/ot-board-information/>

Want to Lend your Efforts to the NMOTA Board?

If interested, please visit our board member web page

<https://www.nmota.org/board-members> and complete the volunteer form.

Your voice matters and can participate in meetings virtually.