



Communiqué

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Physical Therapy Board

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Next Board Meeting

October 09, 2020
Time and location TBD

Human Trafficking Prevention Training

New Renewal Requirement Effective September 1, 2020

During the 86th Legislature in 2019, House Bill (HB) 2059, which requires human trafficking prevention training as a condition for license renewal for certain health care practitioners, passed and was signed into law. The training is designed to equip health care practitioners with the training needed to help detect potential victims of human trafficking and to provide them with adequate care and information regarding additional support services.

To meet the requirement, certain health care practitioners, which includes PTs and PTAs, will be required to complete a training course on human trafficking approved by the Commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) in order to renew their license. Information on approved course(s) is available at:

<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/safety/texas-human-trafficking-resource-center/health-care-practitioner-human-trafficking-training>

For PTs and PTAs who complete the renewal process on or after 9/01/2020, a minimum of 1 CCU of approved Human Trafficking Prevention Training will be required regardless of their license expiration date.

This requirement pertains to active licensees who are renewing their license either timely or late, individuals who are restoring their license, licensees on inactive status who are returning to active status, and licensees who are performing voluntary charity care on retired status who are renewing their license.

If a license is renewed online or by mail prior to 9/01/2020 even though the license expiration date is after 9/01/2020, the Human Trafficking Prevention Training will not be required for the renewal period.

Human Trafficking Prevention Training, cont. from pg. 1

Only courses approved by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) qualify for meeting the Human Trafficking Prevention Training requirement. However, CCUs for courses on human trafficking that are approved through the Continuing Competence Approval Program (CCAP) or are provided by a TX Accredited Provider can apply toward the total CCU renewal requirement but will not meet the Human Trafficking Prevention Training requirement.

Courses approved through HHSC may or may not reflect physical therapy CCU credit. Equivalency is determined by 1 contact hour equals 1 CCU. The credit can be applied toward the total number of required CCUs for renewal.

Instructions for entering the course on the Continuing Competence Activity Summary will be available during the online renewal process starting September 1, 2020.

Certificates for the training do NOT need to be submitted to the PT Board but should be maintained with the other documentation of CCUs in the event that you are audited or if the PT Board requests that you submit them for some other reason.

The PT Board adopted amendments to the PT Rules that will include the human trafficking prevention training as a renewal requirement at its July 24, 2020 meeting. See page 6 for more information on the adopted amendments.

Human Trafficking Prevention Training FAQs

My license expires 9/30/2020 but I'm going to renew my license in August. Do I need to take the Human Trafficking Prevention Training?

No, you will not need to take the training for this renewal period. The requirement is for renewals that occur on or after 9/01/2020 regardless of the license expiration date.

I took a course on human trafficking that is approved through the Continuing Competence Approval Program (CCAP). Will this count as my Human Trafficking Prevention Training?

No, only courses approved by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) qualify for meeting the Human Trafficking Prevention Training requirement.

Where can I find courses that are approved to meet the required Human Trafficking Prevention Training?

Information on approved course(s) that meet the Human Trafficking Prevention Training is available at: <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/safety/texas-human-trafficking-resource-center/health-care-practitioner-human-trafficking-training>

Can I count the 1 CCU for taking the Human Trafficking Prevention Training toward the total number of required CCUs for renewal?

Yes, the Human Trafficking Prevention Training can be applied toward the total number of CCUs required for renewal with 1 contact hour equal to 1 CCU.

Disciplinary Actions

The following disciplinary actions were ratified at the July 24, 2020 Board Meeting:

- (1) **Deborah Salas, PTA #2084753 (Texas City)** - practiced with an expired license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required thirty (30) hours of community service.***
- (2) **Brett Beuning, PT #1231450 (Live Oak)** - practiced with an expired license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required sixty (60) hours of community service.***
- (3) **Katherine Sunderman, PT #1296688 (Round Rock)** - practiced with an expired license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required sixty (60) hours of community service.***
- (4) **Jesse Lopez, PTA #2134847 (San Antonio)** - practiced with an expired license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required sixty (60) hours of community service.***
- (5) **Steven Davis, PTA #2030153 (Plano)** - practiced with an expired license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for five (5) days.***
- (6) **Ariel Olivarez, PTA #2097163 (Mathis)** - practiced with an expired license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for forty-five (45) days.***
- (7) **Laura Boone, PTA #2061810 (Augusta, GA)** - failed to properly renew her license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapters 322 and 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.***
- (8) **Shannon Padilla, PTA #2142019 (San Antonio)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by abandoning her position without providing sufficient prior notice. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.***
- (9) **Juan Martinez, PTA #2031888 (San Antonio)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by inaccurately documenting treatment. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for fifteen (15) days.***
- (10) **Zenaida De Jesus, PT #1072627 (Jefferson)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by inaccurately documenting treatment. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.***

Disciplinary Action, cont. from pg. 3

- (11) **Alfredo Jurado, PT #1242721 (El Paso)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by inaccurately documenting treatment. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.**
- (12) **Isreal Gonzalez, PTA #2047132 (Houston)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by fraudulently documenting treatment using credentials of a PT. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 322 of the Board Rules. **Board Order suspended license to practice for thirty (30) days.**
- (13) **Michael Harrington, PT #1293457 (Helotes)** - received disciplinary action by another licensing authority in another state. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 343 of the Board Rules. **Board Order to run concurrent with North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners Consent Order for Disciplinary Action. License to practice suspended until 10/07/2021 followed by various conditions.**
- (14) **Gary Corradini, PT #1060515 (Plainwell, MI)** - received disciplinary action by another licensing authority in another state. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and chapter 343 of the Board Rules. **Board Order accepted the surrender of license to practice.**
- (15) **Genovon Rojas, PT #1246829 (Odessa)** - felony conviction and imprisonment for burglary. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Section 53.021(b) of the Texas Occupational Code. **Board Order revoked his license to practice.**



Upcoming PT Board Meetings

The following dates have been set for the Board's upcoming quarterly meetings (subject to change):

- October 8 – 9, 2020
- January 14 – 15, 2021
- April 8 – 9, 2021

On March 16, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott suspended certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act so that state agencies can hold meetings by telephonic conference.

Whether or not to hold an in-person meeting or a telephonic conference will be determined closer to the meeting date with time and location available online at <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/meeting-dates>.

License Renewal Requirements

In addition to the new Human Trafficking Prevention Training renewal requirement which will be effective for licensees who complete the renew process on or after September 1, 2020 regardless of the license expiration date, the following is a recap of renewal requirements which must be completed before beginning the renewal process.

Continuing Competence

The number of approved CCUs required for renewal has not changed; PT = 30 CCUs, PTA = 20 CCUs. One contact hour = 1 CCU.

PT Rules §341.2. (b) states that all continuing competence activities submitted to satisfy renewal requirements must be board-approved by an organization selected by the board. The Texas Physical Therapy Association (TPTA) has been selected through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to administer the Continuing Competence Approval Program (CCAP). You can search for approved courses or see if a course that you have taken or are considering registering for is approved at <https://ccap.tpta.org/course-search/>.

PT Rules §341.3. lists a variety of activities that licensees may select from to fulfill the requirements for continuing competence. Additionally, the PT Board maintains a page on the website that has information about the continuing competence renewal requirement at <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/cc-ce>.

TX Jurisprudence Assessment Module (TX JAM):

Licensees who are renewing their license are required to take the PT Board's Texas Jurisprudence Assessment Module (TX JAM). The TX JAM replaces both the previous Jurisprudence (JP) Exam and the ethics/professional responsibility renewal requirement. You no longer are required to take a separate approved ethics course.

The TX JAM can be taken at any time during the renewal period; you do not have to wait until you are trying to renew your license to take it. The TX JAM has an assigned value of 2 CCUs, which can be counted toward the total number of required CCUs.

For more information on the TX JAM, go to <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/PT-JAM>.

Fingerprinting:

The fingerprinting requirement was implemented on January 1, 2019 as the result Senate Bill 317 (SB 317) which passed during the 85th Legislature. All licensees need to comply with the fingerprinting requirement if they have not previously submitted fingerprints for initial issuance of a TX license or for a prior TX license renewal or restoration. See [New Fingerprinting Requirement Effective 1/01/2019](#) for details.

If you are unable to complete the fingerprinting requirement due to COVID-19 restrictions and IdentoGo location closures or limited appointments, you may renew your license if you meet all of the other renewal requirements. You will receive an email from staff when your renewal application is processed informing you of when you need to submit your fingerprinting requirement by.

To avoid a delay in the renewal of your license, complete the required items at least several weeks prior to your license expiration date or the date you intend to renew.

Proposed/Adopted Rules

The Board took the following rulemaking actions at the July 24, 2020 Board meeting.

Adopted Rules:

§341.1 Requirements for Renewal,
§341.6. License Restoration,
§341.8. Inactive Status, and
§341.9. Retired Status; Performing Voluntary Charity Care

Amendments were adopted to the above sections pursuant to the provisions in HB 2059 during the 86th Legislative Session that mandates the addition of human trafficking prevention training for healthcare practitioners as a condition of license renewal. This requirement pertains to active licensees who are renewing their license either timely or late, individuals who are restoring their license, licensees on inactive status who are returning to active status, and licensees who are performing voluntary charity care on retired status who are renewing their license.

The rules amendments were adopted to be effective September 1, 2020, are available online at <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/act-and-rules>, and appear in the August 7, 2020 edition of the *Texas Register* (45 TexReg 5513) available online at <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml>.

Proposed Rules:

§344.1. Administrative Fines and Penalties - the amendment is proposed to update the Schedule of Sanctions graphic by removing the sanctions for not registering a physical therapy facility and practicing in an unregistered physical therapy facility pursuant to the repeal of physical therapy facility registration and annual renewal pursuant to SB 317 during the 85th Legislative Session; and to add a range of fines that can be imposed per violation to each category of disciplinary action.

§329.5. Licensing Procedures for Foreign-Trained Applicants -the amendment is proposed to update the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) minimum standards accepted by the board as proof of English language proficiency for a foreign-trained licensure applicant. The amendment eliminates outdated scores and adds the most recent TOEFL scores adopted by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT).

The proposed rules amendments are available at <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/act-and-rules> and will appear in an upcoming edition of the *Texas Register*.

Rule Review:

The Board has completed its rule review of **ALL CHAPTERS** of Title 22, Part 16 of the Texas Administrative Code in accordance with Texas Government Code §2001.039. As a result of the review, the Board found that the reasons for initially adopting the rules continue to exist and readopted the rules. The adopted rule review appears in the August 7, 2020 edition of the *Texas Register* (45 TexReg 5518).