# TBOTE news

**The Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners** **May 2025**

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*Previous newsletters, forms, and FAQs are available from the website: **ptot.texas.gov**.*

***Next Board Meeting***
*August 1, 2025**
** Subject to change*

**TBOTE BOARD**
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### Notes from the Coordinator

***Proposed and Adopted Rules***
The Board adopted rule changes at its last meeting. See further information in this newsletter. The Board did not propose rule changes.

### Renewal Requirement Reminder: HHSC Approved Human Trafficking Training Required each Renewal Period

As part of the minimum hours of required continuing education for each renewal, OTs and OTAs must complete a training course on human trafficking that is approved by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).

Only human trafficking training courses that are approved by HHSC pursuant to HB 2059 of the 86th Legislative Session may be used to meet this requirement; no other courses may be used to satisfy this requirement.

See below a quick FAQ regarding the requirement. Further information, including regarding the content below, is available from the Continuing Education page.

***Is completing HHSC approved human trafficking prevention training a CE requirement?***
Yes. This is a CE requirement for license renewal. As part of the required CE each renewal period, the licensee must complete a course approved by HHSC on the prevention of human trafficking. To renew, the licensee attests to having met CE requirements, which includes having met this training requirement. See the Continuing Education page and the OT Rules for further information.

***Where can I obtain the required CE documentation for the HHSC approved human trafficking prevention training course?***
Contact the course provider should you have questions regarding accessing the required documentation of course completion.

When you renew, you attest to having met CE requirements. Part of such is having the documentation of your CE. You are required to keep your CE documentation.

## Introduction to Adopted Rule Changes from the May Board Meeting

***The rule changes noted below will take effect June 1, 2025. Until then, the current rules are in effect.***

At its recent meeting, the Board adopted amendments to §374.1, Disciplinary Actions, and §374.2, Detrimental Practice, concerning the Schedule of Sanctions in §374.1 and concerning detrimental practice.

As of June 1, 2025, the "June, 2024" compiled PDF version of the OT Rules will no longer be up to date as it will not contain the adopted changes. An up-to-date version of the compiled rules will be available from the Act and Rules page soon after the amendments take effect and will have "June, 2025" on the cover.

Notice of the adoptions was published in the May 16, 2025, issue of the *Texas Register*, and notice of the rule amendments as proposed, which includes the text of the proposals, was published in the March 14, 2025, issue of the *Texas Register*. The amendments were adopted with changes. The changes at adoption were to correct a clerical error and replace the word "and" with "or" in §374.2(5) and (6) and in the corresponding items in the Schedule of Sanctions.

PDFs of the notices of proposal and adoption may be found on the Act and Rules page.

*A brief introduction to the adopted rule amendments appears below; refer to the Act and Rules page for further information.*

**Adopted Rule Changes**

**§374.1. Disciplinary Actions**

**§374.2. Detrimental Practice**

The amendments to §374.2 will update the definition of "practiced occupational therapy in a manner detrimental to the public health and welfare" and clarify conduct that constitutes grounds to take disciplinary action against license holders.

Amendments to the Schedule of Sanctions in §374.1 will align the provisions therein with the changes to §374.2; update the minimum, intermediate, and maximum discipline columns to reflect current trends in disciplinary action; and update administrative penalties for each day a violation continues or occurs. The amendments to the Schedule of Sanctions also include the addition of a violation related to failure to inform the Board of information changes pursuant to §369.2, Changes of Name or Contact Information. The amendments include general cleanups, as well, including the removal of the current §374.2(12) and corresponding item in the Schedule of Sanctions, which concerned deceptive and fraudulent advertising, as a related item is already listed under Texas Occupations Code §454.301, Grounds for Denial of License or Discipline of License Holder; in tandem with the change, that related item from §454.301 has been added to the Schedule of Sanctions.

The amendments are adopted to ensure that the rules clearly identify the conduct that may be considered detrimental practice and the corresponding discipline. The changes will also facilitate the ability of individuals and the Board to identify violations and related discipline in order to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

## New Online Licensing System

The Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners (ECPTOTE) transitioned in March to a new licensing system that allows for a greater integration of certain online and licensing functions, including concerning online renewal and initial licensure applications.

In order to access the system, applicants who applied prior to around March 17, 2025, and any existing licensees will need to create an account in the new system and either onboard their initial application or link their license to their online account.

Please note that this new system is different from the renewal portal on the ECPTOTE website that licensees renewing online must use to enter their CE activities and take the jurisprudence examination. Licensees still must complete these steps on the ECPTOTE website prior to submitting the online renewal application and fee in the new system.

Licensees may create an account for the new system and link their license to such at any time, though those approaching their three-month renewal window who are planning to renew online may wish to do so as soon as possible. These steps take some time and licensees are encouraged to not wait until the last minute in order to avoid unexpected issues, etc.

Further information and details, including regarding information for those renewing late, are available from our website, https://ptot.texas.gov/.

**MAY 2, 2025, BOARD MEETING**
**FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN**

**Anthony Cox, OTA #217109 (San Antonio)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

**Erica Johnson, OT #112429 (Rosenberg)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

**Jody Poole, OT #114187 (Gilmer)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

**Cathleen Burgiel, OTA #210530 (Rockwall)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

**Patricia Lorang, OTA #214495 (Albuquerque, NM)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

**David Rentz, OTA #212453 (Jacksonville)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 5 days.***

**Danielle McCarter, OTA #217167 (Carrollton)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required additional CE and suspended license to practice for 30 days.***

**Rebeca Duvert, OT #122294 (Spring)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 30 days.***

**Katherine Dykes, OTA #215810 (Ben Wheeler)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 60 days.***

**Hannah Pugh, OT #121864 (Chicago, IL)** - failed to properly renew license prior to renewal. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

**Teresa Wells, OTA #209563 (Amarillo)** - failed to properly renew license prior to renewal. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

**Susan Atkins, OT #102154 (Venus)** - failed to properly renew license prior to renewal. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

**Kristin Bonner, OTA #214871 (Montgomery)** - failed to properly renew license prior to renewal. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required additional CE and 60 hours of community service.***

**Theodore Mink, OT #117753 (Liberty Hill)** - failed to properly renew license prior to renewal. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order accepted the surrender of license to practice.***

**Brianna Davis, OTA #216978 (El Paso)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing with an expired license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

**Rebecca Honey, OTA #214735 (Houston)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing with an expired license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 60 hours of community service.***

**Deborah Rutigliano, OT #121922 (Mission)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing with an expired license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 10 days.***

**Susan Moralez, OTA #213465 (Donna)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing with an expired license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 30 days.***

**Barbara Smith-Lugo, OTA #217185 (Houston)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing with an expired license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 120 days.***

**Holly Hutton, OTA #217525 (Abilene)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing with an expired license and failed to properly renew license prior to renewal. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapters 367 and 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 5 days.***

**Sharaya Hill, OT #125409 (Kingwood)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing without a valid license. Violation of Sections 454.201 and 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 372 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 45 days.***

**Billie Bowens, OTA #210054 (Converse)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by intentionally making or filing a false or misleading report. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 30 days.***

**Jalyn Willis, OT #123397 (Houston)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by intentionally making or filing a false or misleading report. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 30 days.***

**Diamond Tyson-Williams, OTA #217871 (Texarkana)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to give sufficient notice of resignation resulting in loss or delay of patient treatment. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 30 days.***

**Brooks Gagne, OT #106858 (Kingwood)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by violating ethical principles relating to Code of Ethics and other occupational therapy standards for using intoxicating liquors to an extent that affects the license holder's professional competence. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 60 days and is restricted from practicing in the home health environment for 36 months.***

**Lewis Barber, OTA #210555 (San Antonio)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by violating ethical principles relating to Code of Ethics and other occupational therapy standards relating to nonmaleficence. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order restricted practice in the home health environment and pediatric care.***

**Sara Farahani, OTA #217814 (Houston)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by violating ethical principles relating to Code of Ethics and other occupational therapy standards for intentionally harassing, abusing, or intimidating a patient either physically or verbally. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 30 days.***

**Arris Stephene Lam, OT #121553 (Frisco)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by violating ethical principles relating to Code of Ethics and other occupational therapy standards for intentionally harassing, abusing, or intimidating a patient either physically or verbally. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 45 days.***

**Judith Reeves, OT #116492 (Kerrville)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by violating ethical principles relating to Code of Ethics and other occupational therapy standards for intentionally harassing, abusing, or intimidating a patient either physically or verbally. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 30 days.***

**Shawn Russell, OTA #211803 (McAllen)** - failed to properly renew license by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner. Violation of Section 454.255 of the Act and Chapter 370 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 60 days.***