

TBOTE news

The Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners

May 2026

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

Next Board Meeting

August 7, 2026*

* 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.

New Licensing System Reminder and Tip

The Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners (ECPTOTE) transitioned in March, 2025, 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, any existing licensees will need to create an account in the new system and 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 must create an account in this new system in order to renew online and access other online features, such as online name change or replacement license applications, online license verification requests, etc.

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.

New System Tip:

On-Demand Name Changes

§369.2 of the [OT Rules](#) requires that changes of name are reported within 30 days of the change and that related documentation (e.g., marriage license, court decree, etc.) is submitted. (Refer to the full rule section for further information.) Once you create an account in the new system, you may access a related form to submit name change information and the documentation for such online. This streamlines reporting the changes and also allows agency staff to save time they may use to meet other licensee needs.

Introduction to Adopted Rule Changes from the May Board Meeting

The rule changes noted below will take effect June 1, 2026. Until then, the [current rules](#) are in effect.

The Board has adopted an amendment to §374.1, Disciplinary Actions. The amendment will correct a typographical error.

As of June 1, 2026, the “December, 2025” compiled PDF version of the OT Rules will no longer be up to date as it will not contain the adopted change. An up-to-date version of the compiled rules will be available from the [Act and Rules](#) page soon after the amendment takes effect and will have “June, 2026” on the cover.

Notice of the adoption was published in the May 15, 2026, issue of the [Texas Register](#), and notice of the rule amendment as proposed, which includes the text of the proposal, was published in the March 27, 2026, issue of the [Texas Register](#). The amendment was adopted without changes.

PDFs of the notices of proposal and adoption may be found on the [Act and Rules](#) page.

A brief introduction to the adopted rule amendment appears below; refer to the [Act and Rules](#) page for further information.

Adopted Rule Changes

§374.1. Disciplinary Actions

The amendment to §374.1 will correct a typographical error in the section.

CE Reminder

With the exception of the HHSC-approved human trafficking course required as per §367.1, Continuing Education, of the OT Rules, licensees are not required to take a course approved by a specific entity or take courses pre-approved by the Board.

With regard to the CE hours remaining after the HHSC-approved course, activities approved or offered by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) or the Texas Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA) are pre-approved for CE credit for license renewal; see §367.1 for further information and regulations. For courses from other providers, licensees are responsible for ensuring that such meet requirements for other acceptable activities. Such must meet requirements for acceptable content and acceptable categories and may not be unacceptable activities. Refer to §367.1, Continuing Education, and §367.2, Other Acceptable Activities. Refer to Chapter 367, Continuing Education, of the [OT Rules](#) for further regulations all CE must meet.

Use of Titles:

Should I use OT or OT/L? Should I use OTA or OTA/L?

As per §369.3(a) of the OT Rules, “Licensed occupational therapists shall use the title occupational therapist or the abbreviation OT. Occupational Therapist, Registered is an alternate title for occupational therapist and OTR® is an alternate abbreviation for OT if individuals who are licensed by this board take the responsibility for ensuring that they are qualified to use such by maintaining certification through NBCOT.”

OTs may use the abbreviation OT. They may, alternately, use OTR if they are both maintaining licensure through the Board (TBOTE) and maintaining certification through NBCOT.

As per §369.3(b) of the OT Rules, “Licensed occupational therapy assistants shall use the title occupational therapy assistant or the abbreviation OTA. Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant is an alternate title for occupational therapy assistant and COTA® is an alternate abbreviation for OTA if individuals who are licensed by this board take the responsibility for ensuring that they are qualified to use such by maintaining certification through NBCOT.”

OTAs may use the abbreviation OTA. They may, alternately, use COTA if they are both maintaining licensure through the Board (TBOTE) and maintaining certification through NBCOT.

While in order to practice in Texas, an individual must maintain licensure through TBOTE, TBOTE does not require that licensees maintain NBCOT certification.

OT, OTR, OTA, or COTA, as described above, should be used. As stated in §369.3(c), “No other titles or abbreviations are conferred for a license from this board.”

Abbreviations such as OT/L, OTR/L, and LOT and OTA/L, COTA/L, and LOTA should not be used.

Further regulations regarding the use of titles may be found in the full §369.3 and the full OT Act and Rules.



**MAY 1, 2026, BOARD MEETING
FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN**

Liz Leal, OT #119081 (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.***

Matthew Mowles, OT #109422 (El Paso) - 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.***

Crystal Ramos, OTA #214019 (Corpus Christi) - 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.***

Kylene Wetzel, OTA #211013 (O'Donnell) - 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.***

Harold Clark, OT #106141 (Grandview) - 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 suspended license to practice for 20 days.***

Franklin Villarreal, OT #103195 (Palestine) - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing occupational therapy after the expiration of the license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 30 hours of community service.***

Gina Margiotta, OTA #214941 (Buda) - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing occupational therapy after the expiration of the license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 60 hours of community service.***

Cristina Ruiz, OT #116845 (El Paso) - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing occupational therapy after the expiration of the license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order required 60 hours of community service.***

Diya Wazirali, OT #123216 (Austin) - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing occupational therapy after the expiration of the license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 20 days.***

Annie Thomas, OT #123798 (Pearland) - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing occupational therapy after the expiration of the 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.***

Natalia Foster, OTA #214294 (Cedar Park) - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing occupational therapy after the expiration of the license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 45 days.***

Jasper Queen Jr., OT #126099 (Austin) - failed to disclose criminal history on application for licensure. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 364 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 15 days.***

Sarai Alvarado, OTA #219147 (El Paso) - failed to disclose criminal history on application for licensure. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 364 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for 15 days.***

Breane Rose, OT #115254 (Bedford) - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document occupational therapy services or inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering client records. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. **Board Order suspended license to practice for 15 days.**

Jules Hill, OTA #215743 (Childress) - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document occupational therapy services or inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering client records. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. **Board Order suspended license to practice for 30 days.**

Allison Hill, OTA #216520 (Brookshire) - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document occupational therapy services or inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering client records. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. **Board Order suspended license to practice for 60 days.**

Larissa Duck, OT #110377 (Montgomery) - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document occupational therapy services or inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering client records. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. **Board Order suspended license to practice for 90 days.**

Angela Hughes, OT #106246 (Sunrise Beach) - practiced in a detrimental manner by: failing to document occupational therapy services or inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering client records; and failing to provide the supervision required by the Act or Rules for individuals to whom services were delegated. Additionally, the practitioner failed to maintain the confidentiality of all verbal, written, electronic, and nonverbal communication (including HIPAA compliance) and failed to have direct contact with the client during the evaluation process. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapters 372 and 374 of the board rules. **Board Order suspended license to practice for 45 days.**

Holly Heidenreich, OTA #218535 (Galveston) - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to provide sufficient prior written notice of resignation of employment resulting in the loss or delay of occupational therapy services. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. **Board Order suspended license to practice for 15 days.**

Ana Sanchez, OTA #209131 (Houston) - license reissued following a previous revocation due to a felony conviction. Pursuant to the Act and Board Rules, the Board determined the practitioner satisfied all requirements for reissuance, concluding that her licensure no longer poses a threat to public health, safety, or welfare. The Board evaluated the practitioner's fitness to practice under the guidelines of Tex. Occ. Code Chapter 53. Violation of Section 454.303 of the Act and Chapter 374 of the board rules. **Board Order granted the reissuance of license.**