TEXAS BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS

Communiqué

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Next Board Meeting

October 16, 2026
1801 Congress Ave, Ste.10.900
Austin, Texas 78701

A Cash-Based Practice Trap

(that many would not expect!!!)

This article arises from a recent question proposed to the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. The author of the question cited a recent article published by the North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners which stated that it was a violation of the ACT in that state for a physical therapist to do any of the following:

- Billing for pre-purchased PT services or offering discounts for PT services when bundled in packages that are paid for by the patient or responsible party in advance.
- A patient at a cash-based PT office purchases a pre-determined number of visits "package" prior to the physical therapy service being delivered.
- A patient receives a discount for pre-paying for PT services.

Her question was how would the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners view these same issues? The answer is found in the **Texas Occupations Code - OCC § 102.001. Soliciting Patients; Offense**

a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly offers to pay or agrees to accept, directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly any remuneration in cash or in kind or any benefit or commission to or from another for securing or soliciting a patient or patronage for or from a person licensed, certified, or registered by a state health care regulatory agency.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), an offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

(c) An offense under this section is a felony of the third degree if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the person:

(1) has previously been convicted of an offense under this section; or

(2) was employed by a federal, state, or local government at the time of the offense.

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Further;

The **Texas Illegal Remunerations Act**—officially known as the **Texas Patient Solicitation Act** (found in the Texas Occupations Code § 102.001)—prohibits paying or receiving cash, gifts, or commissions to secure or solicit patients for any healthcare professional or facility licensed by the state.

Key Aspects of the Law

- **All-Payor Scope:** Unlike the federal Anti-Kickback Statute, which is limited to federal programs like Medicare and Medicaid, Texas law applies to **all patients and payors**, including private commercial insurance.
- **Broad Definition:** It covers any form of remuneration, including cash, free rent, gifts, inflated marketing fees, or disguised kickbacks tied to patient volume.
- **Criminal Penalties:** A first-time violation is generally a **Class A misdemeanor** (punishable by up to one year in jail and fines). It escalates to a **third-degree felony** if the offender has a prior conviction or was a public government employee at the time.

Differences from Federal Rules

- **Broader Reach:** Encompasses private-pay patients alongside government beneficiaries.
- **State Enforcement:** Handled directly by local district attorneys or the Texas Attorney General alongside state regulatory agencies.

The Verdict: The Texas Board of Physical Therapy would find the above activities to be violations of state law which at the least would constitute detrimental practice resulting in sanctions against a licensee, and likely a referral to The Attorney General's Office for criminal prosecution.

Social Security Number Requirement

Effective September 1, 2026, a valid Social Security Number (SSN) will be required to issue, restore, or renew a PT or PTA license. This change reflects recent guidance from the Texas Office of the Attorney General.

If you do not have a valid SSN, you can still submit an initial application for licensure or submit a renewal or restoration application for an existing license after September 1, 2026. Required licensure items and reporting CCUs through the renewal Continuing Competence Activity Summary will also be available.

Not having a valid SSN after September 1, 2026 will only affect the issuance, renewal, or restoration of a TX license once all the licensure requirements have been satisfied.

You are not required to have a valid SSN to register for and take the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE). The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) will assign you an Alternate Identification Number (AIN) when you create your account. The AIN cannot be substituted for a valid SSN for licensure purposes.

If you have a valid SSN that is not on file with the Board or when you obtain an SSN, please complete and submit the SSN Statement form found here.

Disciplinary Actions

Disciplinary Actions taken at July 24, 2026 Board Meeting:

1. **Jesus Galindo, PTA #2095836 (Corpus Christi)** - failed to properly renew license by not completing a required course prior to renewing license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (5) days.***
2. **Kelley Novak, PTA #2034700 (McKinney)** - failed to properly renew license by not completing a required course prior to renewing license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (5) days.***
3. **Judith Sakolosky, PTA #2033157 (Houston)** - failed to properly renew license by not completing a required course prior to renewing license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (5) days.***
4. **Michael Morin, PTA #2058260 (Merrimack, NH)** - failed to properly renew license by not completing the required amount of continuing competence units (CCUs) prior to renewing license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 341 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (15) days.***
5. **Tito Alvarado, PTA #2051360 (Laredo)** - practiced with an expired license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required (30) hours of community service.***
6. **Cynthia Canarina, PT #1149673 (Cibolo)** - practiced with an expired license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required (60) hours of community service.***
7. **Jason Uhler, PT #1343052 (Austin)** - practiced with an expired license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order required (60) hours of community service.***
8. **Ana Elizondo Rodriguez, PTA #2151059 (Houston)** - practiced with an expired license. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (15) days.***
9. **Kara Simpson, PT #1204508 (New Braunfels)** - practiced with an expired license. Violation of Sections 453.351 and 453.501 of the Act and Chapters 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (30) days.***
10. **Amberly Brown, PTA #2181305 (Arlington)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document physical therapy services, inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering patient/client records. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (30) days.***
11. **Namratha Thikkavarapu, PT #1227840 (Flower Mound)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document physical therapy services, inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering patient/client records. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (30) days.***
12. **Claire Ashby, PT #1301480 (Texarkana)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document physical therapy services, inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering patient/client records. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (30) days.***

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13. **Shawn Scott, PT #1215328 (Arlington)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document physical therapy services, inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering patient/client records. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (30) days.***

14. **Samantha Ysaguirre, PTA #2131068 (Victoria)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document physical therapy services, inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering patient/client records. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (30) days.***

15. **Justin Newman, PT #1210200 (Celina)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document physical therapy services, inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering patient/client records. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (30) days.***

16. **Simmi Ravikumar, PTA #2186842 (Dallas)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document physical therapy services, inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering patient/client records. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (45) days.***

17. **Holly Marin, PT #1183233 (Plano)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to document physical therapy services, inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering patient/client records. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (45) days.***

18. **Joshua Walters, PT #1325094 (Fort Worth)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by abandoning or neglecting patient(s) under current care without making reasonable arrangements for the continuation of such care. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (15) days.***

19. **Andrew Arthur, PT #1165879 (Conroe)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by abandoning or neglecting patient(s) under current care without making reasonable arrangements for the continuation of such care. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (15) days.***

20. **Alexandra Lane, PT #CP051101T (Lafayette, LA)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by abandoning or neglecting patient(s) under current care without making reasonable arrangements for the continuation of such care. Violation of Sections 453.351 and 453.501 of the Act and Chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended Compact Privilege to practice in Texas for (30) days.***

21. **Christie Fryatt, PT #1129450 (Galveston)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to cooperate with the agency by not responding to agency correspondence addressed to the license holder's official address within 90 days. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (15) days.***

22. **Layla Donaldson, PTA #2054182 (Lufkin)** - used drugs or intoxicating liquors to an extent that affects the license holder's professional competence and practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable prevailing practice, regardless of whether actual injury to any person was sustained. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 322.4 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (30) days.***

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23. **Paul Sausameda, PTA #2079390 (El Paso)** - was convicted of a felony offense. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Chapter 343.9 of the Board Rules. ***Board Order to refrain from practice in the home health environment and provide quarterly reports for (36) months.***

24. **Felix Clark, PTA #2175685 (Delray Beach, FL)** - was imprisoned following a felony conviction. Violation of Section 453.351 of the Act and Section 53.021(b) of the Texas Occupations Code. ***Board Order revoked license to practice.***

CCU Approval Reminder

All continuing competence units (CCUs) submitted to satisfy PT/PTA renewal requirements for TX **MUST** be approved through the Continuing Competence Approval Program (CCAP) which is administered by the Texas Physical Therapy Association (TPTA) for the PT Board, OR be offered by a TX Accredited Provider, OR be a Board pre-approved activity.

Information is available at the following links:

- CCAP - https://ccap.tpta.org/
- Accredited Providers - https://ccap.tpta.org/ccap-accredited-providers/
- Pre-approved Activity (Categories/Numbers) - https://ptot.texas.gov/cc-ce/

It is your professional responsibility to ensure that all your CCUs are approved to meet TX renewal requirements prior to renewing your license. If you attend a course or conference that has not been approved for TX, you can submit an Individual Application for approval through CCAP. The fee for an Individual Application is $40. Courses are reviewed in order received, and the current processing time is approximately 4 weeks.

Individual Applications can be Expedited for an additional fee of $100. Expedited applications are guaranteed to be sent out for review within two business days upon receipt but can still take 1-2 weeks for processing.

Details on Qualifying Continuing Competence Activities that fulfill the requirements for renewal are listed in PT Rules §341.3. A pdf of the current PT Rules is available online.

Upcoming PT Board Meetings

The following dates have been set for the Board's upcoming quarterly meetings:

- October 16, 2026
- January 15, 2027
- April 9, 2027

Committee meetings will be scheduled prior to the Board meetings as needed.

Meeting dates are subject to change. Updated information will be posted online.