

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 625-X-8
SUPERVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS, HOLDERS OF LIMITED
PERMITS, AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AIDES

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625-X-8-.01	<u>Supervision Of Licensed Occupational Therapy Assistants.</u>

(1) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to assist in the practices of occupational therapy under the supervision of or with the consultation of a licensed occupational therapist whose license is in good standing.

(2) "Supervision" means a collaborative process for the responsible periodic review and inspection of all aspects of occupational therapy services. Responsibility of supervision is shared between the supervising occupational therapist(s) and the occupational therapy assistant(s) and/or all unlicensed personnel involved with the provision of occupational therapy services, including aides and students.

(3) An occupational therapist may assign an increased level of supervision if necessary for the safety of a patient or client. The levels of supervision are:

(a) Direct Supervision: the supervising occupational therapist is in the immediate area of the occupational therapy assistant while performing supportive services.

(b) Close Supervision: the supervising occupational therapist provides initial direction to the occupational therapy assistant and daily contact while on the premises.

(c) General Supervision: the supervising occupational therapist has face-to-face contact with the occupational therapy assistant at least once every 30-calendar days, with the supervising occupational therapist available by telephone, electronic, or written communication.

(4) Supervision Ratios:

(a) An occupational therapist may supervise up to three (3) full-time occupational therapy assistants, but never more than two (2) occupational therapy assistants who require "direct" level of supervision. The total number of supervised occupational therapy assistants, occupational therapy personnel on a limited permit, and non-licensed occupational therapy personnel (including any occupational therapy students, occupational therapy assistant students, licensee applicants required to perform a perceptorship, and/or aides) may not exceed five (5) without prior Board approval. The Board may permit the supervision of a greater number by an occupational therapist if, in the Board's opinion, there would be adequate supervision to protect public health and safety.

(5) Only a licensed occupational therapist shall:

(a) Prepare an initial treatment plan, initiate or re-evaluate a client or patient's treatment plan, or authorize in writing a change of a treatment plan;

(b) Delegate duties to a licensed occupational therapy assistant, designate an assistant's duties and assign a level of supervision; and

(c) Authorize a patient discharge

(6) A licensed occupational therapy assistant shall not:

(a) Evaluate or develop a treatment plan independently;

(b) Initiate a treatment plan before a client or patient is evaluated and a treatment plan is prepared by an occupational therapist;

(c) Continue a treatment procedure appearing harmful to a patient or client until the procedure is reevaluated by an occupational therapist; or

(d) Continue or discontinue occupational therapy services unless the treatment plan is approved or re-approved by a supervising occupational therapist.

(7) A supervising occupational therapist shall supervise a licensed occupational therapy assistant as follows:

(a) Supervision should be "Direct" if the occupational therapy assistant has less than 12-months work experience.

(b) Supervision should be "Close" if the occupational therapy assistant has more than 12 months but less than 24 months of experience.

(c) Supervision should be at least "General" if an occupational therapy assistant has more than 24 months of experience.

(d) For occupational therapy assistants employed by state agencies and those employed by public schools and colleges of this state who provide screening and rehabilitation services for the educationally related needs of the student, the "Direct" and "close" supervision mandate based on work experience does not apply. In these instances, supervision should be at least "General".

(e) The following levels of supervision are minimal. An occupational therapist must assign an increased level of supervision if the occupational therapy assistant is new to a practice setting or particular skill. An occupational therapist must assign an increased level of supervision if necessary for the safety of a patient or client.

(8) This rule shall be effective September 1, 2013.

Author: Alabama State Board of Occupational Therapy

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-39-3, 34-39-11.

History: Filed January 7, 1992. **Amended:** Filed December 18, 1995; effective January 22, 1996. **Amended:** Filed April 12, 1996, effective May 17, 1996. **Amended:** Filed May 17, 2013; effective June 21, 2013; operative September 1, 2013

625-X-8-.02 Supervision Of Therapists/Assistants With Limited Permits.

Any individual issued a limited permit under the provision of §34-39-11, shall be supervised in accordance with the requirements of 625-X-8-.01 as set here and above.

(a) Supervision of limited permit holders shall consist of one-to-one on-site supervision a minimum of 50 percent of direct patient time by an Occupational Therapist who holds a current license in this state.

(b) Supervision of limited permit holders who are in the reentry process, as stated in 625-X-3-.08, shall consist of 100%, in-sight supervision by an Alabama licensed Occupational Therapist with no less than five years continuous experience.

Author: Alabama State Board of Occupational Therapy

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-39-3, 34-39-11.

History: Filed January 7, 1992. **Amended:** Filed December 18, 1995; effective January 22, 1996.

625-X-8-.03 Supervision Of Occupational Therapy Aides.

(1) An occupational therapy aide/support personnel is an unlicensed person who assist in the practice of occupational therapy, who works under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist and whose activities require an understanding of occupational therapy but do not require professional or advance training in the basic anatomical, biological, psychological, and social sciences involved in the practice of occupational therapy. An occupational therapy aide is a worker who is trained on the job to meet the specific needs of the facility.

(2) A licensed occupational therapist may delegate to occupational therapy aides only specific tasks which are neither evaluative, assessive, task selective nor recommending in nature, and only after insuring that the aide has been appropriately trained for the performance of the task.

(3) Any duties assigned to an occupational therapy aide must be determined and appropriately supervised by a licensed occupational therapist and must not exceed the level of training, knowledge, skill, and competence of the individual being supervised. The licensed occupational therapist is totally and wholly responsible for the acts or actions performed by any occupational therapy aide functioning in the occupational therapy setting.

(4) Duties or functions which occupational therapy aides may perform include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Routine department maintenance task
- (b) Transportation of patients/clients
- (c) Preparation or setting up of treatment equipment and work area
- (d) Taking care of patient's/client's personal needs during treatment
- (e) Clerical, secretarial, administrative activities.

(5) Duties or functions which occupational therapy aides shall not perform include, but are not limited to,

- (a) Interpret referrals or prescriptions for occupational therapy services
- (b) Perform evaluative procedures

(c) Develop, plan, adjust, or modify treatment procedures

(d) Act on behalf of the occupational therapist in any matter related to direct patient care which requires judgment or decision making

(e) Act independently or without supervision of an occupational therapist.

(6) An aide/support personnel may assist in the delivery of occupational therapy; however, may not provide direct patient treatment.

(7) Care rendered independently by an occupational therapy aide/support personnel shall not be charged as occupational therapy.

Author: Alabama State Board of Occupational Therapy

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-39-3, 34-39-11.

History: Filed January 7, 1992. **Amended:** Filed December 18, 1995; effective January 22, 1996.

Code of Ala. 1975, §34-39-3 and §34-39-11 provides, in pertinent part, that an Occupational Therapy Assistant, an Occupational Therapy Aide or an individual issued a limited permit may only provide occupational therapy services under the supervision of an Occupational Therapist. This regulation sets forth the terms and requirements of such supervision.