

THE PHILIPPINE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY LAW OF 2018

March 2019

Senate Bill No. 454, which was adopted by the House of Representatives and which amended House Bill No. 8528, was signed into law last March 11, 2019 as **Republic Act No. 11241, *The Philippine Occupational Therapy Law of 2018***. After 15 years of lobbying, there now exists a law that allows for the update of the professional regulatory law that governs the practice of occupational therapy in the country in response to changing healthcare needs both locally and internationally. Occupational therapy is now clearly a distinct and autonomous profession in the country.

What OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY is

Occupational therapy is a **client-centered** health profession concerned with **promoting health and well-being through occupation.**

GOAL

To enable people to participate in the activities of everyday life

SCOPE

Analysis and application of purposeful and meaningful activities in the areas of self-care, work, play and leisure to prevent limitations in participation, and to promote, maintain or restore occupational performance, health and psychosocial well-being

MEANS

By working with people and communities to enhance their ability to engage in occupations they want to, need to, or are expected to do, or by modifying the occupation or the environment to better support their occupational engagement

Art. I Sec. 3 (a, c)

Occupation refers to an individual's **goal-directed use of time, energy, interest and attention.**

Who an Occupational Therapist Is



A holder of **A VALID CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION AND A VALID PROFESSIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD** issued by the Board of Occupational Therapy and the Professional Regulation Commission who:

- **passed the licensure examination** for occupational therapists; &
- shall automatically be a **member of the accredited and integrated professional organization.**

Art. I Sec. 3 (d); Art III Sec. 17; Art. IV Sec. 30



A person who is legally qualified to practice occupational therapy in the Philippines pursuant to this Act i.e. foreign-licensed occupational therapist who is a holder of a **VALID SPECIAL TEMPORARY PERMIT** issued by the Professional Regulatory Board of Occupational Therapy

Art. I Sec. 3 (d); Art. III Sec. 25

Qualifications of an Applicant for the Licensure Examination for Occupational Therapists



A **citizen** of the Philippines or a foreigner whose country has reciprocity agreement with the Philippines



Has not been convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude



A graduate of a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy degree or its equivalent degree from a school, college or university in the Philippines or abroad whose OT program is recognized by the Commission on Higher Education

Art III Sec. 13

Scope of Licensure Examination for Occupational Therapists

The Scope of Examination for the licensure examination for occupational therapists covers basic sciences and health science foundations integrated in the following domains:

OT Application I

- OT Theories and Frames of Reference
- Growth and Human Development
- Occupational Performance and Behavior across the lifespan
- Occupation-based Practice

OT Application II

- OT in Adult Physical Dysfunction
- OT in Pediatrics
- OT in Geriatrics
- OT in Psychosocial Dysfunction
- Community-based Practice

OT Application III

- Professional Reasoning and Behavior
- Professional Competence and Ethics
- Organization, Administration and Management
- Research Process

Art. III Sec. 14

Responsibilities of Occupational Therapists



When signing documents pertinent to the practice of occupational therapy, occupational therapists shall:

1. Use **OTRP** following the name of the OT (Art III Sec. 18),
2. Indicate **Registration Number** (a.k.a. professional license number),
3. Indicate **validity**—from date of issuance to date of expiry—**of Professional Identification Card** (a.k.a. professional license), and
4. Indicate **Privilege Tax Receipt Number**

Art. III Sec. 18 & 22

Occupational therapists shall abide with the requirements, rules and regulations on **Continuing Professional Development**.

i.e. Occupational therapists shall complete **15 units of continuing education every 3 years** per PRC Resolution No. 2019-1146 (an amendment to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 10912 known as the Continuing Professional Development Act of 2016)

Art. IV Sec. 29



Occupational therapists shall pay **membership fees and dues** required by the accredited and integrated professional organization to receive all the benefits and privileges of a member.

Art. IV Sec. 30

Occupational therapists shall abide by the provisions of the **Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics** as recommended by the accredited national organization of occupational therapists

Art. IV Sec. 27 (e)



Integration of Occupational Therapists

The occupational therapy profession shall be integrated into **one national professional organization of occupational therapists** which shall be duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and duly accredited by the Professional Regulatory Board of Occupational Therapy, subject to approval by the PRC, as the **ONE AND ONLY ACCREDITED AND INTEGRATED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OF REGISTERED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS**.

Art. IV Sec. 30

Prohibitions in the Practice of Occupational Therapy



Engage in the practice of occupational therapy by representing himself/herself as an occupational therapist without a valid Certificate of Registration, Professional Identification Card, or a valid Special Temporary Permit granted by the Board pursuant to this Act

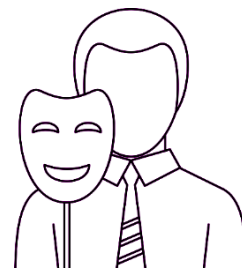
Art. IV Sec. 27 (a)

Represent to be an occupational therapist during the time that his/her Professional Identification Card is not valid or that his/her Certificate of Registration has been suspended or revoked, or that his/her Special Temporary Permit has been cancelled

Art. IV Sec. 27 (b)

Allow anybody to use his/her Certificate of Registration and/or Professional Identification Card and/or Special Temporary Permit as an occupational therapist to enable such unqualified individual to engage in the practice of occupational therapy

Art. IV Sec. 27 (c)



Use as his/her own the Certificate of Registration, Professional Identification Card, or Special Temporary Permit of another person

Art. IV Sec. 27 (d)



Violate any provision of the Code of Ethics as recommended by the accredited national organization of occupational therapists

Art. IV Sec. 27 (e)

Penal Provisions



not less than ₱ 20,000
nor more than
₱ 50,000

Art. V Sec. 32



not less than TWO
YEARS nor more than
FIVE YEARS

Art. V Sec. 32

Funding Provision

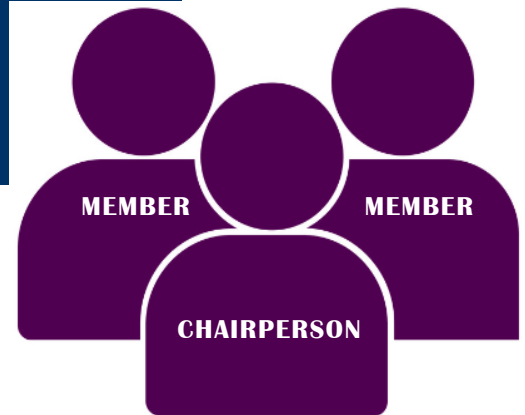
The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be immediately included in the Commission's budget program and shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Art. V Sec. 33



Governing Body for the Practice of Occupational Therapy

The **PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY** shall govern the practice of occupational therapy in the Philippines. It shall consist of a chairperson and two members who have the following qualifications:



- ✓ **residents of the Philippines for at least five years**
- ✓ **duly registered occupational therapists** under this Act, with a valid Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification Card
- ✓ have **engaged in rendering occupational therapy services** for at least five continuous years immediately preceding appointment
- ✓ **members of good standing** of the accredited and integrated professional organization of occupational therapists, and not an officer thereof;
- ✓ have **no prior conviction** by any competent court, of an offense involving moral turpitude; and
- ✓ have **no pecuniary interest**, directly or indirectly, in any school, college or university or institution conferring an academic degree necessary for admission to the practice of occupational therapy; or where review classes in preparation for licensure examination are offered or conducted; nor be members of faculty or administration thereof

Art. II Sec. 6

Position of PAOT, Inc.

Since the organization lobbied for this law for more than a decade, PAOT, Inc. shall willingly continue to work with stakeholders, the current Professional Regulatory Board of Occupational Therapy of the Professional Regulation Commission, the Commission on Higher Education and the Philippine Congress in crafting the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of The Philippine Occupational Therapy Law of 2018.

Occupational therapy practitioners ask,

“WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?”,

not “What’s the matter with you?”.

- Virginia Stoffel, PhD, OT, BCMH, FAOTA

Should you have any queries regarding this law or wish to participate in the drafting of the IRR, you may send an e-mail to paot.legislations@gmail.com.

Should you have concerns regarding violations of the Code of Ethics, you may send an e-mail to paot.ethics@gmail.com.



THE
Philippine Academy of Occupational Therapists, INC.

Formerly the Occupational Therapy Association of the Philippines (OTAP)

9055 Banuyo St., San Antonio Village, Makati 1203, Philippines
+63 917 519 1748
www.paot.org.ph