AUTHENTICATED,
OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE
COMMISSION
DOCUMENT #542427

Ohio Administrative Code

Rule 4755:1-2-01 Code of ethical conduct.

Effective: November 13, 2026

(A) Operations.

License holders shall use the provisions contained in paragraphs (A)(1) to (A)(10) of this rule as guidelines for promoting ethical integrity and professionalism. Failure to comply with paragraphs (A)(1) to (A)(10) of this rule may be grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to section 4755.11 of the Revised Code and in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

(1) License holders shall familiarize themselves with, seek to understand, and comply with the laws and rules governing the practice of occupational therapy.

(2) License holders shall remain abreast of revisions in the laws and rules governing the practice of occupational therapy and shall inform employers, employees, and colleagues of those revisions.

(3) License holders shall achieve and continually maintain high standards of competence by doing the following:

(a) Maintain and document competency by participating in professional development, continuing competence, and other educational activities.

(b) Critically examine and keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to the practice of occupational therapy. A license holder shall not perform or attempt to perform techniques and/or procedures in which the license holder is untrained by education or experience.

(4) A person shall not practice occupational therapy without a valid license, or without holding student status, including:

(a) Practicing occupational therapy while a person's license is suspended or revoked.

(b) Practicing occupational therapy with an expired license or when no longer enrolled as a student in an accredited occupational therapy educational program.

(c) Practicing as an instructor of record, program director, fieldwork coordinator, or capstone coordinator teaching an occupational therapy course in occupational therapy education.

(5) License holders shall ensure that a person supervised or directed by the license holder possesses a valid license or is a student occupational therapist or student occupational therapy assistant, as those terms are defined in rule 4755:1-2-02 of the Administrative Code.

AUTHENTICATED,
OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE
COMMISSION
DOCUMENT #542427

(6) License holders shall not aid, abet, authorize, condone, or allow the practice of occupational therapy by any person not legally authorized to provide services.

(7) An applicant or license holder shall not cheat or assist others in conspiring to cheat on the written examination referenced in section 4755.07 of the Revised Code or the state jurisprudence examination.

(8) License holders shall not permit another person to use a person's wall certificate, license number, or national provider identifier for any illegal purpose.

(9) License holders shall report to the occupational therapy section any unprofessional, incompetent, or illegal behavior of an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant of which the license holder has knowledge.

(10) Where the alleged violation involves impairment issues and no other provisions of Chapter 4755. of the Revised Code or rules adopted under it, the reporting license holder may make a referral to the safe haven program in lieu of making report to the occupational therapy section.

(B) Professionalism of license holder.

Professionalism of the license holder includes conforming to the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing occupational therapy practice, including practicing in a manner that is moral and honorable. Conduct may be considered unethical regardless of whether or not actual injury to a client occurred. Failure to comply with paragraphs (B)(1) to (B)(17) of this rule may be grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to section 4755.11 of the Revised Code and in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

(1) A license holder shall not:

(a) Forge the signature of other practitioners.

(b) Forge a wall certificate or any other proof of current licensure, including eLicense Ohio.

(2) An occupational therapy assistant shall not provide occupational therapy services without a supervising occupational therapist.

(3) All occupational therapy documentation, including, but not limited to, evaluations, assessments, intervention plans, treatment notes, discharge summaries, and transfers of care shall be in written or electronic format.

AUTHENTICATED,
OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE
COMMISSION
DOCUMENT #542427

(4) A license holder shall not falsify, alter, or destroy client records, medical records, or billing records without authorization. The license holder shall maintain accurate client and/or billing records.

(5) A license holder shall not deliver, obtain, or attempt to obtain medications through means of misrepresentation, fraud, forgery, deception, and/or subterfuge.

(6) A license holder shall not initiate, participate in, or encourage the filing of complaints against colleagues that are unwarranted or intended to harm another practitioner.

(7) A license holder shall not practice occupational therapy while the ability to practice is impaired by alcohol, controlled substances, narcotic drugs, physical disability, mental disability, or emotional disability. If a license holder's or applicant's ability to practice is in question, and the license holder or applicant is not a participant in the board's safe haven program, the license holder or applicant shall submit to a physical or mental examination or drug/alcohol screen as requested by the occupational therapy section to determine the applicant's or license holder's qualifications to practice occupational therapy.

(8) A license holder shall preserve, respect, and safeguard confidential information about colleagues, staff, and students, unless otherwise mandated by national, state, or local laws.

(9) A license holder shall exercise sound judgment and act in a trustworthy manner in all aspects of occupational therapy practice. Regardless of practice setting, the occupational therapy practitioner shall maintain the ability to make independent judgments. A license holder shall strive to effect changes that benefit the client.

(10) A license holder shall accurately represent the qualifications, views, contributions, and findings of colleagues and students.

(11) A license holder shall not misrepresent the credential, title, qualifications, education, experience, training, and/or specialty certifications held by the license holder.

(12) A person licensed by the occupational therapy section has a responsibility to report any organization or entity that holds itself out to deliver occupational therapy services that places the license holder in a position of compromise with this code of ethical conduct.

(13) A license holder shall provide appropriate supervision to persons for whom the practitioner has supervisory responsibility.

AUTHENTICATED,
OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE
COMMISSION
DOCUMENT #542427

(14) A license holder shall only seek compensation that is reasonable for the occupational therapy services delivered. A license holder shall never place the license holder's own financial interests above the welfare of the license holder's clients. A license holder, regardless of the practice setting, shall safeguard the public from unethical and unlawful business practices.

(15) A license holder shall adhere to the minimal standards of acceptable prevailing practice. Failure to adhere to minimal standards of practice, whether or not actual injury to a client occurred, includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Documenting or billing for services not actually performed.

(b) Performing techniques/procedures in which the license holder cannot demonstrate and document competency, either by experience or education.

(c) Practicing in a pattern of negligent conduct, which means a continued course of negligent conduct or of negligent conduct in performing the duties of the profession.

(d) Delegating occupational therapy functions or responsibilities to a person lacking the ability or knowledge to perform the function or responsibility in question.

(e) Failing to ensure that duties assumed by or assigned to other occupational therapy practitioners match credentials, qualifications, experience, and scope of practice.

(f) Violating confidentiality rights by failing to protect and keep confidential personal health information or other private information about clients, other facility care recipients, employees, colleagues, and students without authorization or consent unless otherwise mandated or permitted by relevant law.

(g) Failure to respect privacy rights by accessing personal health information or other private information about clients, other facility care recipients, employees, colleagues, and students without authorization or consent unless otherwise mandated or permitted by relevant law.

(16) A license holder shall respect the rights, knowledge, and skills of colleagues and other health care professionals.

AUTHENTICATED,
OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE
COMMISSION
DOCUMENT #542427

(17) A license holder shall not use or participate in the use of any form of communication that contains false, fraudulent, deceptive, or unfair statements or claims.

(C) License holder and client interactions.

The license holder shall demonstrate concern for the well-being of the client. Failure to comply with paragraphs (C)(1) to (C)(17) of this rule may be grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to section 4755.11 of the Revised Code and in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

(1) A license holder shall adhere to the minimal standards of acceptable prevailing practice. Failure to adhere to minimal standards of practice, whether or not actual injury to a client occurred, includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Failing to assess and evaluate a client's status or establishing an occupational therapy intervention plan prior to commencing treatment/ intervention of a person.

(b) Providing treatment interventions that are not warranted by the client's condition or continuing treatment beyond the point of reasonable benefit to the client.

(c) Providing substandard care as an occupational therapy assistant by exceeding the authority to perform components of interventions selected by the supervising occupational therapist.

(d) Abandoning the client by inappropriately terminating the practitioner-client relationship.

(e) Causing, or permitting another person to cause, physical or emotional injury to the client, or depriving the client of the person's dignity.

(2) A license holder shall transfer the care of the client, as appropriate, to another health care provider in either of the following events:

(a) Elective termination of occupational therapy services by the client; or

(b) Elective termination of the practitioner-client relationship by the license holder.

(3) A license holder shall ensure the client's rights to participate fully in the client's care, including the client's right to select the occupational therapy provider, regardless of the practice setting.

AUTHENTICATED,
OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE
COMMISSION
DOCUMENT #542427

(4) A license holder shall respect the person's right to refuse professional services or involvement in research or educational activities.

(5) A license holder shall disclose any professional, personal, financial, business, research, or volunteer affiliations that may pose a conflict of interest to those with whom the license holder may establish a professional, contractual, or other working relationship.

(6) A license holder shall not influence a client or the client's family to utilize, purchase, or rent any equipment based on direct or indirect financial interests of the license holder. Recommendations of equipment shall be based solely on the therapeutic value of that equipment to the client. A license holder who owns or has a direct financial interest in an equipment or supply company shall disclose the financial interest to the client if the license holder sells or rents, or intends to sell or rent, to that client.

(7) A license holder shall not intentionally or knowingly offer to pay or agree to accept any compensation, directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly, in cash or in kind, to or from any person or entity for receiving or soliciting clients or patronage, regardless of the source of the compensation.

(8) A license holder shall refer to or consult with other service providers whenever such a referral or consultation would be beneficial to care of the client. The referral or consultation process should be done in collaboration with the client.

(9) A license holder shall not exploit a client, or the parent/guardian of a minor client, sexually, physically, emotionally, financially, socially, or in any other manner.

(10) A license holder shall not engage in conduct that constitutes harassment or verbal or physical abuse of, or unlawful discrimination against, clients, the parent/guardian of a minor client, students, and/or colleagues.

(11) A license holder shall not engage in any sexual relationship or conduct, including dating, with any client, or engage in any conduct that may reasonably be interpreted by the client to be sexual, whether consensual or nonconsensual, while a practitioner-client relationship exists and for six months immediately following the termination of the practitioner-client relationship. In the case of minors, the practitioner-client relationship extends to the minor's parent or guardian.

(a) A license holder shall not intentionally expose or view a completely or partially disrobed client in the course of treatment if the exposure or

AUTHENTICATED,
OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE
COMMISSION
DOCUMENT #542427

viewing is not related to the client diagnosis or treatment under current practice standards.

(b) A license holder shall not engage in a conversation with a client that is sexually explicit and unrelated to the occupational therapy intervention plan.

(12) A license holder shall not engage in sexual harassment of clients, the parent/guardian of a minor client, students, and/or colleagues. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, making unwelcome sexual advances, requesting sexual favors, and engaging in other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that results in:

(a) Withholding occupational therapy services to a client;

(b) Creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment; or

(c) Interfering with the client's ability to recover.

(13) A license holder shall advocate for clients to obtain needed services through available means.

(14) A license holder shall provide accurate and relevant information to clients about the clients' care and to the public about occupational therapy services.

(a) A license holder shall not guarantee the results of any therapy, consultation, or therapeutic procedure. A guarantee of any sort, expressed or implied, oral or written, is contrary to professional ethics.

(b) A reasonable statement of prognosis is not improper, but successful results are dependent upon many uncontrollable factors. Hence, any warranty is deceptive and unethical.

(15) A license holder shall obtain informed consent from the client.

(a) A license holder, unless otherwise allowed by law, shall not provide care without disclosing to the client or the client's representative, the benefits, substantial risks, if any, or alternatives to the recommended evaluation or intervention.

(b) Information relating to the practitioner-client relationship is confidential and may not be communicated to a third party not involved in that client's care without the prior written consent of the client or the client's representative

AUTHENTICATED,
OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE
COMMISSION
DOCUMENT #542427

or unless otherwise allowed by law. Information shall be disclosed when required by law for the protection of the client or the public.

(16) A license holder shall safeguard the public from underutilization or overutilization of occupational therapy services.

(17) A license holder shall respect the rights and dignity of all clients and provide care as follows:

(a) A license holder shall recognize individual differences with clients and shall respect and be responsive to those differences.

(b) A license holder shall be guided by concern for the physical, psychosocial, and socioeconomic welfare of clients.

(c) A license holder shall recognize and understand the impact of the cultural components of age, economics, gender, geography, race, ethnicity, religious and political factors, marital status, sexual orientation, and disability of all clients.

(D) Cooperation.

In accordance with division (A)(19) of section 4755.11 of the Revised Code, license holders shall cooperate with an investigation by the occupational therapy section. Failure to cooperate is conduct detrimental to the best interest of the public and grounds for disciplinary action. Cooperation includes responding fully and promptly to any questions raised by the occupational therapy section and providing copies of the medical records and other documents requested by the occupational therapy section. Failure to comply with paragraphs (D)(1) to (D)(7) of this rule may be grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to section 4755.11 of the Revised Code and in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

(1) A license holder shall respond fully and truthfully to a request for information from the occupational therapy section.

(2) A license holder shall comply with a subpoena issued by the occupational therapy section.

(3) A license holder shall provide information or documents within the time frame specified by the occupational therapy section.

(4) A license holder shall appear and provide information at an interview requested by the occupational therapy section.

AUTHENTICATED,
OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE
COMMISSION
DOCUMENT #542427

(5) A license holder shall not deceive, or attempt to deceive, the occupational therapy section regarding any matter, including by altering or destroying any record or document.

(6) A license holder shall not interfere with an investigation or disciplinary proceeding by willful misrepresentation of facts before the agency or the occupational therapy section, or by use of threats or harassment against any client or witness to prevent the client or witness from providing evidence in a disciplinary proceeding or any other legal action.

(7) A license holder shall not refuse to provide testimony in an administrative hearing.

(E) A license holder shall self report to the occupational therapy section, within thirty days, any of the items outlined in paragraphs (E)(1) to (E)(8) of this rule. Failure to comply with paragraphs (E)(1) to (E)(8) of this rule may be grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to section 4755.11 of the Revised Code and in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

(1) Impairment due to abuse of or dependency on alcohol or drugs or other physical or mental illness that affects the applicant's or license holder's ability to practice with reasonable skill and safety. This reporting requirement shall not be applicable where the applicant or license holder is a participant in the board's safe haven program and complies with the same.

(2) Conviction of a felony or intervention in lieu of a felony.

(3) Conviction of a misdemeanor when the act that constituted the misdemeanor occurred during the practice of occupational therapy.

(4) The termination, revocation, or suspension of membership by a state or national occupational therapy professional association.

(5) The termination, revocation, suspension, or sanctioning of a credential issued by a state or national professional credentialing organization.

(6) The termination, revocation, suspension, or sanctioning of a professional license in the state of Ohio or another state.

(7) A positive drug and/or alcohol screening.

(8) A finding of malpractice by a court of competent jurisdiction.