NORTH CAROLINA

BOARD OF RECREATIONAL THERAPY LICENSURE

21 North Carolina Administrative Code



21 NCAC 65 .0203 LICENSED RECREATIONAL THERAPIST STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

A Licensed Recreational Therapist must practice recreational therapy, also known as therapeutic recreation, in accordance with the most recent version of the ATRA Standards for the Practice of Therapeutic Recreation and Self-Assessment Guide published by the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) and any subsequent amendments or changes. A copy can be purchased from ATRA at: http://www.atra-tr.org.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90C-22(6); 90C-24(a)(3);

Eff. December 1, 2006.

21 NCAC 65 .0204 LICENSED RECREATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

Under the supervision of a Licensed Recreational Therapist, a Licensed Recreational Therapy Assistant must practice recreational therapy in accordance with the most recent version of the ATRA Standards for the Practice of Therapeutic Recreation and Self-Assessment Guide published by the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) and any subsequent amendments or changes. A copy can be purchased from ATRA at: http://www.atra-tr.org.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90C-22(6); 90C-24(a)(3);

Eff. December 1, 2006.

21 NCAC 65 .0205 SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED RECREATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

- (a) The Licensed Recreational Therapy Assistant (LRTA) must perform duties and functions under the clinical supervision of the Licensed Recreational Therapist (LRT). Once the LRT determines the LRTA has demonstrated competence to provide specific interventions, documentation, and to make recommendations for program modification, the LRTA shall practice as defined and described in the most recent version of ATRA Standards for the Practice of Therapeutic Recreation and Self-Assessment Guide.
- (b) Clinical supervision, as defined in the glossary of the ATRA Standards of Practice, must be performed in accordance with a written agency policy that includes, at minimum, the following elements:
 - (1) The Licensed Recreational Therapist must:
 - (A) Determine the recreational therapy treatment plan and the elements of that plan appropriate for delegation to a licensed recreational therapy assistant (LRTA);
 - (B) Determine whether licensed recreational therapy assistants acting under his or her supervision possess the competence to perform the delegated duties;
 - (C) Delegate responsibilities to the LRTA that are consistent with assessed competencies and within the overall LRTA scope of practice as defined and described in the most recent version of the ATRA Standards for the Practice of Therapeutic Recreation and Self-Assessment Guide;
 - (D) Review chart documentation, reexamine and reassess the patient or client and revise the recreational therapy treatment plan as warranted;
 - (E) Establish the recreational therapy discharge plan;
 - (F) Determine whether co-signature of chart documentation done by the LRTA is necessary for safe and effective care and treatment;
 - (G) Be immediately available directly or by telecommunication to the LRTA; and
 - (H) Be limited to clinically supervising only the number of LRTAs as is appropriate for providing safe and effective patient or client intervention at all times.

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- (2) A Licensed Recreational Therapy Assistant must:
 - (A) Assist in the practice of recreational therapy only to the extent allowed by the supervising LRT;
 - (B) Assist in the assessment of patient or client needs to the extent defined by the most recent version of the ATRA Standards for the Practice of Therapeutic Recreation and Self-Assessment Guide and described in written agency policy;
 - (C) Make modifications of the recreational therapy treatment programs that are consistent with the recreational therapy treatment plan and under the supervision of the LRT:
 - (D) Engage in off-site patient or client related functions that are appropriate for the LRTA's qualifications and assessed competency in consideration of the functional status of the patient or client; and
 - (E) Document care provided in accordance with written agency policy.
- (3) Prohibited Practice:
 - (A) A LRTA must not engage in practices of a LRT as defined and described in the most recent version of the ATRA Standards for the Practice of Therapeutic Recreation and Self-Assessment Guide and any subsequent changes and amendments. A copy can be purchased from ATRA at: http://www.atra-tr.org; and
 - (B) A LRTA must not engage in acts beyond the scope of practice delegated by the supervising LRT.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90C-22(3);

Temporary Adoption Eff. December 1, 2005;

Eff. January 1, 2007.

21 NCAC 65 .0301 MINIMUM LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND COMPETENCY FOR LICENSED RECREATIONAL THERAPIST

- (a) In accordance with the grandfathering provision, Section 4 of G.S.90C, these educational requirements do not apply to those currently certified by the North Carolina Therapeutic Recreation Certification Board who apply for licensure prior to January 15, 2008. For the purposes of G.S. 90C-27(a), a candidate for licensure as a recreational therapist must have graduated from an accredited college or university with a baccalaureate degree or higher and with a major or specialization in recreational therapy or therapeutic recreation. An academic major is defined as a degree in recreational therapy or therapeutic recreation and leisure studies, or recreation, or health and physical education, or health and human performance with a specialization, also known as an option, emphasis or concentration, in therapeutic recreation or recreational therapy. An accredited college or university is defined as a college or university accredited by an accreditation body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The academic major or specialization must be verified by an official transcript. An academic major or specialization is defined by the following components:
 - (1) Coursework for a degree or specialization in recreational therapy or therapeutic recreation must reflect a minimum of three courses (nine semester hours) and as of

December 31, 2007 four courses (12 semester hours) and as of July 1, 2010 five courses (15 semester hours) in which the title, course description and course outline reflects recreational therapy or therapeutic recreation content according to the current National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) Job Analysis Study published by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC), which is herein incorporated by reference, including any subsequent amendments and changes. A copy may be obtained at no cost on the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) website at: http://www.nctrc.org. For candidates for licensure who have passed the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) examination and were certified by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification prior to December 31, 2002, a therapeutic recreation or recreational therapy content course taught is considered the same as a therapeutic recreation or recreational therapy content course taken. (2) Supportive coursework are courses, not including the recreational therapy or therapeutic recreation content courses, which provide knowledge necessary to develop the ability to safely and effectively practice recreational therapy or therapeutic recreation and are required for the major or specialization in recreational therapy or therapeutic recreation.. Support content courses provide knowledge about human development, human functioning, health, health care and human services, illness and disabling conditions. Supportive coursework for a degree or specialization in recreational therapy or therapeutic recreation must include three semester hours of anatomy and physiology, three semester hours of abnormal psychology, three semester hours of human growth and development across the lifespan, and nine semester hours in the area of health and human services. Health and human services coursework may include content in the areas of education, ethics, and other supportive coursework related to the practice of recreational therapy.

In addition to the coursework required in (a) (1) and (2), a field placement course is also required for a major or specialization in therapeutic recreation or recreational therapy. A field placement course, sometimes called an internship course, is a course taken for college or university credit and shall require clinical education in an agency providing therapeutic recreation services to clients. The field placement or internship course must meet the criteria for a field placement set forth by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) in the July 2007 NCTRC Standards publication herein incorporated by reference including any subsequent changes. A copy of the NCTRC field placement requirements may be obtained at no cost on the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) website at: http://www.nctrc.org. A university supervisor of a field placement course is defined as the university faculty assigned to supervise the student and course from the university. An agency supervisor is

the recreational therapist or therapeutic recreation specialist, in an agency providing therapeutic recreation or recreational therapy services to patients or clients, assigned to provide clinical supervision to the field placement student from the agency. Supervisors of students completing field placements in North Carolina must be licensed by the North Carolina Board of Recreational Therapy Licensure (NC BRTL). Successful performance in a field placement course must be demonstrated to the NC BRTL. Successful performance in a field placement course is defined as a grade of D or Pass or higher awarded by the university field placement supervisor and an Overall Rating of "Achieves Performance Expectations" awarded by the agency supervisor on the performance appraisal form provided by the NC BRTL. The performance appraisal form includes the content and performance criteria from the ATRA Standards for Practice of Therapeutic Recreation and Self-Assessment Guide, Clinical Performance Appraisal Summary, which is herein incorporated by reference. A copy of the ATRA Standards for the Practice of Therapeutic Recreation and Self-Assessment Guide may be purchased from the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) at: http://www.atra-TR.org. Candidates for licensure, who have been continuously certified as a CTRSTM by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification since 1990 and have completed all recreational therapy or therapeutic recreation content courses, all support content course requirements, but have not completed an internship or field placement course shall be issued a license to practice as a recreational therapist if they verify a minimum of one year of successful work performance as a recreational therapist or therapeutic recreation specialist during which time they were a "Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist" by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification. Successful work performance must be verified to the North Carolina Board of Recreational Therapy Licensure (NC BRTL) on a performance appraisal form provided by the North Carolina Board of Recreational Therapy Licensure (NC BRTL) that includes the content and performance criteria from the ATRA Standards for the Practice of Therapeutic Recreation and Self-Assessment Guide, Clinical Performance Appraisal Summary, which is herein incorporated by reference. A copy of the ATRA Standards for the Practice of Therapeutic Recreation and Self-Assessment Guide may be purchased from the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) at: http://www.atra-TR.org. Successful performance is defined as an overall rating completed by the immediate supervisor of "Achieves Expectations" on the performance appraisal form provided by the North Carolina Board of Recreational Therapy Licensure.

(b) Candidates must submit evidence of a passing score on the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) examination. The passing score on the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification Examination is determined by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90C-27(a) (2)(3); G.S.90C-22(2)(i),(7),90C-24;

Adoption Date: December 1, 2006

Eff. October 1, 2007

21 NCAC 65 .0302 MINIMUM LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND COMPETENCY FOR LICENSED RECREATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS

- (a) For the purposes of G.S. 90C-27(b) an academic major is defined as an Associate of Applied Science Degree in therapeutic recreation or recreational therapy from a community college by an accrediting agency approved by the United States Department of Education.
- (b) Course work for an Associate degree must reflect the following:
 - (1) A minimum of nine semester hours in therapeutic recreation or recreational therapy content courses. January 15, 2008, nine hours in recreational therapy or therapeutic recreation content courses.
 - (2) Ten semester hours in therapeutic recreation or recreational therapy interventions;
 - (3) A minimum of 15 semester hours of supportive coursework including at least one course from three of the following areas: psychology, sociology, physical and biological science, human services and physical education courses. Beginning January 15, 2008, the degree requirements for supportive coursework must include a minimum of five semester hours of anatomy and physiology and three semester hours of abnormal psychology, three semester hours of growth and development the remaining four semester hours of supportive coursework must be in the areas of psychology, sociology, physical and biological science, human services and/or physical education;
 - (4) A course with a minimum 380 hour field placement experience in a clinical, residential, or community-based agency under the supervision of a Licensed Recreational Therapist or Licensed Recreational Therapy Assistant. The field placement must be a minimum of 12 consecutive weeks with each week including a minimum of 20 hours. Supervisors of field placements in North Carolina must be licensed by the North Carolina Board of Recreational Therapy Licensure (NC BRTL). Successful performance in a field placement course must be demonstrated to the NC BRTL. Successful performance in a field placement course is defined as a grade of D or pass or higher awarded by the

university field placement supervisor and an Overall Rating of "Achieves Performance Expectations" awarded by the agency supervisor on the performance appraisal form provided by the NC BRTL. The performance appraisal form includes the content and performance criteria from the ATRA Standards for Practice of Therapeutic Recreation and Self–Assessment Guide, Clinical Performance Appraisal Summary, which is herein incorporated by reference. A copy of the ATRA Standards for the Practice of Therapeutic Recreation and Self-Assessment Guide may be purchased from the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) at: http://www.atra-TR.org.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90C-27(b); 90C-24(a)(3); G.S.90C-22(2)(i),(7),

Adoption Date: December1, 2006 Effective date: October 1, 2007

SECTION .0400 - APPLICATION

21 NCAC 65 .0401 APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR LICENSED RECREATIONAL THERAPIST AND LICENSED RECREATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

- (a) An applicant for licensure may request, in writing or by website access, a current application package from the North Carolina Board of Recreational Therapy Licensure.
- (b) All materials must be postmarked by the application deadline, the 15th of each month, and posted on the Board website.
- (c) All items must be provided to constitute a full application package, including:
 - (1) A current head and shoulders color photograph of the applicant;
 - (2) The initial application for licensure fee as stated in Rule .0500 of this Chapter; and
 - (3) Official transcripts from each college or university attended.
- (d) The Board shall review each application to determine an applicant's eligibility for licensure as a Recreational Therapist or a Recreational Therapy Assistant. The Board shall notify the applicant in writing if the applicant is ineligible for licensure. The Board may require supplemental information to the application to determine the facts governing qualifications and competency of an applicant. The procedure for gathering such information may include an interview of the applicant by the Board.
- (e) The individual who is issued a license shall be issued a license number. Should that number be retired for any reason (such as death or failure to renew the license) that number shall not be re-issued.
- (f) A licensure card and certificate bearing the current name of the licensee, licensee number and the expiration date shall be issued to each person having an active license.
- (g) The Board shall mail any notices to a licensee at the last known address.
- (h) A license issued by the Board is the property of the Board and must be surrendered by the licensee to the Board upon demand according to these Rules.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90C-27(a)(2), (b)(2); 90C-24(a)(3); 90C-32;

Temporary Adoption Eff. December 1, 2005;

Eff. January 1, 2007.

SECTION .0500 - FEES

SECTION .0500 LICENSURE FEES

21 NCAC 65 .0501 LICENSURE FEES

- (a) A cashier's check, money order, certified check or an employer's check is acceptable for the initial application licensure fees.
- (b) Fees are nonrefundable and payable to the North Carolina Board of Recreational Therapy Licensure. Personal checks shall be accepted for payment of renewal fee and record maintenance fee. Processing fee for returned checks shall be the maximum allowed by law.
- (c) The Board shall collect the following fees:

(1)	Initial Application for Licensure Fee	
	(A) Licensed Recreational Therapist	(\$100.00)
	(B) Licensed Recreational Therapy Assistant	(\$ 50.00)
(2)	Licensure renewal fees (due every two years)	
	(A) Licensed Recreational Therapist	(\$ 75.00)
	(B) Licensed Recreational Therapy Assistant	(\$35.00)
(3)	Inactive status	(\$ 35.00)
(4)	Record Maintenance fee (due non-renewal yr)	
	(A) Licensed Recreational Therapist	(\$ 75.00)
	(B) Licensed Recreational Therapy Assistant	(\$35.00)
(5)	Purchase of mailing labels to promote continuing education	(\$ 50.00)

History Note: Authority G.S. 90C-24(a)(3); 90C-28; 90C-24 (a)(10)

Temporary Adoption Eff. December 6, 2005;

Eff. December 1, 2006.

Amended Eff. September1, 2009

SECTION 0600 - CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

21 NCAC 65 .0601 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSED RECREATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

- (a) During the two-year licensing period, a recreational therapist or recreational therapy assistant who is licensed by the North Carolina Board of Recreation Therapy Licensure shall complete continuing education as outlined below. Candidates for license renewal must complete a minimum of 20 hours of continuing education to renew the license. The renewal cycle is two years prior to licensee's expiration date, 20 hours or 2.0 CEUs must be earned within these two years.
- (b) Values shall be awarded as the follows:
 - 0.1 CEU (Continuing Education Unit) = one contact hour
 - 1.0 CEU (Continuing Education Unit) = ten hours
 - 2.0 CEUs = 20 Hours of Continuing Education every two years

Renewal Cycle is two years back from renewal due date

- (c) Content of continuing education must be consistent with the current standards listed in the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Council Job Analysis and any subsequent amendments or changes. A licensee shall acquire credit through professional service, continuing education courses, academic courses, and professional publications and presentations.
- (d) A licensee seeking renewal earning continuing education credit approved by the International Council on Continuing Education (IACET) shall include documentation in licensees' renewal application showing credit earned, content, the licensee's name and attendance dates. A licensee seeking renewal credit for sessions not approved by IACET, must send documentation to show name, content, attendance and amount

of credit earned. Documentation to support renewal credit earned for attending professional sessions shall be a transcript, certificate, letter from continuing education's provider's letter head or the licensee's employer's training log including the content, attendance dates, licensee's name and credit earned.

- (e) A licensee seeking renewal credits for academic courses: shall submit official transcript with course(s) and credit earned. One semester hour = 15 hours.
- (f) A licensee seeking renewal credits from professional publications and presentations shall earn no more than 10 hours in the area of professional publications and presentations. Credit shall not be given for repeat or multiple presentations of same seminar, publication, in-service, original paper or poster presentation during a renewal cycle. Credit shall be split equally between presenters. Documentation for publications shall be a copy of the title page, table of contents and publication date. Documentation for presentations shall be in the form of letter from sponsoring body stating the licensee's name, date, content and the length of presentation.
- (g) Values for publications and presentations are as follows:

(12)

(1)	Authoring and publishing printed editorials	one hour
(2)	Authoring and publishing peer reviewed articles on original research	six hours
(3)	Authoring and publishing professional newsletter article	one hour
(4)	Editing a textbook of original work	four hours
(5)	Authoring and publishing a textbook chapter of original work	six hours
(6)	Authoring and publishing a peer reviewed journal article of	
	professional practice	four hours
(7)	Authoring and publishing a journal reviews or book review	one hour
(8)	Presenting peer reviewed poster session	one hour
(9)	Authoring and publishing a research abstract	one hour
(10)	Authoring and publishing a textbook of original work	ten hours
(11)	Authoring unpublished masters or doctoral thesis	eight hours

- (h) Licensees seeking renewal credit for field-placement intern supervision shall be granted credit for no more than two field placement students during a renewal cycle for three hours credit per intern. Submission of the NCBRTL Clinical Appraisal and Reference Summary Form is accepted documentation. The NCBRTL Clinical Appraisal and Reference Summary Form can be found on the Board website, www.ncbrtl.org
- (g) Licensees shall attend the Board's Compliance and Ethics Training for four hours credit during their first year of licensure. Existing licensees may attend the Board's Compliance and Ethics training for four hours renewal credit.
- (h) Licensees seeking renewal credit submission for on-line training shall submit as proof of completion a certificate, letter or transcript as follows:
 - (1) documentation to show content of the session(s);
 - (2) documentation to show licensees' date of completion of the session;
 - (3) documentation to support amount of credit awarded; and

Presenting one hour at professional meetings

- (4) the website address of the sponsoring body.
- (i) Licensee seeking renewal credit for professional Recreational Therapy board member service shall be documented by letter of service from the professional board stating the dates served. One hour credit shall be given for one year's service. If the year's service crosses over the licensee's renewal cycle, credit can be used for next renewal cycle.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90C-2; 90C-24(a)(3); Temporary Adoption Eff. December 1, 2005; Eff. January 1, 2007; Amended Eff. May 1, 2013. two hours

21 NCAC 65 .0602 RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSED RECREATIONAL THERAPIST AND LICENSED RECREATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

- (a) Board staff shall send a renewal notice to a licensee 60 days prior to the expiration date at the licensees' last known preferred contact address unless a person has advised the Board that he or she does not intend to renew the license. It is the responsibility of the licensee to keep address current on the Board website, www.ncbrtl.org.
- (b) Licenses issued shall be subject to renewal every two years and include documentation to support completion of continuing education requirements as set forth in Rule .0601 of this Section.
- (c) Each licensee must complete and submit a renewal application package. All materials must be postmarked by the 15th of the licensees' birth month prior to the expiration date of the license. The renewal application package must be submitted to the Board accompanied by the proper fees, color photo and continuing education documentation.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90C-24(a)(3);

Eff. January 1, 2007;

Amended Eff. May 1, 2013; October 1, 2009.

21 NCAC 65 .0603 CHANGE OF ADDRESS REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSED RECREATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

Each licensee must notify the Board within 30 days of a change of name, work or home address. The licensee requesting a name change shall provide to the Board a copy of a current government issued identification and a copy of a marriage certificate, marriage license, divorce decree or evidence of legal change of name.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90C-2; 90C-24(a)(3); 90C-29;

Eff. January 1, 2007.

SECTION .0700 - REINSTATEMENT

21 NCAC 65 .0701 REINSTATEMENT OF LAPSED LICENSE

- (a) A recreational therapist or a recreational therapy assistant whose license has lapsed and who desires reinstatement of that license must:
 - (1) Complete a reinstatement licensure form provided by the Board;
 - (2) Submit evidence of satisfaction of all court conditions resulting from any misdemeanor or felony conviction(s) if applicable;
 - (3) Submit evidence of meeting education and competency requirements pursuant to Rule .0301 or Rule .0302 as applicable at the time of reinstatement;
 - (4) Submit evidence of meeting continuing education requirements in accordance with Rule .0601; and
 - (5) Submit payment of licensure fees.
- (b) Persons whose license is suspended for failure to renew, pursuant to G.S. 90C, must not practice recreational therapy and must not hold themselves out as licensed by the Board until they apply for and receive reinstatement of their license by the Board.
- (c) The Board shall inform the applicant in writing of the Board's decision within 30 days after the application deadline and the Board finds the complete application shows the requirements have been successfully meet.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90C-24(a)(3); 90C-30;

Eff. December 1, 2006.

SECTION .0800 - INACTIVE STATUS

21 NCAC 65 .0801 INACTIVE STATUS

- (a) While on the inactive list, an individual must not practice recreational therapy in North Carolina.
- (b) A Licensed Recreational Therapist or Licensed Recreational Therapy Assistant, who has been on the inactive status list for a period of one year or less, may convert to active status by:
 - (1) Submission of a reinstatement application to the Board;
 - (2) Completion of a minimum of 10 continuing education points, or the amount of points pro-rated to the amount of time inactive, as defined in Rule .0601 for license renewal for a Licensed Recreational Therapist or Licensed Recreational Therapy Assistant; and
 - (3) Payment of the current license renewal fee.
- (c) A Licensed Recreational Therapist or Licensed Recreational Therapy Assistant who has been on the inactive list for a period greater than one year may convert to active status by:
 - (1) Submission of a reinstatement application to the Board;
 - (2) Completion of a minimum of 10 continuing education points per year of inactive status, or the amount of points pro-rated to the amount of time inactive, as defined in Rule .0601 for license renewal;
 - (3) Payment of the current license renewal fee; and
 - (4) Successful completion of the examination of the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification for the Licensed Recreational Therapist.
- (d) Persons certified by the State of North Carolina as a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist or Therapeutic Recreation Assistant presently on the inactive status list when this Rule takes effect will be notified of the rule change at their last known address.
- (e) Persons listed as Inactive Status by the State of North Carolina Therapeutic Recreation Certification Board have until January 15, 2008 to apply for licensure through the exemption clause.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90C-24(a)(3); 90C-31; Eff. December 1, 2006.

SECTION .0900 - RECIPROCITY

21 NCAC 65 .0901 ENDORSEMENT

- (a) The applicant for licensure by endorsement must make application to and be evaluated by the Board in accordance to the procedures outlined in the requirements for licensure.
- (b) The application package shall be accompanied by:
 - (1) One current head and shoulders color photograph of the applicant identification;
 - (2) Official college transcripts;
 - (3) Verification of current state licensure;
 - (4) Verification of successful passage of the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification Therapeutic Recreation Exam; and
 - (5) Licensure Fees stated in Rule .0500.
- (c) The Board shall issue a license to practice as a licensed recreational therapist or a licensed recreational therapy assistant to any applicant who:
 - (1) Meets all licensure requirements, and
 - (2) Is currently licensed as a recreational therapist by a state with requirements substantially equivalent to the North Carolina Board of Recreational Therapy Licensure requirements at the time of application.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90C-24(a)(3); 90C-33; Eff. December 1, 2006.

SECTION .1000 - REVOCATION, SUSPENSION OR DENIAL OF LICENSURE

21 NCAC 65 .1001 INVESTIGATIONS OF SUSPECTED VIOLATIONS AND COMPLAINTS

- (a) It is the policy of the Board to investigate reports of suspected malpractice, violations of Chapter 90C, complaints, reports of discipline by an employer and sanctions imposed by a credentialing organization or a professional association to protect the health, safety and welfare of recreational therapy consumers.
- (b) The Board may require information from the licensee regarding any disciplinary action taken by an employer or any sanctions issued to the licensee by a credentialing board or by a professional association. If this information indicates suspected malpractice or ethical violations the Board will investigate the matter in the same manner as a complaint and may, if the facts indicate that malpractice or ethical violation has occurred, issue sanctions or otherwise discipline the licensee.
- (c) A complaint regarding a violation of the G.S. 90C or Rules and Regulations must be submitted in writing and must document:
 - (1) The name of the licensee or other person involved;
 - (2) A description of the alleged behavior or incident; and
 - (3) The name, mailing address, email address and phone number of the person filing the complaint.
- (d) An incomplete complaint may be corrected and resubmitted.
- (e) Action on a complaint, a report of a suspected violation of any provision of Chapter 90C, or a report of discipline by an employer or sanction by a credentialing organization or a professional association consists of the following:
 - (1) The Board shall receive and acknowledge complaints, open a file and initiate complaint tracking.
 - (2) Complaints will be screened to determine jurisdiction and the type of response appropriate for the complaint.
 - (3) Investigation:
 - (A) If the facts do not clearly indicate a Chapter 90C violation, and the complaint can be handled without an investigation, the Board shall request that the licensee cease conduct that could result in a violation.
 - (B) If the facts clearly indicate a Chapter 90C violation, the Board shall initiate an investigation. The Board may utilize additional personnel such as licensees, law enforcement officials, or other technical personnel that may be required in a particular case. If a Board member is utilized in the investigation, care must be taken to observe due process by separating (1) investigation, (2) prosecution, and (3) hearings and final decision-making. No Board member shall participate in more than one of these three steps in the enforcement process.
 - (C) A confidential report of each investigation shall be prepared for the Board's review.
 - (4) Formal and Informal Hearings:
 - (A) The Board, after review of an investigative file, may schedule an informal meeting.
 - (B) If the matter cannot be resolved informally, then a formal hearing shall be held.
 - (C) Members of the Board shall not have communication with parties outside of the hearing about the case.
 - (5) Final Orders: As soon as possible, but at least within 60 days, the Board will issue its final decision in writing specifying the date on which it will take effect. The Board will serve one copy of the decision to each party to the hearing.
 - (6) Compliance: The Board Chair will initiate a follow-up inquiry to determine that the orders of the Board are being obeyed.
 - (7) Formal hearings shall be conducted in accordance with G.S. 150B-38 et seq

- (f) The following disciplinary sanctions regarding recreational therapists and recreational therapy assistants may, among others, be utilized by the Board:
 - (1) Denial of Application;
 - (2) Letter of Reprimand;
 - (3) Required remedial education;
 - (4) Probation;
 - (5) Suspension of license;
 - (6) Refusal of License Renewal;
 - (7) Revocation of license;
 - (8) Injunction.
- (g) The Board may request information from professional associations, professional review organizations, hospitals, clinics or other institutions in which a licensee performs professional services, on possible chemical abuse, or incompetent or unethical behavior.
- (h) The Board will provide notice of sanction taken by it to other public entities as necessary to ensure that other state boards, enforcement authorities, and accrediting agencies receive the names of licensees disciplined.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90-24(8); 90C-32; 90C-24(a)(3);

Temporary Adoption Eff. December 1, 2005;

Eff. January 1, 2007.