

Occupational Authorizations

Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy

Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy**PHYSICAL THERAPIST (PT)**

Authorization Type:	Licensure	# of Individuals Regulated:	2853
Entity Division Name:	Department of Health Division of Health Related Boards and Commissions		
Scope of Practice:	17-93-101. Short title.		

This chapter shall be cited as the "Arkansas Physical Therapy Act".

17-93-102. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1)(A) "Consultation by means of telecommunication" means the rendering of a professional opinion, expert opinion, or advice by a physical therapist to another physical therapist or health care provider through telecommunication technology.

(B) "Consultation by means of telecommunication" includes the review or transfer of patient records or related information through telecommunication technology;

(2) "Direct supervision" means that the supervising therapist is on-site and available for consultation;

(3) "Physical therapist" means a person who practices physical therapy as defined in this chapter after he or she has:

(A) Successfully completed a curriculum of physical therapy accredited by a national accreditation agency approved by the Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy; and

(B) Passed a nationally recognized licensing examination;

(4) "Physical therapist assistant" means a person who is licensed under this chapter and who assists the physical therapist in selected components of the physical therapy treatment intervention;

(5) "Physical therapy" means the care and services provided by or under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist who is licensed under this chapter;

(6) "Physical therapy aide" means an unlicensed member of the physical therapy team who may perform treatments under the direct supervision of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant;

(7) "Practice of physical therapy" means:

(A) Examining and evaluating patients with mechanical, physiological, and developmental impairments, functional limitations, and disability or other health-related conditions in order to determine a physical therapy diagnosis, prognosis, and planned therapeutic intervention;

(B)(i) Alleviating impairments and functional limitations by designing, implementing, and modifying therapeutic interventions that include:

(a) Therapeutic exercise;

(b) Functional training in self-care as it relates to patient mobility and community access;

(c) Manual therapy techniques, including soft tissue massage, manual traction, connective tissue massage, therapeutic massage, and mobilization, i.e., passive movement accomplished within normal

PHYSICAL THERAPIST (PT) (Continued)

range of motion of the joint, but excluding spinal manipulation and adjustment;

(d) Assistive and adaptive devices and equipment as they relate to patient mobility and community access;

(e) Physical agents;

(f) Mechanical and electrotherapeutic modalities; and

(g) Patient-related instruction.

(ii) The therapeutic intervention of bronchopulmonary hygiene and debridement of wounds require a physician referral before initiation of treatment.

(iii) Physical therapy does not include radiology or electrosurgery;

(C) Preventing injury, impairments, functional limitations, and disability, including the promotion and maintenance of fitness, health, and quality of life in all age populations; and

(D) Engaging in consultation, testing, education, and research;

Statutory Requirement(s): 17-93-101. Short title.

This chapter shall be cited as the "Arkansas Physical Therapy Act".

A.C.R.C. Notes. Acts 2009, No. 1471, § 1, provided: "Legislative Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to protect the public health, safety, and welfare and provide for state administrative control, supervision, licensure, and regulation of the practice of physical therapy. It is the intent of the General Assembly that only individuals who meet and maintain prescribed standards of competence and conduct may engage in the practice of physical therapy as authorized by this chapter. This act shall be liberally construed to promote the public interest and to accomplish the purpose stated herein."

Subchapter 3 – Licensing

17-93-301. License required – Exceptions.

(a)(1) Unless physical therapy services are provided by or under the direction of a person licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy under this chapter, it is unlawful for a person to:

(A) Practice physical therapy;

(B) Profess to be a physical therapist, physiotherapist, or physical therapy technician; or

(C) Use:

(i) The words "physical therapy", "physical therapist", "physiotherapist", "registered physical therapist", or "doctor of physical therapy";

(ii) The initials "P.T.", "D.P.T.", "L.P.T.", or "R.P.T."; or

(iii) Other letters, words, abbreviations, or insignia indicating or implying that the person is providing physical therapy services.

(2) A person or entity shall not advertise or otherwise promote a person as being a physical therapist or physiotherapist unless the person being advertised or promoted is licensed under this chapter.

(3) A person or entity that offers, provides, or bills an individual for services shall not characterize the services provided as physical therapy unless the person performing the services is licensed as a physical therapist under this chapter.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST (PT) (Continued)

(b) A person shall not use the title “physical therapist assistant”, the letters “P.T.A.”, or any other words, abbreviations, or insignia in connection with the person’s name to indicate or imply that the person is a physical therapist assistant unless the person is licensed as a physical therapist assistant under this chapter.

Pursuant to Arkansas Code §17-4-104, do you provide an automatic licensure to a uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas, a uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; and the spouse of a uniformed service member who is stationed in, resides in, or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; a uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member’s spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and a uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state?

No

If NO, the rule establishing the expedited process and procedure:

- [Rule for Expedited Process and Procedure for Military Service Member or Spouse](#)

Fees & Penalties			
Fee Type	Fee Description	Amount (\$)	Frequency
Fee	Licensure by Exam	\$3.00	Once
Fee	Licensure by Reciprocity	\$5.00	Once
Fee	License Renewal	\$4.00	Annually
Penalty	Late Renewal Fee	\$100.00	Once
Fee	Jurisprudence Exam	\$10.00	Biennially
Fee	Reinstatement Fee	\$75.00	Once

Administrative Rules Documents	
Document Type	Document
Rules	AR_Physical_Therapy_Telehealth_Rule.pdf
Rules	Rule_-_ASBPT_2023.pdf

Supporting Evidence Documents

No Supporting Evidence Documents Provided

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT (PTA)

Authorization Type: Licensure # of Individuals Regulated:

1810

Entity Division Name: Department of Health Division of Health Related Boards and Commissions

Scope of Practice:
17-93-101. Short title.

This chapter shall be cited as the "Arkansas Physical Therapy Act".

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17-93-102. Definitions.

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PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT (PTA) (Continued)

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PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT (PTA) (Continued)

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Fee	License Renewal	\$2.00	Annually
Penalty	License Renewal Late Fee	\$100.00	Annually
Fee	Jurisprudence Exam	\$10.00	Biennially
Fee	Reinstatement Fee	\$50.00	Once
Administrative Rules Documents			
Document Type	Document		
Rules	Rule - ASBPT 2023.pdf		

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT (PTA) (Continued)

Document Type	Document
Rules	AR_Physical_Therapy_Telehealth_Rule.pdf

Supporting Evidence Documents

No Supporting Evidence Documents Provided

ALC – Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee
Occupational Entity Questionnaire
ADH - Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy

Responses to the following questions are due via email to Subcommittee staff no later than the 15th of the month immediately preceding the month the occupational authorization is scheduled for review by the Subcommittee.

1. Would consumers be at risk of substantial harm if Arkansas did not have this occupational authorization? What instances of specific and substantial harm have been documented in the past year? **The Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy was established by the Legislature in 1991 to protect the interests of the citizens of Arkansas. A.C.R.C. Notes. Acts 2009, No. 1471, §1 provided: Legislative Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to protect the public health, safety, and welfare and provide for state administrative control, supervision, licensure, and regulation of the practice of physical therapy. It is the intent of the General Assembly that only individuals who meet and maintain prescribed standards of competence and conduct may engage in the practice of physical therapy as authorized by this chapter. This act shall be liberally construed to promote the public interest and to accomplish the purpose stated herein.” Licensure and oversight by a licensing agency helps to ensure that consumers receive proper physical therapy. There has been no harm documented by the ASBPT in the past year.**
2. How many complaints were made to the occupational entity by consumers being harmed by unauthorized practitioners? What specific action was taken by the occupational entity? **In FY2025, the Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy did not receive any complaints regarding unauthorized practitioners.**
3. How many complaints were made to the occupational entity by consumers being harmed by authorized practitioners? What specific action was taken by the occupational entity? **There was one complaint in FY25 regarding a patient falling. There was no evidence that the physical therapist caused or could have prevented the fall.**
4. Were any applicants who otherwise met authorization requirements denied an authorization in the past year? If so, why? **No**

ALC – Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee

Occupational Entity Questionnaire

5. How much does the occupational entity collect annually in fees, and what are annual expenses? How much money does the occupational entity have in reserves? **The Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy (ASBPT) collects licensing renewal fees annually and application fees. The ASBPT collected in FY2025 from licensing fees and penalties 66,415.63 plus 43,693.60 in interest. Annual expenses are salaries, office supplies, office equipment, website maintenance and court reporters. FY25 annual expenses totaled \$369,417.07, which included a \$200,000.00 scholarship. The ASBPT had \$1,168,411.75 in the fund balance as of June 30, 2025.**
6. If the occupational entity has a positive amount in reserves, when was the last time reserve funds were used? For what purpose? **The Board's funds are used for pay plan requests. Funds are used for salaries, office supplies, office equipment, website maintenance, court reporters and investigators when needed. A \$200,000.00 scholarship for Arkansas students is also provided by the ASBPT.**
7. Does the occupational entity have any other sources of revenue? Could occupational authorization fees be reduced without causing the occupational entity to be underfunded? **Application fees, renewal fees, examination fees, and fines fund the Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy. Application fees and renewal fees were previously reduced by 95% to comply with Act 114 of 2023 that stipulates the board maintains a three-year average of its operating expenses other than occasional pay plan requests.**
8. How many applicants for the occupational authorization fail each year? Does the occupational entity track how many applicants that do not progress are veterans, women, or minorities? **Applicants for physical therapist and physical therapist assistant licensure are required to pass the National Physical Therapy Exam. The first time pass rate for a physical therapist is 86% and the first time pass rate for a physical therapist assistant is 76%. There is a six-time limit. The ASBPT does not collect demographic data on applicants that were unsuccessful that were veterans, women, or minorities.**
9. Can applicants complete the training requirements for this occupational authorization with vocational or non-traditional education (e.g., apprenticeships)? What percentage of applicants complete apprenticeships? **There is not an apprenticeship program in**

ALC – Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee

Occupational Entity Questionnaire

Arkansas and to the Board's knowledge there is not an apprenticeship program in other states. This type of health care is taught through a traditional classroom. The requirement is for the school to be credited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) if it is in the United States.

10. In what ways would removal of the occupational authorization or reduction of occupational authorization requirements be harmful to current authorization holders?

If physical therapists and physical therapist assistants were not required to be licensed, the public would face risks. Licensure ensures the healthcare workers have the essential knowledge, skills, and ethical training to deliver safe care.

Licensure oversight also enforces accountability. It provides a regulatory system that investigates misconduct, discipline to unsafe practitioners, and protects patients from repeat harm. Removing licensure would increase errors, reduce quality of care, and erode the public trust in the healthcare system.