

**WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
NATALIE E. TENNANT  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

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2009 MAY 15 AM 11:29

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

Form #6

**NOTICE OF FINAL FILING AND ADOPTION OF A LEGISLATIVE RULE AUTHORIZED  
BY THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

AGENCY: West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy TITLE NUMBER: 16

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES  NO

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Series 1

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: General Provisions

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

THE ABOVE RULE HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

AUTHORIZATION IS CITED IN (house or senate bill number) H.B. 2819

SECTION 64-9-8, PASSED ON April 10, 2009

THIS RULE IS FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THIS RULE BECOMES EFFECTIVE ON THE  
FOLLOWING DATE: May 15, 2009

Lesleigh B. Sprance, PT, DPT  
Authorized Signature

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OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

TITLE 16  
LEGISLATIVE RULE  
WV BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPIST

SERIES 1  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

**§16-1-1. General.**

1.1. Scope. -- This legislative rule describes and defines requirements for licensure as well as nature of practice for Physical Therapists, Physical Therapist Assistants and support personnel.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §30-20-1, et. seq.

1.3. Filing Date. -- May 15, 2009.

1.4. Effective Date. -- May 15, 2009.

1.5. Amendment -- This Rule amends Title 16, Series 1, which was repealed and replaced effective June 1, 2000.

**§16-1-2. Definitions.**

The following words and phrases as used in these rules shall have the following meanings, unless the context otherwise requires:

2.1. "Board" means the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy.

2.2. "Physical Therapist", means a person who meets all the requirements under W. Va. Code §30-20-1, et. seq., and this Rule and is licensed to practice Physical Therapy by the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy. An individual who possesses a temporary permit issued by the Board to practice Physical Therapy is not fully licensed to practice Physical Therapy, and as such is subject to the conditions set forth in W. Va. Code §30-20-9 (a) and Section 7 of this Rule.

2.3. "Physical Therapist Assistant" means a

person who meets all the requirements under W. Va. Code §30-20-1, et. seq. and this Rule and is licensed to practice by the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy. The Physical Therapist Assistant performs Physical Therapy procedures and related tasks that have been selected and delegated only by the supervising Physical Therapist. An individual who possesses a temporary permit as a Physical Therapist Assistant is not fully licensed to practice as a Physical Therapist Assistant, and as such is subject to the conditions set forth in W. Va. Code §30-20-9(b)(1) and (2) and its accompanying Rules and Regulations.

2.4. "Physical Therapy Aide" means a person, other than a physical therapy assistant, who assists a licensed physical therapist in the practice of physical therapy under the direct supervision of such licensed physical therapists and who also performs activities supportive of but not involving assistance in the practice of physical therapy.

2.5 "On-site supervision" means the supervising physical therapist is continuously on-site and present in the building where services are provided, is immediately available to the person being supervised, and maintains continued involvement in appropriate aspects of each treatment session.

**§16-1-3. Applications.**

3.1. The applicant must complete the application form provided by the Board and supply the following:

- a. Personal information;
- b. Educational information;

c. History of previous work experience, if applicable;

d. License verification (s) from other State Licensing Boards that regulate Physical Therapy in their respective States.

e. Written responses to questions regarding criminal offenses;

f. Written responses to questions regarding child support obligations;

g. Name and address of prospective employer in West Virginia if known;

h. Photo identification; and

i. Applicable fee (s).

**§16-1-4. Scores.**

4.1. The applicant must take the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) and obtain a passing score as determined by the Board.

**§16-1-5. Issuance, Renewal or Reinstatement of License.**

5.1. The Board reserves the right to evaluate the applicant according to the testing, licensure, and procedural requirements as initiated by the agency responsible for the ownership and development of the National exam.

5.2. Licenses expiring on December 31, of each particular year must be renewed by payment of applicable fee along with completed renewal application.

5.3. All licensees desiring to remain "active" and in good standing must complete ten contact hours of continuing education per calendar year.

5.4. A license not renewed with no specific request to place it in "inactive" status will automatically "lapse".

**§16-1-6. Temporary Permit for Physical**

**Therapists.**

6.1. An individual possessing a temporary permit issued by the Board to practice Physical Therapy in the State of West Virginia shall practice under the on-site supervision of a Physical Therapist. All progress notes written by the Physical Therapist with a temporary permit shall be cosigned by a Physical Therapist supervisor within twenty-four (24) hours.

6.2. A temporary permit may be issued in the following instances only to individuals who have met the eligibility criteria set forth in W. Va. Code §30-20-6, and who have submitted proper application and identification as determined by the Board:

a. Pending examinations, to any Physical Therapist applicant who is a new graduate of a program approved by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). The temporary permit is valid for a period of ninety (90) consecutive days and the permit may not be renewed.

b. To a person who possesses an unencumbered license in another state or territory or possession of the United States and who is a graduate of a program approved by CAPTE, the temporary permit is valid only for a period of ninety (90) consecutive days and the permit may not be renewed.

**§16-1-7. Temporary Permits for Physical Therapy Assistants.**

7.1. Upon proper application and identification as determined by the Board, and the payment of the applicable nonrefundable fee, the Board may issue, without examination, a temporary permit to act as a Physical Therapy Assistant in this State.

7.2. While the Physical Therapist Assistant is practicing under a temporary permit, a Physical Therapist must provide on-site supervision. All progress notes written by the Physical Therapist Assistant with a temporary permit shall be

cosigned by a Physical Therapist supervisor within twenty-four (24) hours.

7.3. A temporary permit may be issued:

a. Pending examinations, to any Physical Therapist Assistant who meets the requirements of W Va. Code §30-20-6 (b)(1) and (2). The temporary permit is valid for a period of ninety (90) consecutive days and the permit may not be renewed; or,

b. To a person who possesses an unencumbered license in another jurisdiction and who is a graduate of a program approved by CAPTE. The temporary permit is valid only for a period of ninety (90) consecutive days and the permit may not be renewed.

#### **§16-1-8. Nature of Practice for Physical Therapists.**

8.1. A physical therapist may perform the following:

a. Examining, evaluating and testing individuals with mechanical, physiological and developmental impairments, functional limitations, and disability or other health and movement related conditions in order to determine a diagnosis, prognosis, plan of therapeutic intervention, and to access the ongoing effects of intervention.

b. Alleviating impairments and functional limitations by designing, implementing, and modifying therapeutic interventions that include, but are not limited to therapeutic exercise; functional training in self care and in home, community or work reintegration; manual therapy including soft tissue and joint mobilization and other manual therapy techniques; therapeutic massage; assistive and adaptive orthotic, prosthetic, protective and supportive devices and equipment; bronchopulmonary hygiene, debridement and wound care; physical agents or modalities; mechanical and electrotherapeutic modalities; and patient-related instruction.

c. Reducing the risk of injury, impairment, functional limitation and disability, including the promotion and maintenance of fitness, health and quality of life in all age populations.

d. Engaging in administration, consultation, education and research.

#### **§16-1-9. Supervision of a Physical Therapist Assistant.**

9.1. Supervision requirements of a Physical Therapist Assistant depend upon the practice setting in which the care is delivered:

a. When care is delivered in a hospital or other acute-care center, free-standing, or independent practice setting, a Physical Therapist must provide on-site supervision.

b. When care is delivered in a skilled/unskilled nursing facility, distinct part skilled/unskilled nursing unit or swing-bed unit in an acute-care hospital, home health, or school system setting, the following requirements must be observed and documented in the patient records:

(1) A Physical Therapist must be accessible by telecommunications to the Physical Therapist Assistant at all times that the Physical Therapist Assistant is treating patients; and available to make a site visit jointly with the Physical Therapist Assistant within twenty-four (24) hours as prudent practice indicates.

(2) A joint visit by the Physical Therapist and the Physical Therapist Assistant must be made on the Physical Therapist Assistant's first visit to the patient.

(3) At least once every ten (10) Physical Therapist Assistant visits, or within twenty-one (21) calendar days, whichever occurs first, there must be a joint on-site visit by the licensed Physical Therapist Assistant and the licensed Physical Therapist. In the event that the supervising Physical Therapist changes, then that

Physical Therapist must evaluate the patient with the Physical Therapist Assistant before the next Physical Therapist Assistant visit is made.

c. In all practice settings, the following are required:

(1) An initial visit must be made by a Physical Therapist for evaluation of the patient and establishment of a plan of care.

(2) The Physical Therapist must make the final visit to terminate the plan of care.

(3) No more than two (2) persons, Physical Therapist Assistants, Physical Therapist Assistants holding a temporary permit, foreign-educated Physical Therapists, or physical therapy aides, or any combination thereof, can be supervised by a Physical Therapist at any one time.

9.2. When the Physical Therapist and the Physical Therapist Assistant are not within the same physical setting, the performance of the delegated functions by the Physical Therapist Assistant must be consistent with safe and legal Physical Therapy practice as set forth in W. Va. Code §30-20-1, et. seq., accompanying Legislative Rules and Regulations, and established policies of the Board. Said performance shall be predicated on the following factors:

a. Complexity and activity of the patient's needs;

b. Proximity and accessibility to the Physical Therapist;

c. Supervision available in the event of emergencies or critical events; and

d. Type of setting in which the service is rendered.

9.3. The Physical Therapist Assistant shall not perform the following Physical Therapy activities:

a. Interpretation of referrals;

b. Physical Therapy initial evaluation and re-evaluation;

c. Identification, determination, or modification of plans of care (including goals and treatment programs);

d. Final discharge assessment/evaluation or establishment of the discharge plan; or

e. Therapeutic techniques beyond the education, skill and knowledge of the Physical Therapist Assistant.

#### **§16-1-10. Licensing Individuals Outside the United States.**

10.1. A Physical Therapist candidate for licensure in West Virginia who was educated outside of the United States must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for licensure by the Board:

a. Credentials:

1. The foreign-educated applicant must present a certificate issued by a Board approved prescreening certification agency.

b. Education.

1. The applicant is to be a Physical Therapy graduate of a foreign institution of higher learning with at least the equivalent of a B. S. Degree in Physical Therapy as determined by the Board.

2. Equivalent education is to be reported to the Board through a Board approved credentialing agency.

c. English Proficiency:

1. Unless the native language is English, the applicant must demonstrate proficiency in English by passing the Test of English as a Foreign Language iBT (TOEFL iBT),

and the Test of Spoken English (TSE) and the Test of Written English (TWE) with passing scores as determined by the Board.

11.2. Applicants shall pay to the Board the fees established and authorized by statute.

**§16-1-11. Fees.**

11.1. The West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy is an autonomous State Licensing Board Agency and as such receives no monies from the State's general revenue fund; nor does it receive any Federal money. All money necessary to efficiently staff and equip a public office must be generated by services performed by the Board in behalf of its licensees or other interested parties.

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- a. Physical Therapist Application ..... \$ 25.00
- b. Physical Therapist License ..... \$220.00
- c. Physical Therapist Temporary Permit ..... \$ 35.00
- d. Physical Therapist Biennial Renewal ..... \$120.00
- e. Physical Therapist Lapsed License ..... \$250.00
- f. Physical Therapist Assistant Application ..... \$ 25.00
- g. Physical Therapist Assistant License ..... \$ 140.00
- h. Physical Therapist Assistant Temporary Permit ..... \$ 20.00
- i. Physical Therapist Assistant Biennial Renewal ..... \$ 80.00
- j. Physical Therapist Assistant Lapsed License ..... \$170.00
- k. Permanent License Verification ..... \$ 25.00
- l. Duplicate Wallet Card/License ..... \$ 5.00
- m. Duplicate Wall Certificate ..... \$15.00
- n. Name Change Requiring New Card/License  
(Outside of Renewal Season) ..... \$5.00
- o. Exam Processing Fee ..... \$25.00
- p. Mailing List/Directory
  - 1. Label-ready List ..... Rate @ 10 cents/name and address
  - 2. Hard-copy Directory ..... Rate @ 15 cents/name and address
  - 3. Labels ..... Rate @ 30 cents/name and address
- q. Continuing Education Course Review ..... \$50.00
- r. All fees not paid by the due date shall be assessed a penalty to be determined by the Board not to exceed 25% of the original fee required.



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
CHARLESTON 25305

DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR.  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

(304) 558-2021  
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May 15, 2009

**By Hand Delivery**

The Honorable Natalie E. Tennant  
West Virginia Secretary of State  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
State Capitol Complex, Suite 157K  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

RE: Final Filing—Title 16, Series 1

Dear Secretary Tennant:

On behalf of the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy whom I represent, I have attached a completed Form #6 for Final Filing of a legislative rule. I have also attached a clean copy of the rule itself with no strike-throughs nor underlines along with a disk containing the same. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or the Board Chair, Lesleigh Sprouse. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
KATHERINE A. CAMPBELL  
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attachments

cc: Lesleigh B. Sprouse, Board Chair  
Frankie Cayton, Executive Director, WV Board of Physical Therapy