

TENNESSEE SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT BOARD

Approved Treatment Provider Qualifications

In order to be “approved” to provide sex offender treatment and/or assessments (TSOTB Approved Provider/Evaluator), the following conditions/qualifications must be met:

A. Education

1. All Approved Providers should hold a master’s or doctoral degree in social work, psychology, counseling, or marriage and family from a regionally accredited university; or
2. Hold a degree of doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathic medicine from an institution that is approved by an accrediting agency recognized by the Tennessee Board of Medicine.

B. Licensure

1. You must hold a current Tennessee license from the Health Related Board in Medicine, Nursing, Psychology, Social Work, Professional Counseling, Marriage and Family, and/or Substance Abuse.
2. You are licensed in another state and are pending a license from the Tennessee Health Related Board in the above mentioned areas.
3. Persons who are not licensed to practice independently are not eligible for approval status.

The TSOTB approved sex offender treatment as defined in T.C.A. 39-13-709 is considered “counseling, psychological services, treatment, etc.” and individuals who perform these services shall have appropriate licensure from the Health Related Board. Being approved by the Tennessee Sex Offender Treatment Board does not permit a provider to “practice” or “perform services” that he/she is not licensed to perform. All services provided by an “approved provider” must be within the limits of their license.

C. Standards of Competence for Sex Offender Treatment Providers

1. The TSOTB standard of provider competence, generally, is the standard that is set forth in ethics guidelines concerning practice. The Provider is to employ only those “skills, techniques in which [he or she has] education, training, and experience.”

a. Education and Training

The Provider has at least 50 hours of specialized sex offender training with a minimum of 10 hours in the following areas:

- a. Etiology; developmental issues of sex offender behavior
- b. Sex offender assessment
- c. Sex offender treatment interventions
- d. Program development, evaluation, and treatment efficacy
- e. Community Safety and issues related to recidivism

b. Experience

1. The Provider has 2,000 hours of supervised clinical experience post-licensure in the field of sex offender treatment. Clinical experience is defined as participation in professional training, work, research, writings, etc. related to the field of sex offender treatment. The supervisor must have relevant experience and background in the treatment of sex offenders. (auditing may be required as needed.) **Hours received pre-licensure while working with a TSOTB Approved Provider may be used to satisfy the 2,000 hour requirement as long as the Board has approved such arrangement and the Approved Provider's clinical license allows for supervision of candidates seeking licensure.
 2. The Provider has a Clinical Master's Degree or Higher.
 3. For sex offender assessment work, the Provider has a minimum of 250 hours of supervised clinical experience specifically in completing sex offender risk assessments.
 4. The Provider has a minimum of 100 hours face to face Supervision, from a qualified clinical supervisor, within the prerequisite 2000 hours clinical experience. Group or peer supervision time dedicated to case presentations may constitute up to 50 hours face to face supervision.
2. All Providers with 2,000 hours clinical experience in the field of sex offender treatment (250 hours in risk assessment) are exempt from supervision (other than peer supervision). The Provider may use any clinical contacts; clinical staffing, research, writing, etc. related to the field of sex offender treatment received any time during his or her professional development (practicum, field placement, internship, work, etc.)

Applications for providers seeking to be approved by the TSOTB are taken within 60 days of completing the new provider training. For those who are seeking reciprocity licensure in TN with sex offender treatment provider credentials in their licensing state, applications may be presented throughout the year.

*****revised February 25, 2022*****