

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. Continuing Education and Training

1. The Provider has at least 50 hours of specialized sex offender training of which a minimum of 10 hours of training are 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

2. Providers seeking TSOTB approval for the first time will attend the plenary session of the annual TSOTB training program.

3. Currently approved providers will attend one day of the annual TSOTB training program.

4. Currently approved evaluators will attend the annual TSOTB evaluator training.

5. This policy allows for providers to request an exception to the mandatory attendance requirement within 30 days of the annual TSOTB training program.

6. Providers who are unable to attend the annual TSOTB sponsored training program may request leave of the Board to substitute other, comparable training in lieu of attendance to the SOTB program. A request shall include:
 - a. The provider's request for an exception.
 - b. Upon completion of an alternative program, documentation of such training, including:
 1. the name of the conference or training program attended, and;
 2. the names of the workshops/seminars attended and who presented.

7. A training program that the Provider is requesting to be substituted for attending the Board sponsored training must occur within the same calendar year, or within the first sixty days of the following calendar year.
 - a. Requests for exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis. The Board reserves the right to grant or deny any request for exception. The decision by the Board will be in writing.

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.)
 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 December 4, 2019******