

**ARIZONA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EXAMINERS
TEMPORARY LICENSING WAIVERS IN RESPONSE TO
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-01
AND
STATE OF ARIZONA EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-17**

TEMPORARY WAIVER OF A.R.S. § 32-3430(A) – FINGERPRINTS FOR INITIAL LICENSE APPLICATION

Applicants are experiencing difficulty obtaining fingerprints to submit with their initial application. The Board intends to provide a temporary six-month waiver for this requirement. Applicants will be issued a six-month provisional license which will convert to a two-year license upon receipt of their fingerprints.

TEMPORARY WAIVER OF A.R.S. §§ 32-3423(A)(3), 32-3424(A) 32-3430(B), A.A.C. R4-43-201(B)(9) and R4-43-201(C)(2)(a) – PASSING SCORE ON NATIONAL EXAM (“NBCOT”) FOR INITIAL LICENSE APPLICATION

Current statute requires a passing score on the NBCOT exam. Testing centers are currently closed. Applicants who submit all other required documents, including an official transcript that shows they have completed an accredited occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant program, will receive a six-month provisional license which will be suspended 20 days after the testing centers open. This license will convert to a two-year license once the applicant passes the exam. If the applicant fails the exam, the provisional license will be closed.

TEMPORARY WAIVER OF A.A.C. R4-43-201(C)(3) – TWO PROFESSIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INITIAL LICENSE APPLICATION

Initial applicants are required to submit two professional recommendations from medical professionals. Applicants often have their program instructors complete these. With universities closed, these can be difficult to obtain. This requirement will be waived as needed.

TEMPORARY WAIVER OF A.A.C. R4-43-202(A) and R4-43-203(B) – CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

Renewing applicants are required to submit proof of continuing education. There is not requirement for in-person courses. However, the national conference that was scheduled for March was cancelled and refunds have not been issued yet. Many OTs and OTAs were relying on the continuing education they would have completed at that conference and now can't afford to pay for courses to satisfy the requirement. The Board intends to extend the license expiration date by six months for those affected.

TEMPORARY WAIVER OF A.A.C. R4-43-201(C)(1) and R4-43-202(A) – FEE WAIVER FOR BOTH INITIAL AND RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

Applicants who cannot afford to pay licensing fees because they have been financially impacted by COVID-19 can submit a request for a fee waiver. This request requires that they attest that they have been financially impacted by COVID-19.