

# **TENNESSEE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

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## **POLICY STATEMENT ON NON-COMPLIANCE WITH CONTINUING COMPETENCE**

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Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants in Tennessee are required to demonstrate continuing competence by obtaining a minimum number of continuing competence credits in the twenty-four (24) months that precede the licensure renewal month. For Physical Therapists, thirty (30) hours are required for the twenty-four (24) months that precede the licensure renewal month. For Physical Therapist Assistants, thirty (30) hours are required for the twenty-four (24) months that precede the licensure renewal month. (Please refer to the Board's rule Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1150-1-.12 for complete information regarding the continuing education requirements.) Failure to comply with the continuing competence requirement may result in disciplinary action.

Prior to the institution of any disciplinary proceedings, a letter shall be sent from the board's administrative office to the last known address of record of licensee in the board's office stating the deficiency and asking that licensee cure the deficiency within ninety (90) days from the date of notification. If the deficiency is cured within the 90 days grace period, no disciplinary action shall ensue. Should the Tennessee licensed Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant fail to comply with the continuing competence requirement for the twenty-four (24) month period preceding the licensure renewal month after notification, or fail to cure the deficiency within the allowed grace period, the following shall occur:

If a Physical Therapist has at least eight (8) or Physical Therapist Assistant has at least eight (8) of the required continuing competence hours:

1. The licensee must pay a civil penalty in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per hour he/she is lacking. Payment must be rendered within thirty (30) days of notification from the Board.
2. The licensee must make up the amount of continuing competence credit hours that he/she is lacking. The deficient hours must be submitted with documented proof of attendance at acceptable continuing education course(s).

If a Physical Therapist has less than eight (8) or Physical Therapist Assistant has less than eight (8) of the required continuing competence hours:

1. The licensee must pay a civil penalty in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per hour he/she is lacking. Payment must be rendered within thirty (30) days of notification from the Board.

2. The licensee must make up the amount of continuing competence credit hours that he/she is lacking. The deficient hours must be submitted with documented proof of attendance at acceptable continuing education course(s).

3. The license of the Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant will be suspended for a period of not less than forty-five (45) days and will continue to be suspended until licensee submits documented proof of all continuing competence credit hours he/she is lacking.

Licensees found to be in non-compliance with continuing competence requirements will be subject to a subsequent audit and cannot use continuing credit hours submitted for past deficient hours for current continuing competence compliance. Failure to respond to a Board request for documentation or to make up deficient continuing competence credit hours after notification by the board may subject licensee to further disciplinary action.

**AMENDED AND RATIFIED BY THE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY ON FEBRUARY 9, 2017.**