



**Rules of
Department of Commerce and
Insurance**

**Division 2205—Missouri Board of Occupational Therapy
Chapter 6—Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct**

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**Title 20—DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE AND INSURANCE
Division 2205—Missouri Board of
Occupational Therapy
Chapter 6—Code of Ethics and
Professional Conduct**

20 CSR 2205-6.010 Code of Ethics

PURPOSE: This rule establishes the code of ethics for applicants, occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants and for holders of limited permits issued by the board.

(1) All applicants, occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants and limited permit holders shall—

(A) Demonstrate behavior that reflects integrity, supports objectivity, and fosters trust in the profession and its professionals;

(B) Actively maintain and continually improve professional competence and represent it accurately;

(C) Perform only those procedures or functions in which s/he is individually competent and which are within the scope of accepted and responsible practice;

(D) Respect and protect the legal and personal rights of the patient/client, including the right to informed consent and refusal of treatment;

(E) Divulge no confidential information regarding any patient/client or family unless disclosure is required for responsible performance of duty or required by law;

(F) Provide care without discrimination on any basis with respect for the rights and dignity of all individuals;

(G) Collaborate with service recipients or their surrogate(s) in determining goals and priorities throughout the intervention process;

(H) Refuse to participate in illegal or unethical acts, or conceal illegal, unethical or incompetent acts of others;

(I) Follow sound scientific procedures and ethical principles in research;

(J) Comply with all state and federal laws and regulations;

(K) Avoid any form of conduct that creates a conflict of interest and follow the principles of professional ethical business behaviors;

(L) Promote the positive evolution of the profession and health care through improvement of the access, efficacy, and cost of patient/client care;

(M) Refrain from indiscriminate and unnecessary use of resources, both economical and natural, in the practice of occupational therapy; and

(N) Within the limits of the law, an occupational therapist, occupational therapy assis-

tant or limited permit holder shall report to the board all knowledge of suspected violations of the laws and rules governing the practice of occupational therapy as defined in section 324.050, RSMo, and any other applicable state or federal laws and rules.

(2) Failure of an applicant to adhere to the code of ethics constitutes unprofessional conduct and may be grounds for denial of the license or limited permit.

(3) Failure of an occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant or limited permit holder to adhere to the code of ethics constitutes grounds for discipline of the licensee or limited permit holder.

AUTHORITY: sections 324.050, 324.065, 324.071, 324.083 and 324.086, RSMo Supp. 1997. This rule originally filed as 4 CSR 205-6.010. Original rule filed Aug. 4, 1998, effective Dec. 30, 1998. Moved to 20 CSR 2205-6.010, effective Aug. 28, 2006.*

**Original authority 1997.*

20 CSR 2205-6.020 Professional Conduct

PURPOSE: This rule defines what is considered unprofessional conduct for applicants, occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants and limited permit holders issued by the board.

(1) All applicants, occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants and limited permit holders shall not—

(A) Commit any act, which endangers patient/client health, safety or welfare;

(B) Perform occupational therapy services that are unjustified or contraindicated;

(C) Verbally, physically, or sexually abuse any patient/client;

(D) Destroy without authorization or falsify patient/client records;

(E) Provide or attempt to provide diagnostic or treatment information to the patient/client that is beyond the licensee's or limited permit holder's level of training and expertise;

(F) Engage in sexual intimacies with a patient/client which includes any genital contact of the licensee or limited permit holder with the patient/client or the patient/client with the licensee or limited permit holder. This specifically prohibits sexual intercourse, sodomy, oral copulation, anal copulation, or any penetration of the anal or vaginal opening by any thing;

(G) Kiss the patient/client with the mouth, lips or tongue or the patient/client kissing the

licensee or limited permit holder with the mouth, lips or tongue;

(H) Touch or caress in an exploitative manner by either the licensee, limited permit holder or the patient/client of the other person's breasts, genitals or buttocks;

(I) Engage in any deliberate or repeated comments, gestures or physical conduct of a sexual nature that exploits the professional relationship with the patient/client;

(J) Terminate the therapeutic relationship with a patient/client for the purpose, expressed or implied, of having a sexual relationship with that person;

(K) Expose one's self or encourage another to expose themselves for the purpose of sexual gratification;

(L) Engage in sexual harassment of the patient/client or co-workers. Sexual harassment shall include but is not limited to:

1. Making unwelcome sexual advances;
2. Requesting sexual favors; and/or
3. Verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature;

(M) Fail to follow policies or procedures implemented in the practice situation to safeguard patient/client care;

(N) Fail to exercise appropriate supervision over person authorized to practice only under the supervision of a licensed professional;

(O) Exploit a supervisee in any way sexually or financially;

(P) Delegate professional responsibilities to a person not qualified or not appropriately licensed or certified to provide those services, or both;

(Q) Misrepresent credentials, training or level of education or allow others to misrepresent credentials, training or level of education;

(R) Use a controlled substance or alcoholic beverage to an extent that impairs one's ability to provide safe occupational therapy services; and

(S) Continue to practice occupational therapy with a medical condition, which may impair or limit the ability of the licensee or limited permit holder to perform the duties of an occupational therapy practitioner with reasonable skill and safety.

(2) An applicant who exhibits behavior as described above demonstrates unprofessional conduct, which may be grounds for denial of a limited permit or a license.

(3) An occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant or limited permit holder who exhibits behavior as described above demonstrates unprofessional conduct, which may be grounds for discipline of the licensee



or limited permit holder.

AUTHORITY: sections 324.050, 324.065, 324.071, 324.083 and 324.086, RSMo Supp. 1997. This rule originally filed as 4 CSR 205-6.020. Original rule filed Aug. 4, 1998, effective Dec. 30, 1998. Moved to 20 CSR 2205-6.020, effective Aug. 28, 2006.*

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