

Displaced Worker Emergency License: Occupational Therapist and Occupational Therapy Assistant

16.15.2.17 NMAC

When a federal emergency declaration is in effect in another state, an occupational therapist and an occupational therapy assistant in good standing in the affected state can obtain an emergency license to practice in New Mexico by demonstrating proof of current licensure and residency, completing an application, and providing any other documents requested by the Board of Examiners for Occupational Therapy.

This section is limited to up to 4 months after the declaration.

PROVISIONS FOR EMERGENCY LICENSURE

A. Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants currently licensed and in good standing, or otherwise meeting the requirements for New Mexico licensure in a state in which a federal disaster has been declared, may be licensed in New Mexico during the four months following the declared disaster upon:

- (1) a completed application signed and notarized and accompanied by proof of identity, which may consist of a copy of a driver's license, passport or other photo identification issued by a governmental entity;
- (2) proof of successful completion of the national board for certification in occupational therapy (NBCOT) and New Mexico jurisprudence exam;
- (3) verification of licenses held in other states and verification of employment if applicable. (verification may be obtained by mail, fax or email, through online verification from the state of licensure)
- (4) proof or documentation of residency and employment in the area of the federal disaster.

B. The board may waive the following requirements for licensure:

(1) application fee's prorated for four (4) months;

(2) the specific forms required under 16.15.2.9 NMAC if the applicant is unable to obtain documentation from the federal declared disaster areas.

C. Nothing in this section shall constitute a waiver of the requirements for licensure contained in the board's rules and regulations.

D. Licenses issued under (this emergency provision) shall expire four (4) months following the date of issue, unless the board or an agent of the board approves a renewal application. Application for renewal shall be made on or before October 1, following the date of issue to avoid late renewal fees. The board reserves the right to request additional documentation, including but not limited to, recommendation forms and work experience verification forms prior to approving license renewal.