

**TITLE 43. PROFESSIONS AND BUSINESSES**  
**CHAPTER 25A. MUSIC THERAPY**

**O.C.G.A. § 43-25A-1 (2012)**

§ 43-25A-1. Definitions

As used in this chapter, the term:

- (1) "Advisory group" means the Music Therapy Advisory Group.
- (2) "Board certified music therapist" means an individual who has completed the education and clinical training requirements established by the American Music Therapy Association, has passed the Certification Board for Music Therapists certification examination or transitioned into board certification, and remains actively certified by the Certification Board for Music Therapists.
- (3) "Music therapist" means a person licensed to practice music therapy pursuant to this chapter.
- (4) "Music therapy" means the clinical and evidence based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship through an individualized music therapy treatment plan for the client that identifies the goals, objectives, and potential strategies of the music therapy services appropriate for the client using music therapy interventions, which may include music improvisation, receptive music listening, song writing, lyric discussion, music and imagery, music performance, learning through music, and movement to music. This term may include:
  - (A) Accepting referrals for music therapy services from physicians, psychologists, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, audiologists, or other medical, developmental, or mental health professionals; education professionals; family members; clients; or caregivers. Before providing music therapy services to a client for a medical, developmental, or mental health condition, the licensee shall collaborate, as applicable, with the client's physician, psychologist, or mental health professional to review the client's diagnosis, treatment needs, and treatment plan. During the provision of music therapy services to a client for a medical, developmental, or mental health condition, the licensee shall collaborate, as applicable, with the client's speech-language pathologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, audiologist, or other medical or developmental professional to review the client's diagnosis, treatment needs, and treatment plan;
  - (B) Conducting a music therapy assessment of a client to collect systematic, comprehensive, and accurate information necessary to determine the appropriate type of music therapy services to provide for the client;
  - (C) Developing an individualized music therapy treatment plan for the client;

(D) Carrying out an individualized music therapy treatment plan that is consistent with any other medical, developmental, mental health, or educational services being provided to the client;

(E) Evaluating the client's response to music therapy and the individualized music therapy treatment plan and suggesting modifications, as appropriate;

(F) Developing a plan for determining when the provision of music therapy services is no longer needed in collaboration with the client, any physician, or other provider of health care or education of the client, any appropriate member of the family of the client, and any other appropriate person upon whom the client relies for support;

(G) Minimizing any barriers so that the client may receive music therapy services in the least restrictive environment; and

(H) Collaborating with and educating the client and the family or caregiver of the client or any other appropriate person about the needs of the client that are being addressed in music therapy and the manner in which the music therapy addresses those needs.

(5) "Office" means the office of the Secretary of State.

(6) "Secretary" means the Secretary of State or his or her designee.

**HISTORY:** Code 1981, § 43-25A-1, enacted by Ga. L. 2012, p. 884, § 1/SB 414.

§ 43-25A-2. Creation of Music Therapy Advisory Group; membership; terms; service

(a) There is created within the office of the Secretary of State a Music Therapy Advisory Group which shall consist of five members.

(b) The Secretary shall appoint all members of the advisory group. The advisory group shall consist of persons familiar with the practice of music therapy to provide the Secretary with expertise and assistance in carrying out his or her duties pursuant to this chapter.

(c) The Secretary shall appoint members of the advisory group to serve for terms of four years. The Secretary shall appoint three members who practice as music therapists in this state; one member who is a licensed health care provider who is not a music therapist; and one member who is a consumer.

(d) Members shall serve without compensation.

(e) Members may serve consecutive terms at the will of the Secretary. Any vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the regular appointments.

**HISTORY:** Code 1981, § 43-25A-2, enacted by Ga. L. 2012, p. 884, § 1/SB 414.

§ 43-25A-3. Meetings; public education; consultation

(a) The advisory group shall meet at least once per year or as otherwise called by the Secretary.

(b) The Secretary shall consult with the advisory group prior to setting or changing fees in this chapter.

(c) The advisory group may facilitate the development of materials that the Secretary may utilize to educate the public concerning music therapist licensure, the benefits of music therapy, and utilization of music therapy by individuals and in facilities or institutional settings.

(d) The advisory group may act as a facilitator of state-wide dissemination of information between music therapists, the American Music Therapy Association or any successor organization, the Certification Board for Music Therapists or any successor organization, and the Secretary.

(e) The advisory group shall provide analysis of disciplinary actions taken, appeals and denials, or revocation of licenses at least once per year.

(f) The Secretary shall seek the advice of the advisory group for issues related to music therapy.

**HISTORY:** Code 1981, § 43-25A-3, enacted by Ga. L. 2012, p. 884, § 1/SB 414.

§ 43-25A-4. Use of title "music therapist."

After January 1, 2014, no person without a license as a music therapist shall use the title "music therapist" or similar title, or perform the duties of a music therapist, provided that this chapter shall not prohibit any practice of music therapy that is an integral part of a program of study for students enrolled in an accredited music therapy program. Nothing in this Code section shall be construed as preventing or restricting the practice, services, or activities of any profession including occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, physical therapists, or audiologists that may also use music in the scope of their practice.

**HISTORY:** Code 1981, § 43-25A-4, enacted by Ga. L. 2012, p. 884, § 1/SB 414.

§ 43-25A-5. Application for music therapy license

The Secretary shall issue a license to an applicant for a music therapy license when such applicant has completed and submitted an application upon a form and in such manner as the Secretary prescribes, accompanied by applicable fees, and evidence satisfactory to the Secretary that:

(1) The applicant is at least 18 years of age;

(2) The applicant holds a bachelor's degree or higher in music therapy, or its equivalent, from a program approved by the American Music Therapy Association or any successor organization within an accredited college or university;

(3) The applicant successfully completes a minimum of 1,200 hours of clinical training, with at least 180 hours in preinternship experiences and at least 900 hours in internship experiences, provided that the internship shall be approved by an academic institution, the American Music Therapy Association or any successor organization, or both;

(4) The applicant is in good standing based on a review of the applicant's music therapy licensure history in other jurisdictions, including a review of any alleged misconduct or neglect in the practice of music therapy on the part of the applicant;

(5) The applicant provides proof of passing the examination for board certification offered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists or any successor organization or provides proof of being transitioned into board certification, and provides proof that the applicant is currently a board certified music therapist; and

(6) The applicant has satisfactory results from a fingerprint record check report conducted by the Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as determined by the Secretary. Application for a license under this Code section shall constitute express consent and authorization for the Secretary or his or her representative to perform a criminal background check. Each applicant who submits an application to the Secretary for licensure by examination agrees to provide the Secretary with any and all information necessary to run a criminal background check, including, but not limited to, classifiable sets of fingerprints. The applicant shall be responsible for all fees associated with the performance of such background check.

**HISTORY:** Code 1981, § 43-25A-5, enacted by Ga. L. 2012, p. 884, § 1/SB 414.

§ 43-25A-6. Biennial renewal of license; address changes; failure to renew; inactive status of license

(a) Every license issued under this chapter shall be renewed biennially. A license shall be renewed upon payment of a renewal fee if the applicant is not in violation of any of the terms of this chapter at the time of application for renewal. The following shall also be required for license renewal:

(1) Proof of maintenance of the applicant's Certification Board for Music Therapists credentials; and

(2) Proof of completion of a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education in a program approved by the Certification Board of Music Therapists or any successor organization and any other continuing education requirements established by the Secretary.

(b) A licensee shall inform the Secretary of any changes to his or her address. Each licensee

shall be responsible for timely renewal of his or her license.

(c) Failure to renew a license shall result in forfeiture of the license. Licenses that have been forfeited may be restored within one year of the expiration date upon payment of renewal and restoration fees. Failure to restore a forfeited license within one year of the date of its expiration shall result in the automatic termination of the license, and the Secretary may require the individual to reapply for licensure as a new applicant.

(d) Upon written request of a licensee, the Secretary may place an active license on an inactive status subject to an inactive status fee established by the Secretary. The licensee, upon request and payment of the inactive license fee, may continue on inactive status for a period up to two years. An inactive license may be reactivated at any time by making a written request to the Secretary and by fulfilling requirements established by the Secretary.

**HISTORY:** Code 1981, § 43-25A-6, enacted by Ga. L. 2012, p. 884, § 1/SB 414.

#### § 43-25A-7. Limited waiver of examination

The Secretary shall waive the examination requirement for an applicant until January 1, 2014, who is:

(1) Certified as a music therapist and in good standing with the Certification Board for Music Therapists; or

(2) Designated as a registered music therapist, certified music therapist, or advanced certified music therapist and in good standing with the National Music Therapy Registry.

**HISTORY:** Code 1981, § 43-25A-7, enacted by Ga. L. 2012, p. 884, § 1/SB 414.

#### § 43-25A-8. Authority of Secretary of State to investigate and act upon conduct

(a) The Secretary may revoke, suspend, deny, or refuse to issue or renew a license; place a licensee on probation; or issue a letter of admonition upon proof that the licensee:

(1) Has procured or attempted to procure a license by fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, misleading omission, or material misstatement of fact;

(2) Has been convicted of a felony as provided under state law;

(3) Has willfully or negligently acted in a manner inconsistent with the health or safety of persons under the individual's care;

(4) Has had a license to practice music therapy suspended or revoked or has otherwise been subject to discipline related to the individual's practice of music therapy in any other jurisdiction;

(5) Has committed a fraudulent insurance act;

(6) Excessively or habitually uses alcohol or drugs, provided that the Secretary shall not discipline an individual under this paragraph if the individual is enrolled in a substance abuse program approved by the office; or

(7) Has a physical or mental disability that renders the individual incapable of safely administering music therapy services.

(b) The Secretary is authorized to conduct investigations into allegations of conduct described in subsection (a) of this Code section.

(c) In addition to suspension, revocation, denial, or refusal to renew a license, the Secretary shall fine a person found to have violated any provision of this chapter or any rule adopted by the Secretary under this chapter not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$1,000.00 for each violation.

(d) The provisions of Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act," shall be applicable to the Secretary of State and the provisions of this chapter.

**HISTORY:** Code 1981, § 43-25A-8, enacted by Ga. L. 2012, p. 884, § 1/SB 414.