

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 490-2 LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS, BOARD
RULE 490-2-.01 APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE AND EXAMINATION,
BOARD RULE 490-2-.04 TRAINING PERMITS, BOARD RULE 490-2-.05
REPEALED, BOARD RULE 490-2-.09 LICENSURE: RECIPROCITY, AND
BOARD RULE 490-2-.10 LICENSURE: ENDORSEMENT/RECIPROCITY
FOR MILITARY SPOUSES AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

RULE 490-2-.01 Application For Licensure and Examination

RULE 490-2-.04 Training Permits

RULE 490-2-.05 Repealed

RULE 490-2-.09 Licensure: Reciprocity

**RULE 490-2-.10 Licensure: Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and
Transitioning Service Members**

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy (hereinafter “Board”) proposes amendments to Board Rule Chapter 490-2 Licensure Requirements, Board Rules 490-2-.01 Application For Licensure and Examination, 490-2-.04 Training Permits, 490-2-.05 Repealed, 490-2-.09 Licensure: Reciprocity, and 490-2-.10 Licensure: Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members (hereinafter “proposed rule(s)”).

This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule(s), and a synopsis of the proposed rule(s) are being sent to all persons who have requested, in writing, to be included on a notification list. This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule(s), and a synopsis of the proposed rule(s) may also be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 3920 Arkwright Rd., Suite 195, Macon, Georgia 31210. The documents will also be available for review on the Board’s website at <https://sos.ga.gov/page/georgia-state-board-physical-therapy-rules-and-laws>. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Board office at (404) 424-9966.

The public will have an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule(s) at a public hearing to be held at **9:30 a.m., September 29, 2026**, via WebEx. Please see Board’s website for information on how to join the hearing via WebEx.

Interested parties affected by the proposed rule(s) may submit written comments to the Board no later than close of business on **September 22, 2026**. Written comments must be legible, signed, contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number, email address), and addressed to Todd Zandrowicz, Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy, 3920

Arkwright Rd., Suite 195, Macon, Georgia 31210. Written comments may be sent via email to PLB-Healthcare2@sos.ga.gov.

During the public hearing, anyone may present data, make a statement, comment, or offer a viewpoint or argument, whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements will be limited to five (5) minutes per person.

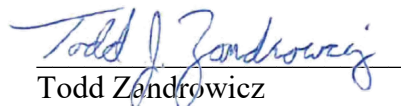
The Board voted to post this Notice of Intent at its meetings on July 22, 2025, and July 21, 2026. The Board also voted that the formulation and adoption of the proposed rule(s) does not impose an excessive regulatory cost on any licensee, and any cost to comply with the proposed rule(s) cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-3, 43-1-25, 43-1-34, 43-1-35, 43-33-2, 43-33-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-12, 43-33-14, 43-33-15, 43-33-17 and 50-13-9.1. Additionally, the Board voted that it was neither legal nor feasible in meeting the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-3, 43-1-25, 43-1-34, 43-1-35, 43-33-2, 43-33-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-12, 43-33-14, 43-33-15, 43-33-17 and 50-13-9.1 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of the proposed rule(s) will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the physical therapy profession.

According to the Department of Law of the State of Georgia, the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy has the authority to adopt proposed rule(s) pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-3, 43-1-25, 43-1-34, 43-1-35, 43-33-2, 43-33-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-12, 43-33-14, 43-33-15, 43-33-17 and 50-13-9.1

For further information, contact the Board office at (404) 424-9966.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This the 25th day of August, 2026.



Todd Zandrowicz
Division Director
Professional Licensing Boards Division

Posted: 08.25.26

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES OF TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 490-2 LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS,
BOARD RULE 490-2-.01 APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE AND EXAMINATION**

Purpose: The proposed amendments add language to subsection (2) to clarify approval applications for a form of Physical Therapy known as “dry needling” for licensed physical therapists, and to subsection (3) to align its timeframes for submission of documentation with the Joint Secretary Rules and Policies.

Rule 490-2-.01 Application For Initial Licensure And Examination

- (1) A completed application for examination must be submitted and approved prior to taking the examination.
- (2) Any physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who plans to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in the State of Georgia must be licensed by the Board or hold a Georgia Compact Privilege issued by the Physical Therapy Compact Commission prior to beginning said practice.
 - (a) Any physical therapist who plans to perform dry needling in the state of Georgia must meet the requirements of Board rule 490-9-.05 and must receive Board approval prior to practicing dry needling in the state of Georgia.
 - (b) On the application you must attest that you meet the requirements outline in Board Rule 490-9-.05 and provide proof of education and training to perform dry needling to the Board.
 - (c) If the education and training is determined to meet criteria, the dry needling designation will be reflected on the license upon issuance. If the education and training do not meet the criteria, the applicant will be notified of the deficiency and given the opportunity to correct it in order to receive the designation at a later date.
- (3) All applications for licensure must be complete within the timeframe indicated in the Joint Secretary Rules and ~~or~~ policies. All applications not completed within this designated timeframe shall be considered expired and withdrawn and will not be given any further consideration by the Board. Following expiration of an application, a new application in its entirety, to include all required fees, shall be required for consideration of licensure.

- (4) All applicants for licensure and examination are also subject to the provisions of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19 and 43-33-18.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-33-10 and 43-33-14.

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES OF TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 490-2 LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS,
BOARD RULE 490-2-.04 TRAINING PERMITS**

Purpose: The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to clarify the roles, responsibilities, and qualifications of the primary supervisor as well as the alternate supervisors who may help fill in for a trainee in the event the primary supervisor is unable to fulfill their duties. The amendments remove the barrier or need to submit a new application if an alternate supervisor is provided at the time the traineeship agreement is established and approved. The clarifying language will create a reduction in delays for the initiation and completion of traineeships for applicants.

Rule 490-2-.04. Training Permits

A training permit may be issued pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ [43-33-10](#) and [43-33-17](#) of the Georgia Physical Therapy Act to a qualified applicant following Board-approval of a properly submitted application.

(a) Qualified applicants are:

1. Graduates of entry-level programs for physical therapists or physical therapist assistants from either a CAPTE or a non-CAPTE-accredited school who have taken and passed the national licensing examination and an examination on the laws and rules governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia; or,
2. Applicants for reinstatement, who have not practiced for two (2) and up to five (5) years; or,
3. Applicants for reinstatement who have not practiced for more than five (5) years and who have successfully taken and passed the national licensing examination and an examination on the laws and rules governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia; or,
4. Applicants for endorsement, who have not practiced for two (2) and up to five (5) years; or,
5. Applicants for endorsement who have not practiced for more than five (5) years and who have successfully taken and passed the national licensing examination and an examination on the laws and rules governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia.

(b) Initial Applications and Reinstatement Applications.

1. A notarized training permit application form must be submitted by the trainee's Primary supervisor specifying:

- (i) The name and license number of the trainee supervisor who will be responsible for the conduct of the traineeship as defined under section (e) of this rule; and,
- (ii) The name, address, phone, fax number and e-mail address of all sites where the trainee and supervisors may be working during the course of the traineeship; and,
- (iii) The effective dates of the traineeship; and,
- (iv) Acceptance of responsibility for trainee supervision and completion of the performance evaluation; and,
- (v) Termination of the traineeship as defined herein; and,
- (vi) Type of facility.

(c) Renewal.

1. A training permit may be renewed one time, for no more than six (6) months, upon written request and with approval of the Board, and only for one good and exceptional reason as determined by the Board. For purposes of this rule, good and exceptional reasons include but are not limited to:
 - (i) Death of an immediate family member; or
 - (ii) Illness or incapacitation of the applicant or immediate family member (a physician's statement is required); or
 - (iii) Jury duty (proof required).

(d) Validity of Permit.

1. Training permits are subject to the following conditions:
 - (i) Able to be initiated in the State of Georgia within three months of issuance of such permit.
 - (ii) Must be returned to the Board by the trainee with a brief explanation of why it was not used.
 - (iii) A 480 hour traineeship must be completed within three (3) months of initiation. A 1000 hour traineeship must be completed in no less than 6 months or no more than 1 year if approved by the Board;
 - (iv) A training permit shall become invalid and must be immediately returned to the Board office by the trainee if:

- (I) The trainee fails to complete the traineeship within the above prescribed time frames; or,
- (II) If the trainee does not exhibit performance satisfactory to the Primary supervisor.

(e) Supervision.

1. Applicants may name both a primary and a secondary supervisor on the training permit application. The ~~Primary supervisor or alternate~~ supervisors named on the training permit application holds full responsibility under their license for direct, continuous, on-site supervision of the trainee at all times. The named supervisors must assure ~~are~~ responsible for assuring that the trainee does not perform any patient care activities ~~in his/her absence~~ unless the supervisor is physically present.
2. If for some reason the primary supervisor cannot fulfill their duties as supervisor, ~~a new application requesting a new supervisor must be approved by the Board~~ the secondary supervisor. ~~The trainee may not participate in direct patient care until a new supervisor is approved by the Board.~~ The new supervisor will assure compliance with all terms and obligations outlined in this rule. If for some reason the primary and secondary supervisor cannot fulfill their duties, a new training permit application must be submitted for approval by the Board.
3. ~~The supervisor and alternate~~ primary and secondary supervisor must hold a Georgia license in good standing under O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapter 33, and have practiced full time for not less than one continuous year.
4. ~~The~~ A named supervisor must regularly evaluate trainee performance in all areas as specified by the Board to include cosigning any documentation provided by the trainee. At the end of the traineeship period, the supervisor must submit a performance evaluation on the board approved traineeship performance evaluation reporting form.
5. ~~The Primary~~ A named supervisor must notify the Board of unsatisfactory performance at which time the training permit becomes null and void.
6. The supervising therapist will supervise no more than two (2) trainees at one time.
7. The named supervisor must notify the Board within ten (10) business days when the trainee satisfactorily completes the traineeship.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-33-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-12 and 43-33-17.

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES OF TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 490-2 LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS,
BOARD RULE 490-2-.05 PETITIONS FOR RULE VARIANCE OR WAIVER**

Purpose: The purpose of this proposed new rule is to provide guidance to petitioners about the process for submitting petitions. The rule improves administrative efficiency and decreases the burden on applicants by lowering the review time necessary to approve variances or waivers.

Rule 490-2-.05. ~~Repealed~~ Petitions for Rule Variance or Waiver

- (1) Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-13-9.1, persons who are subject to a rule may petition the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy to vary or waive all or part of a rule requirement for the petitioner if the petitioner can demonstrate:

 - (a) The strict application of the rule can lead to unreasonable, uneconomical, and unintended results in the petitioner's particular instance; and
 - (b) The purpose of the underlying statute upon which the rule is based can be or has been achieved by other specific means which are agreeable to the person seeking the variance or waiver and that strict application of the rule would create a substantial hardship to such person.
- (2) Persons must submit a complete petition for variance or waiver of a Board rule requirement to include:

 - (a) Citing the specific rule from which a variance or waiver is requested;
 - (b) Documenting the type of action requested;
 - (c) The specific facts of substantial hardship which would justify a variance or waiver for the petition, including:

 - i. The alternative standards which the person seeking the variance or waiver agrees to meet; and
 - ii. Showing that such alternative standards will provide adequate protection for the public health, safety, and welfare; and
 - iii. The reason why the variance or waiver requested would serve the purpose of the underlying statute.
- (3) Each petition must be submitted with any documentation to support the petitioner's position for varying or waiving the rule. Supporting documents shall not be sought or

pulled from an application to support the petition as petitions for rule variance or waiver are a matter of public record and must be posted as such. An application and the documents submitted therewith are confidential and may not be posted for public review.

(4) Documentation to support a petition for variance or waiver may include but not be limited to:

(a) A verification of employment to establish continuous active practice within the two (2) years, in good standing, in the United States.

(b) A resume or curriculum vitae may be considered if it can be determined that the petitioner has made every effort to obtain a verification of employment and is unable to do so.

(c) A letter from a school official attesting the physical therapy curriculum was taught in English.

(5) If supporting documentation is necessary to support the hardship and it is not submitted with the petition, the petition shall be denied.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-14 and 50-13-9.1.

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES OF TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 490-2 LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS,
BOARD RULE 490-2-.09 LICENSURE: RECIPROCITY**

Purpose: The purpose of the proposed amendment is to clarify the requirements for licensure via reciprocity by delineating clearly between CAPTE qualified applicants versus non-CAPTE foreign-educated applicants. The proposed amendments also clarify how entry-level practice and programs are governed.

Rule 490-2-.09. Licensure: Reciprocity

- (1) The Board may, in its discretion register a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant without an examination as set forth in Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section [43-33-15](#) upon payment of applicable fees. (Refer to fee schedule)
- (2) Any applicant applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. [43-33-15](#) and who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) and approved by the Board, must provide:
 - (a) ~~Verification of an active license in good standing from another state board;~~
and, Passing scores from the national licensing examination;
 - (b) ~~A verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has held a license to actively practice~~Passing scores from the Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence Examination; and,
 - (c) ~~Verification of active practice in the two years immediately preceding the date of application; or proof of completion of 26 hours of acceptable continuing education coursework pursuant to the requirements in Board Rule [490-4-.02\(1\)\(2\)\(4\)\(7\) and \(8\)](#) and,~~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 board;
 - (d) Official transcript from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation; and,
 - (e) ~~Passing scores from the national licensing examination~~A verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has held a license to actively practice; and,

- (f) ~~Passing scores from the Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence Examination~~Verification of active practice in the two years immediately preceding the date of application; or proof of completion of 26 hours of acceptable continuing education coursework pursuant to the requirements in Board Rule 490-4-.02(1),(2), (4), (7), and (8).
- (3) Any applicant applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. [43-33-15](#) who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or approved by the Board, must provide:
- (a) ~~Verification of an active license in good standing from another state board~~Passing scores from the national licensing examination; and,
- (b) ~~A verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has held a license to actively practice~~Passing scores from the examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy; and,
- (c) ~~Verification of active practice in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application~~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 Board; and,
- (d) Official evaluation and transcript from a credential evaluation organization approved by the State of Georgia which shall meet the standards of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Coursework Tool (CWT) that was in effect at the time the applicant graduated from their physical therapy or physical therapist assistant educational program; and
- (e) ~~Passing scores from the national licensing examination~~Verification of an active license in good standing from another state board; and,
- (f) ~~Passing scores from the examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy~~A verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has held a license to actively practice; and
- (g) Verification of active practice in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; or proof of completion of 26 hours of acceptable continuing education

coursework pursuant to the requirements in Board Rule 490-4-.02(1), (2), (4), (7), and (8).

- (4) Any applicant applying for licensure who is a graduate of an entry level program outside of the United States must meet the requirements of Board Rule 490-2-.03. **Only graduation from an accredited entry-level DPT (Doctorate of Physical Therapy) program exempts you from the requirements of 490-2-.03.**
- (5) Proof of graduation from an accredited physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program or credential evaluations deemed substantially equivalent to the professional degree, and satisfactory completion of the licensing examination shall be deemed to be prima facie evidence of compliance with Code Section [43-33-15](#). The Board, however, may request further verification of any credential submitted if deemed necessary to evaluate the application.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-33-2, 43-33-10, 43-33-12 and 43-33-15.

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES OF TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 490-2 LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS,
BOARD RULE 490-2-.10 LICENSURE: ENDORSEMENT/RECIPROCITY FOR
MILITARY SPOUSES AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS**

Purpose: The purpose of the proposed amendment of the rule is to create alignment with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-34 and 43-1-35 which provides for expedited application processing for spouses of active-duty military service members and for the spouses of transitioning military service members, while their spouses are stationed in Georgia.

Rule 490-2-.10. Licensure: Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members

- (1) The Board may, in its discretion register a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant without an examination as set forth in Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section [43-33-15](#) upon receipt of a complete application and payment of applicable fees. (Refer to fee schedule)
- (2) A military spouse or transitioning service member, as defined in O.C.G.A. § [43-1-34](#), is deemed eligible to apply for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. [43-33-15](#) if the applicant is a holder of a valid physical therapy or physical therapist assistant license in another State for which the training, experience and testing substantially meet or exceed the requirements under this state to obtain a license; and,
 - (a) The military spouse or transitioning service member must be a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) approved by the Board, and must provide:
 1. Verification of an active license in good standing from another state board; and,
 2. Within six (6) months of the issuance of a license, submit a verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has held a license to actively practice; and,
 3. Verification of active continued competence in physical therapy in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application which may include a verification of employment or 26 hours of acceptable continuing education coursework pursuant to the requirements in Board Rule [490-4-.02\(1\)\(2\)\(4\)\(7\) and \(8\)](#); and,

4. Official transcript from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation; and,
 5. Passing scores from the national licensing examination.
 6. Passing scores from the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy ethics and jurisprudence examination.
 7. 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 board.
- (b) Any military spouse or transitioning service member applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. [43-33-15](#) who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or approved by the Board, must provide:
1. Verification of an active license in good standing from another state; and,
 2. Within six (6) months of the issuance of a license, submit verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has actively practiced in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and,
 3. Verification of active continued competence in physical therapy in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application which may include a verification of employment or 26 hours of acceptable continuing education coursework pursuant to the requirements in Board Rule [490-4-.02\(1\)\(2\)\(4\)\(7\) and \(8\)](#); and,
 4. Official evaluation and transcript from a credential evaluation organization approved by the Board which shall meet the standards of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Coursework Tool (CWT) that was in effect at the time the applicant graduated from their physical therapy or physical therapist assistant educational program; and,
 5. Passing scores from the national licensing examination.
 6. Passing scores from the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy ethics and jurisprudence examination.

7. 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 board.

- (3) Proof of graduation from an accredited physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program or credential evaluations deemed substantially equivalent to the professional degree, and satisfactory completion of the licensing examination shall be deemed to be prima facie evidence of compliance with Code Section [43-33-15](#). The Board, however, may request further verification of any credential submitted if deemed necessary to evaluate the application.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-1-34, 43-1-35, 43-33-2, 43-33-10, 43-33-14 and 43-33-15.

RULES
OF
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
CHAPTER 490-2
LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS
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Rule 490-2-.01. Application For Initial Licensure And Examination

- (1) A completed application for examination must be submitted and approved prior to taking the examination.
- (2) Any physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who plans to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in the State of Georgia must be licensed by the Board or hold a Georgia Compact Privilege issued by the Physical Therapy Compact Commission prior to beginning said practice.
 - (a) Any physical therapist who plans to perform dry needling in the state of Georgia must meet the requirements of Board rule 490-9-.05 and must receive Board approval prior to practicing dry needling in the state of Georgia.
 - (b) On the application you must attest that you meet the requirements outline in Board Rule 490-9-.05 and provide proof of education and training to perform dry needling to the Board.
 - (c) If the education and training is determined to meet criteria, the dry needling designation will be reflected on the license upon issuance. If the education and training do not meet the criteria, the applicant will be notified of the deficiency and given the opportunity to correct it in order to receive the designation at a later date.
- (3) All applications for licensure must be complete within the timeframe indicated in the

Joint Secretary Rules and/or policies. All applications not completed within this designated timeframe shall be considered expired and withdrawn and will not be given any further consideration by the Board. Following expiration of an application, a new application in its entirety, to include all required fees, shall be required for consideration of licensure.

- (4) All applicants for licensure and examination are also subject to the provisions of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19 and 43-33-18.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-33-10(11), 43-33-10(12), and 43-33-14.

Rule 490-2-.04. Training Permits

A training permit may be issued pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ [43-33-10](#) and [43-33-17](#) of the Georgia Physical Therapy Act to a qualified applicant following Board-approval of a properly submitted application.

(a) Qualified applicants are:

1. Graduates of entry-level programs for physical therapists or physical therapist assistants from either a CAPTE or a non-CAPTE-accredited school who have taken and passed the national licensing examination and an examination on the laws and rules governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia; or,
2. Applicants for reinstatement, who have not practiced for two (2) and up to five (5) years; or,
3. Applicants for reinstatement who have not practiced for more than five (5) years and who have successfully taken and passed the national licensing examination and an examination on the laws and rules governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia; or,
4. Applicants for endorsement, who have not practiced for two (2) and up to five (5) years; or,
5. Applicants for endorsement who have not practiced for more than five (5) years and who have successfully taken and passed the national licensing examination and an examination on the laws and rules governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia.

(b) Initial Applications and Reinstatement Applications.

1. A notarized training permit application form must be submitted by the trainee's Primary supervisor specifying:
 - (i) The name and license number of the trainee supervisor who will be responsible for the conduct of the traineeship as defined under section (e) of this rule; and,
 - (ii) The name, address, phone, fax number and e-mail address of all sites where the trainee and supervisors may be working during the course of the traineeship; and,
 - (iii) The effective dates of the traineeship; and,
 - (iv) Acceptance of responsibility for trainee supervision and completion of the performance evaluation; and,

- (v) Termination of the traineeship as defined herein; and,
- (vi) Type of facility.

(c) Renewal.

1. A training permit may be renewed one time, for no more than six (6) months, upon written request and with approval of the Board, and only for one good and exceptional reason as determined by the Board. For purposes of this rule, good and exceptional reasons include but are not limited to:
 - (i) Death of an immediate family member; or
 - (ii) Illness or incapacitation of the applicant or immediate family member (a physician's statement is required); or
 - (iii) Jury duty (proof required).

(d) Validity of Permit.

1. Training permits are subject to the following conditions:
 - (i) Able to be initiated in the State of Georgia within three months of issuance of such permit.
 - (ii) Must be returned to the Board by the trainee with a brief explanation of why it was not used.
 - (iii) A 480 hour traineeship must be completed within three (3) months of initiation. A 1000 hour traineeship must be completed in no less than 6 months or no more than 1 year if approved by the Board;
 - (iv) A training permit shall become invalid and must be immediately returned to the Board office by the trainee if:
 - (I) The trainee fails to complete the traineeship within the above prescribed time frames; or,
 - (II) If the trainee does not exhibit performance satisfactory to the Primary supervisor.

(e) Supervision.

1. Applicants may name both a primary and a secondary supervisor on the training permit application. The supervisors named on the training permit application hold full responsibility under their license for direct, continuous, on-site supervision of the

- trainee at all times. The named supervisors are responsible for assuring that the trainee does not perform any patient care activities unless the supervisor is physically present.
2. If for some reason the primary supervisor cannot fulfill their duties as supervisor, the secondary supervisor will assure compliance with all terms and obligations outlined in this rule. If for some reason the primary and secondary supervisor cannot fulfill their duties, a new training permit application must be submitted for approval by the Board.
 3. The primary and secondary supervisor must hold a Georgia license in good standing under O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapter 33, and have practiced full time for not less than one continuous year.
 4. A named supervisor must regularly evaluate trainee performance in all areas as specified by the Board to include cosigning any documentation provided by the trainee. At the end of the traineeship period, the supervisor must submit a performance evaluation on the board approved traineeship performance evaluation reporting form.
 5. A named supervisor must notify the Board of unsatisfactory performance at which time the training permit becomes null and void.
 6. The supervising therapist will supervise no more than two (2) trainees at one time.
 7. The named supervisor must notify the Board within ten (10) business days when the trainee satisfactorily completes the traineeship.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-33-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-12 and 43-33-17.

Rule 490-2-.05. Petitions for Rule Variance or Waiver

- (1) Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-13-9.1, persons who are subject to a rule may petition the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy to vary or waive all or part of a rule requirement for the petitioner if the petitioner can demonstrate:
 - (a) The strict application of the rule can lead to unreasonable, uneconomical, and unintended results in the petitioner's particular instance; and
 - (b) The purpose of the underlying statute upon which the rule is based can be or has been achieved by other specific means which are agreeable to the person seeking the variance or waiver and that strict application of the rule would create a substantial hardship to such person.
- (2) Persons must submit a complete petition for variance or waiver of a Board rule requirement to include:
 - (a) Citing the specific rule from which a variance or waiver is requested;
 - (b) Documenting the type of action requested;
 - (c) The specific facts of substantial hardship which would justify a variance or waiver for the petition, including:
 - i. The alternative standards which the person seeking the variance or waiver agrees to meet; and
 - ii. Showing that such alternative standards will provide adequate protection for the public health, safety, and welfare; and
 - iii. The reason why the variance or waiver requested would serve the purpose of the underlying statute.
- (3) Each petition must be submitted with any documentation to support the petitioner's position for varying or waiving the rule. Supporting documents shall not be sought or pulled from an application to support the petition as petitions for rule variance or waiver are a matter of public record and must be posted as such. An application and the documents submitted therewith are confidential and may not be posted for public review.
- (4) Documentation to support a petition for variance or waiver may include but not be limited to:
 - (a) A verification of employment to establish continuous active practice within the two

- (2) years, in good standing, in the United States.
- (b) A resume or curriculum vitae may be considered if it can be determined that the petitioner has made every effort to obtain a verification of employment and is unable to do so.
 - (c) A letter from a school official attesting the physical therapy curriculum was taught in English.
- (5) If supporting documentation is necessary to support the hardship and it is not submitted with the petition, the petition shall be denied.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-14 and 50-13-9.1.

Rule 490-2-.09. Licensure: Reciprocity

- (1) The Board may, in its discretion register a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant without an examination as set forth in Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section [43-33-15](#) upon payment of applicable fees. (Refer to fee schedule)
- (2) Any applicant applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. [43-33-15](#) and who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) and approved by the Board, must provide:
 - (a) Passing scores from the national licensing examination;
 - (b) Passing scores from the Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence Examination;
 - (c) 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 board;
 - (d) Official transcript from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation; and,
 - (e) A verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has held a license to actively practice; and,
 - (f) Verification of active practice in the two years immediately preceding the date of application; or proof of completion of 26 hours of acceptable continuing education coursework pursuant to the requirements in Board Rule 490-4-.02(1), (2), (4), (7), and (8).
- (3) Any applicant applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. [43-33-15](#) who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or approved by the Board, must provide:
 - (a) Passing scores from the national licensing examination;
 - (b) Passing scores from the examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy;
 - (c) 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 Board; and,

- (d) Official evaluation and transcript from a credential evaluation organization approved by the State of Georgia which shall meet the standards of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Coursework Tool (CWT) that was in effect at the time the applicant graduated from their physical therapy or physical therapist assistant educational program; and
 - (e) Verification of an active license in good standing from another state board;
 - (f) A verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has held a license to actively practice; and
 - (g) Verification of active practice in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; or proof of completion of 26 hours of acceptable continuing education coursework pursuant to the requirements in Board Rule 490-4-.02(1), (2), (4), (7), and (8).
- (4) Any applicant applying for licensure who is a graduate of an entry level program outside of the United States must meet the requirements of Board Rule 490-2-.03. **Only graduation from an accredited entry-level DPT (Doctorate of Physical Therapy) program exempts you from the requirements of 490-2-.03.**
- (5) Proof of graduation from an accredited physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program or credential evaluations deemed substantially equivalent to the professional degree, and satisfactory completion of the licensing examination shall be deemed to be prima facie evidence of compliance with Code Section [43-33-15](#). The Board, however, may request further verification of any credential submitted if deemed necessary to evaluate the application.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-33-2, 43-33-10, 43-33-12 and 43-33-15.

Rule 490-2-.10. Licensure: Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members

- (1) The Board may, in its discretion register a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant without an examination as set forth in Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section [43-33-15](#) upon receipt of a complete application and payment of applicable fees.
(Refer to fee schedule)
- (2) A military spouse or transitioning service member, as defined in O.C.G.A. § [43-1-34](#), is deemed eligible to apply for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. [43-33-15](#) if the applicant is a holder of a valid physical therapy or physical therapist assistant license in another State for which the training, experience and testing substantially meet or exceed the requirements under this state to obtain a license; and,
 - (a) The military spouse or transitioning service member must be a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) approved by the Board, and must provide:
 1. Verification of an active license in good standing from another state board; and,
 2. Within six (6) months of the issuance of a license, submit a verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has held a license to actively practice; and,
 3. Verification of active continued competence in physical therapy in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application which may include a verification of employment or 26 hours of acceptable continuing education coursework pursuant to the requirements in Board Rule [490-4-.02\(1\)\(2\)\(4\)\(7\) and \(8\)](#); and,
 4. Official transcript from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation; and,
 5. Passing scores from the national licensing examination.
 6. Passing scores from the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy ethics and jurisprudence examination.

7. 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 board.
- (b) Any military spouse or transitioning service member applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. [43-33-15](#) who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or approved by the Board, must provide:
1. Verification of an active license in good standing from another state; and,
 2. Within six (6) months of the issuance of a license, submit verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has actively practiced in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and,
 3. Verification of active continued competence in physical therapy in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application which may include a verification of employment or 26 hours of acceptable continuing education coursework pursuant to the requirements in Board Rule [490-4-.02\(1\)\(2\)\(4\)\(7\) and \(8\)](#); and,
 4. Official evaluation and transcript from a credential evaluation organization approved by the Board which shall meet the standards of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Coursework Tool (CWT) that was in effect at the time the applicant graduated from their physical therapy or physical therapist assistant educational program; and,
 5. Passing scores from the national licensing examination.
 6. Passing scores from the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy ethics and jurisprudence examination.
 7. 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 board.
- (3) Proof of graduation from an accredited physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program or credential evaluations deemed substantially equivalent to the professional degree, and satisfactory completion of the licensing examination shall be deemed to be

prima facie evidence of compliance with Code Section [43-33-15](#). The Board, however, may request further verification of any credential submitted if deemed necessary to evaluate the application.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-1-34, 43-1-35, 43-33-2, 43-33-10, 43-33-14 and 43-33-15.