



Fact Sheet: States and the OT Compact

The **Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact** (OT Compact) will allow licensed Occupational Therapists (OTs) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs) to practice *in all states that join the compact*. This will remove the need for practitioners to get an individual license in each state where they want to practice.

The Basics

- The OT Compact is an interstate compact, which is a constitutionally authorized, legally binding contract between states.
- The OT Compact is the same in form and function as other occupational licensure compacts like the Nurse Licensure Compact, the Physical Therapy Compact, and the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.
- The OT Compact authorizes in person practice and telepractice based on a valid, unrestricted home state license in other compact member states for both Occupational Therapists (OTs) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs)
- The OT Compact took effect in 2022 when 10 states enacted authorizing legislation.
- The American Occupational Therapy Association and the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy are leading the compact. The National Center for Interstate Compacts at the Council of State Governments facilitated the development of the OT Compact.

Benefits

- Preserve and strengthen state licensure systems
- Enhance public safety
- Improve access to Occupational Therapy services
- Increase market opportunities for OTs and OTAs by authorizing practice in member states, including via telehealth
- Enhance mobility for OT practitioners
- Support relocating military families
- Improve continuity of care when clients travel or relocate
- Encourage cooperation among compact member states in regulating OT practice

Dispelling the Myths

- As with the existing licensure compacts, the OT Compact has no impact on a state's scope of practice – this is not a takeover of state regulatory authority.
- As with existing licensure compacts, the OT Compact leaves state specific licensure requirements in place – this is not a takeover of state licensing systems.
- The OT Compact enhances states' authority to protect the public and regulate the OT profession.
- OTs and OTAs are licensed in all 50 states, with consistency in licensure requirements.
- The Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact is a joint initiative by AOTA and NBCOT®