



RI Occupational Therapy Association

The Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact does the following:

- Improves access to Occupational Therapy care and choice of providers
- Improves licensure portability for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants through a mutual recognition model of a valid license issued by other member states
- Allows Occupational Therapy practitioners to more easily cross state lines for employment opportunities or to provide services in multi-state locations
- Facilitates services delivered through telehealth
- Supports military members who are relocating or others who change their primary state of residence frequently
- Improves continuity of care for clients relocating, traveling between states, or living in border communities
- Encourages cooperation among member states in regulating Occupational Therapy practice
- Preserves and strengthens state licensure systems through a centralized data base and reporting system for licensing, disciplinary, and investigative information
- Enhances public safety by this system and requirement of criminal background checks
- Requires continuing education for all who practice under the compact
- Streamlines and improves the timeliness of the licensing application experience
- Provides for individual states to charge an appropriate fee for a compact privilege potentially increasing revenue
- Establishes an Interstate Compact Commission to carry out the compact purpose with each member state designating a Compact Commissioner as a representative

The Occupational Therapy Compact does not:

- Change State licensure law, rules and regulations or scope of practice
- Take over state regulatory authority
- Alter the state's authority to protect the public and regulate the OT profession
- Create a financial burden
- Require individual clinicians to participate – seeking compact privileges in other states is entirely voluntary