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# Alabama Board of Physical Therapy Newsletter

## From the Desk of the Executive Director

We here at the ABPT hope that you had a wonderful holiday season filled with happiness and wish you the brightest possible 2022! The statement “you never work a day in your life if you love what you do” has certainly been applicable to my first year as Executive Director. I have learned so much in my first year by teaching students in the classroom as they prepare for graduation, assisting current licensees in the renewal process, and welcoming out-of-state licensees to Alabama. I have also been fortunate to benefit from the expertise and guidance of our wonderful Board Members. I could not have made it through my first year without them!

### **ABPT NEWS!**

In September of 2021, longtime ABPT employee Sheila Wright Dopson retired from her position as Executive Assistant III. In recognition of her many years of service, Sheila was awarded a plaque of appreciation (picture below). Subsequently, Angela Warr was hired to fill that position. Angela has almost 20 years' experience in public service. We have also added Claire DiLaura to the ABPT team. Claire will serve as an Accounting and Licensure Specialist. Claire is a life-long public servant and, like Angela, has already proven to be a dedicated and valuable team member.



With 2022 upon us, know that my team and I are working diligently to carry out the mission of the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy and are here to help you in any way possible.

**ALABAMA BOARD OF  
PHYSICAL THERAPY**

100 North Union Street, Suite 724 Montgomery, Alabama 36130-5040

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# Alabama Board of Physical Therapy Newsletter

### **Alabama is now a Compact Privilege State**

The Board has been working over the last six months to make changes and put processes into place that will allow the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy to issue Compact Privileges. As we enter 2022, we wanted to provide licensees with an update of our progress.

### **What is a Compact Privilege?**

A Compact Privilege is the authorization to work in a Compact member state other than your own home state. A PT or PTA is required to have a license in your home state and meet eligibility criteria of the Compact, such as having no disciplinary action against your license for at least two years. When eligibility is verified and all fees are paid, the licensee receives the Compact Privilege and may begin legally working in the other “remote” state.

### **How to I obtain a Compact Privilege?**

A licensee must hold one valid, current, unrestricted license in their primary state of residence. They may seek a Compact Privilege in any other remote Compact Member State. After the licensee notifies the Compact Member state and pays any fees required by the remote state, they are given a Compact Privilege, the legal authorization to work as a PT or PTA in the remote state.

For example, a person who has an unrestricted licensed in Georgia and wants to move to Alabama to work for year, but is unsure whether the move will be permanent, would apply for a Compact Privilege in Alabama. After meeting any additional requirements, such as taking a jurisprudence test and paying a fee, they would immediately be granted Compact Privileges and be able to practice physical therapy in the state of Alabama. An interactive map showing the states in the PT Compact, including those who are issuing compact privileges, can be found here: <http://ptcompact.org/ptc-states>.

The same is true for Alabama licensees who may need to move to Georgia (or any other Compact State) to work for an interim period. The intent is to make it easier for PTs and PTAs to begin work immediately in another compact state.

### **So when does this go into effect?**

On March 18, 2021, Governor Ivey signed legislation making Alabama the 31<sup>st</sup> state to join the PT Compact. However, Alabama cannot begin issuing Compact privileges until there are other significant changes made to the Alabama Physical Therapy Practice Act (APTPA) and the Alabama Administrative Code.

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#### **What needs to occur?**

One change is to obtain approval for the Board to conduct FBI background checks on applicants. Anyone seeking a Compact Privilege is required to consent to an FBI background check. Currently, the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy does not have the authority to do this.

The Board office will also need to be able to transfer information to the Physical Therapy Compact Commission (PTCC) on every person ever licensed by the State of Alabama. Our systems will need to be able to receive information from the FSBPT in real-time.

The Board and its counsel from the Alabama Attorney General's Office have been working through important pieces of the Practice Act to identify additional changes that must be made to comply with both the FSBPT Compact language and the expectations of the Alabama consumers we are tasked with protecting. These include:

- Defining a Compact Privilege in our statute.
- Establishing the Board's ability to require a fee in return for issuing a Compact Privilege.
- Establishing the Board's authority to take action against a person holding a Compact Privilege for violating the rules and requirements of Alabama.

#### **What is the Board's timeline?**

The Board anticipates that it will be approximately one more year before Alabama will be ready to issue Compact privileges. We plan to submit legislation in 2022 to modify the Alabama Physical Therapy Practice Act. Once this is accomplished, we will begin with writing updates to the rules, submitting those for public comment, and making any necessary adjustments based on licensee and other stakeholder feedback. The status of our progress will be a standing item on our 2022 Alabama Board meeting agendas and all licensees are welcome to attend the board meetings at any time. You can find the Board of PT's [calendar of meetings](#) on our website. Please bookmark the page as it will be updated as needed to accommodate activities and new developments. Until then, licensees can learn more about the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact on the [Federation of State Board's](#) website.

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# Alabama Board of Physical Therapy Newsletter

## Wellness Program

The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy continues to work with Dr. Mike Garver, DMD, to provide an Impaired Practitioner Wellness Program as a service to licensees in the state of Alabama. This program is designed to help licensees that are impaired by reason of illness, inebriation, excessive use of drugs, alcohol, narcotics, chemicals or other substances, or a result of a physical or mental condition. The self-reporting option provides the opportunity for a licensee to directly contact Dr. Garver and receive much needed help without jeopardizing their license. Self-reporting avoids a formal Board of PT hearing, and the subsequent reporting to the National Practitioner Data Bank. There is no public record as participants are only known to the Board of PT by case number. Below is a personal experience shared with us about the Wellness Program.

*I am a woman who has worked very hard on my education to provide a good life for myself and my family. The world of Physical Therapy is very competitive and to even have an opportunity to get into school, either the DPT or LPTA program is a blessing in itself. Then, life sets in... working, marriage, having children and the frantic chaos that everyday entails can sometimes be overwhelming. Over five years ago my life was turned upside down, my husband had changed into someone I no longer knew and I found myself going through a divorce. Shortly, I seemed to also change into someone I no longer knew. Instead of reaching out to God, my family, or even my friends for help I turned to alcohol and other mind-altering substances. I never once thought that I could be an alcoholic or addict because I was just not one of those people. I was sadly mistaken and in fact, I was suffering from the disease of addiction.*

*My unmanageable life was literally like living in hell...at this point I was failing my children, my family, and even at my job. A couple of poor decisions and I found myself sitting in front of the Board of Physical Therapy and in trouble. They choose to help me and enrolled me in their Wellness Program led by Dr. Garver. At first, I was not happy about this decision because I had already completed a 30-day rehab stay on my own. However, my God does for me, what I cannot do for myself. The Wellness Program saved my life and my career. The accountability and the structure of the program was exactly what I needed.*

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# Alabama Board of Physical Therapy Newsletter

### **WELLNESS PROGRAM CONTINUED:**

*Today, I find myself beyond grateful for this second chance in life. Over the last five years, I have been taught how to manage my disease. I have been blessed with a great job, mended all my broken relationships, and today I am the parent that my children deserve. I can say that I am living my best life thanks to the PT Board and the Wellness Program. I want anyone that has a problem with alcohol or any other substance to know that it's ok to ask for help. I am a believer and my life is a testimony, it is possible to recover from alcohol and drug addiction and lead a productive life.*

For assistance, physical therapist and physical therapist assistants should contact the program director at 1-855-865-6704 (Wellness Center Hotline).

Also, mentors continue to be fundamental in the success of the program. They allow participants to have someone to turn to that have faced those same challenges of addiction. Mentors remain anonymous and time frame for participation is at each individual's discretion. If you are interested in becoming a mentor please contact Dr. Mike Garver at the contact below.

Michael Garver, DMD  
P.O. Box 426  
19260 North Mobile Street  
Citronelle, AL 36522

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Phone: (256)866-5585  
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# Alabama Board of Physical Therapy Newsletter

## PT & PTA License Applications

The ABPT accepts applications for licensure all year long. All licenses (regular and temporary) start with an application for licensure that may be found on our website at [www.pt.alabama.gov](http://www.pt.alabama.gov).

The ABPT offers temporary licenses for recent graduates who wish to work before they are eligible for a regular license or practitioners from other states who will be practicing in Alabama for a short time. Temporary licenses can be granted to those who have or are about to graduate; have a school provided CPTE (Certificate of Physical Therapy Education) form; a Supervisory Agreement signed by the applicant and his or her employer; and proof of registration for the *next available* NPTE exam. A temporary license can be granted to those who have not graduated, but have successfully passed the NPTE exam, but the CPTE and Supervisory Agreement forms are still required. Please note, if you have taken the NPTE and failed, a temporary license cannot be granted. Also, if a temporary license is issued and the applicant fails the NPTE exam, the temporary license is void and it is the applicant's responsibility to notify his or her supervisor/employer and *immediately* stop working under the temporary license.

For a regular license, if you are a new applicant who passed the NPTE within the last year, you must complete an application; have your school send to our office your official transcript showing your **posted** degree; and have your NPTE score sent to our office. Continuing education is not required if you graduated within the last 12 months, however you will be required to provide 2 hours of Alabama Jurisprudence *prior to your first renewal*.

If you are currently licensed in another state and wish to obtain an Alabama license by endorsement, please follow the same steps as a recent graduate. Additionally, you will be required to provide licensure verification from all state(s) in which you are or have been licensed and you are required to submit 10 hours of acceptable continuing education. You will also be required to submit 2 hours of Alabama Jurisprudence *prior to your first renewal*.

NOTE: Two hours of Alabama Jurisprudence is required for all licensees in years that end in "0" (zero) and "5" (five), i.e. 2025, 2030, 2035.



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DID YOU KNOW??? You can go to the ABPT website and print a copy of your license/certificate at any time. Don't have an User Profile? Create one by accessing: <https://pt.alabama.gov/Services.aspx>!

To print your license/certificate, logon to [https://alpt.igovsolution.net/online/User\\_login.aspx](https://alpt.igovsolution.net/online/User_login.aspx) with your user name and password.

- Go to the "Summary" section.
- Click on the "Print" icon in the certificate column (Highlighted in red below).
- That will download a copy of the certificate.

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy website. The URL is https://alpt.igovsolution.net/online/MyProfile/MyProfile.aspx?LpqSVwlAYwHCz6cQyN+mcg==&TdE0tOVYvVQBSVoN4Bmptg==. The page title is 'ALABAMA BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY'. Below the title, there's a 'Customer Account' section with 'Demographic Information' fields for First Name (Test), Middle Name, and Last Name (ltemsChange). Under the 'Summary' section, there's a table with columns: Type, License #, Issue Date, Exp Date, Status, Last Renewal Date, and Certificate. The 'Certificate' column has a red box around the 'Print' button. At the bottom, there's a 'Renewal History' section.

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The ABPT staff got into the holiday spirit this season and made the office festive and welcoming!

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and may the New Year be filled with happiness for you and yours!

Kathy, Angela, and Claire



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**NOTICES**

**Disciplinary Actions:**

2021-005	2021-013
Falsified Records	Practiced with an Expired License
Fine	Fine
Closed & Approved: 9/3/2021	Closed & Approved: 11/2/2021
Louis Cabral	Rachel Little
<hr/>	
2021-011	2021-014
Practiced with an Expired License	Practiced with an Expired License
Fine	Fine
Closed & Approved: 11/2/2021	Closed & Approved: 11/2/2021
Melissa Norton	Kayla Marshman
<hr/>	
2021-012	
Practiced with an Expired License	
Fine	
Closed & Approved: 11/2/2021	
David Peterson	

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It is our pleasure to assist you.



Check out our website:  
[www.pt.alabama.gov](http://www.pt.alabama.gov) for the latest news, Board minutes, and access to  
your user profile.



[@Alabamaboardphysicaltherapy](https://www.facebook.com/Alabamaboardphysicaltherapy)

Check out the Alabama Physical Therapy Association:



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