

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SECTION - OTPTAT BOARD



ADVOCACY— For Self, Clients, and OT

The Occupational Therapy Section frequently receives requests to help license holders sort through ethical issues. Consider these steps when confronted with an ethical dilemma.

1. Identify and define your problem

- Analyze the issue
- Look for information—NBCOT, AOTA, OOTA
- Look at your OT Practice Act and contact the OTPTAT Board—Board@otptat.ohio.gov

2. Name the barriers

- Time constraints
- Budgets
- Working environment and co-workers

3. Consider the implications if nothing is done

- Write down the risks: Client implications, Personal liabilities
- Find a back-up plan
- Protect your license
- Remember: Silence is compliance

4. Approach

- Articulate a plan: Be specific and make your goal
- Brainstorm several solutions to achieve the goal: Identify relevant ideas and avoid causing harm
- Seek feedback and counsel: Talking to others is therapeutic and opens up options and points of view

5. Examine your abilities

- Be objective, not personal
- Use both intuition and logic
- Be open-minded
- Look at different options
- Communicate clearly with words and sources
- Let go of fears associated with the process
- Learn from challenges

[Consensus Statement on Clinical Judgment in Health Care Settings](#)
[AOTA, APTA, ASHA—<http://aota.org>](#)

TIPS

- **Know the Laws and Rules!**
- **Document**
- **Plan**
- **Take Action**
- **Uphold your Ethical Integrity**



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