



STATE OF WISCONSIN

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Positions Statements Related to Dance Therapy Issued by the Department of Safety and Professional Services

ARE MUSIC, ART, OR DANCE THERAPISTS ALLOWED TO PRACTICE PSYCHOTHERAPY?

Only if they are licensed to practice psychotherapy. This requires an additional application beyond that required for registration as a Music, Art or Dance Therapist. The requirements for application for licensure to practice psychotherapy are outlined in [Ch SPS 141.04](#), Wisc Admin Code.

WHAT ABBREVIATIONS CAN I USE?

The recognized abbreviations in the fields of Music, Art and Dance Therapy are defined in [Ch SPS 140](#), Wisc Admin Code:

"ADTR" means the Academy of Dance Therapist Registered, as well as a member of the Academy of Dance Therapist Registered.

"ATR" means art therapist registered

"ATR-BC" means art therapist registered-board certified.

"ATRL" means a person registered as an art therapist who is granted a license to practice psychotherapy.

"DTR" means dance therapist registered.

"DTRL" means a person registered as a dance therapist who is granted a license to practice psychotherapy.

"MTRL" means a person registered as a music therapist who is granted a license to practice psychotherapy.

"WATR" means a person who is granted a registration in Wisconsin as an art therapist.

"WDTR" means a person who is granted a registration in Wisconsin as a dance therapist.

"WMTR" means a person who is granted a registration in Wisconsin as a music therapist

CAN I GET A LICENSE IF I'VE BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME?

There is no simple answer to this question.

All professions are subject to the state law (sections 111.321, 111.322 and 111.335, Stats.) that prohibits discrimination against applicants based on conviction records unless convictions are substantially related to the practice of the profession. The phrase "substantially related" is interpreted broadly in order to protect the public, especially in health service professions where licensees interact with vulnerable populations, so convictions that involved harm to others or that suggest an impaired ability to perform licensed duties will probably be considered to be substantially related to the practice of the profession.

It is common for a board to ask the applicant to appear in person, to explain the circumstances of his or her conviction record and to discuss the person's development since the offense(s). Once it evaluates all the information submitted by the applicant, including any in-person interview, the board then has wide discretion to grant or deny the application. This is why it's very difficult to provide a simple answer to this question. Being denied for a license would not prevent a person from applying again later.

An additional consideration is that, even though an applicant may be granted a license, certain employment opportunities may be unavailable to persons with criminal records. For example, under the "caregiver law", some convictions require post-conviction DHS Rehabilitation Review prior to working in a DHS licensed facility.

WHAT OBLIGATIONS ARE THERE TO REPORT UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT BY ANOTHER MEMBER OF MY OWN PROFESSION?

There is no ethics rule that requires you to report unprofessional conduct by another member of your profession. However, you should be aware of the following:

1. If you have reasonable cause to suspect that a child you have seen in the course of your professional duties has been abused or neglected, you have an obligation to report it. (See section [48.981](#) of the Statutes for details.)
2. If you have reasonable cause to suspect that a client you have seen in the course of your professional duties is a victim of sexual contact by a therapist, you must ask the client if s/he wants you to report it. (See section [940.22](#) of the Statutes for details.)
3. Even though you are not obligated to report unprofessional conduct by another, you are encouraged to report it by a grant of civil immunity: "any person who in good faith ... provides the department or any examining board ... with advice or information on a matter

relating to the regulation of a person holding a credential is immune from civil liability”.
(See section [440.042\(2\)](#) of the Statutes for details.)

4. [Ch SPS 142.06](#), Wisc Admin Code requires that those registered as a music, art or dance therapist notify the DRL within 30 days if an organization (specified in Wis Stat. [440.03\(14\)\(a\)](#)) revokes a registrant’s certification.

DO I HAVE TO OBTAIN PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE?

If you practice psychotherapy, yes, unless you practice only as a government employee. The amounts specified by rule ([Ch SPS 142.07](#), Wisc Admin Code) are at least \$1,000,000 for each occurrence and \$3,000,000 for all occurrences in one year.