

of life through recreation participation for individuals with injury, illness or disability. VA qualification standards require Recreation Therapists to have an active, current, full and unrestricted certification as a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist from the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC). Although NCTRC is the certification body for Recreation Therapists, the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) has developed the Standards for the Practice of Recreational Therapy, which is followed by all VA Recreation Therapists.

VA reviewed whether there are any alternative registrations, certifications or State requirements that could be required for a Recreation Therapist and found that five States require a license to practice as a Recreation Therapist in that State. Of those, one State exempts Federal employees from its State license requirements. The standards set forth in the licensure requirements for all five States are consistent with what is permitted under the Standards of Practice for Recreational Therapy from the ATRA. Therefore, there is no variance in how any Recreation Therapists practice in any State.

VA proposes to adopt a standard of practice consistent with the ATRA standards. Therefore, VA Recreation Therapists will continue to follow the same standard as set by their national certification. The ATRA standards can be found here: <https://www.atra-online.com/general/custom.asp?page=SOP>.

Because the practice of Recreation Therapists is not changing, there will be no impact on the practice of this occupation when this national standard of practice is implemented.

Proposed National Standard of Practice for Recreation Therapists

1. Recreation Therapists systematically use recreation and activity-based interventions for the specific purpose of improving the physical, social, emotional, cognitive and spiritual functioning of individuals; enhancing wellbeing; and enabling greater quality of life through recreation participation for individuals with injury, illness or disability. Recreation Therapists utilize treatment interventions, leisure education and recreation experiences to improve functional abilities, foster recovery, enhance health and wellness, promote the development and maintenance of a healthy leisure lifestyle and increase independent participation in activities of choice through activity modification, adaptation and facilitation.

2. Recreation Therapists in VA possess the education and certification required by VA qualification standards. See VA Handbook 5005, Staffing, Part II, Appendix G60, dated June 7, 2019.

3. VA Recreation Therapists practice in accordance with the Standards for the Practice of Recreational Therapy from ATRA available at: <https://www.atra-online.com/>. VA reviewed license and certification requirements for this occupation in June 2023 and confirmed that all Recreation Therapists in VA follow the ATRA standards.

4. Although VA only requires a certification, five States require a State license in order to practice as a Recreation Therapist in that State: New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Utah. Of those, the following State exempts Federal employees from its State license requirements: Oklahoma.

VA reviewed license and certification requirements for this occupation in June 2023 and confirmed that there is no variance in how VA Recreation Therapists practice in any State.

Request for Information

1. Are there any required trainings for the aforementioned practices that we should consider?

2. Are there any factors that would inhibit or delay the implementation of the aforementioned practices for VA health care professionals in any States?

3. Is there any variance in practice that we have not listed?

4. What should we consider when preempting conflicting State laws, regulations or requirements regarding supervision of individuals working toward obtaining their license or unlicensed personnel?

5. Is there anything else you would like to share with us about this national standard of practice?

Signing Authority

Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, approved and signed this document on July 12, 2023, and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Jeffrey M. Martin,

Assistant Director, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0059]

Agency Information Collection Activity: Statement of Person Claiming To Have Stood in Relation of Parent

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Veteran's Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed revision of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before September 26, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at www.Regulations.gov or to Nancy Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420 or email to nancy.kessinger@va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0059" in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through FDMS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maribel Aponte, Office of Enterprise and Integration, Data Governance Analytics (008), 810 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 266-4688 or email maribel.aponte@va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0059" in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1310, 1315.

Title: Statement of Person Claiming to Have Stood in Relation of Parent (VA Form 21P-524).

OMB Control Number: 2900-0059.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), through its Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), administers an integrated program of benefits and services, established by law, for veterans, service personnel, and their dependents and/or beneficiaries. Title 38 U.S.C. 5101(a) provides that a

specific claim in the form provided by the Secretary must be filed in order for benefits to be paid to any individual under the laws administered by the Secretary. 38 U.S.C 1315 established Dependency Indemnity Compensation to Parents (known as Parents' DIC). Parent's DIC is a monthly benefit payable to the parent(s) of a deceased Veteran. The payable monthly benefit is dependent on the parent's (parents') annual income. Additional funds are payable to the parent(s) if they are in a patient in a nursing home, blind, so nearly blind or significantly disabled as to need or require the regular aid and attendance of another person.

38 CFR 3.59 defines the term parent as “. . . a natural mother or father (including the mother of an illegitimate child or the father of an illegitimate child if the usual family relationship existed), mother or father through adoption, or a person who for a period of not less than 1 year stood in the

relationship of a parent to a Veteran at any time before his or her entry into active service.”

The information collected will be used by VBA to evaluate a claimant's parental relationship to a deceased Veteran when the claimant is not the Veteran's natural mother or father or adopted mother or father.

Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 42 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 2 hours (120 minutes).

Frequency of Response: Once.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 21.

By direction of the Secretary.

Maribel Aponte,

VA PRA Clearance Officer, Office of Enterprise and Integration/Data Governance Analytics, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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