

Virgin Islands Department of Health

VI Board of Physical Therapy



About the Board



What is the Physical Therapy Board of Virgin Islands?

The PT Board of the Virgin Islands consists of five members, all of whom must reside in the VI and have been practicing for no less than 3 years prior to their appointment. Two members must be from St. Croix and 2 from St. Thomas or St. John. One may be a public member. The Governor appoints one licensed PT or PTA from each district and the public member. The other two positions are elected by the PT community. Board members serve a 3 year term.

This Board is legislatively mandated to license and regulate the physical therapists and physical therapist assistants who wish to work in the Virgin Islands. The Board is mandated to interpret the scope of practice for physical therapy, write regulations, and discipline licensees who have violated the law. The most important function of the Board is to protect the citizens of the Virgin Islands. The board utilizes the Model Board Action Guidelines in its disciplinary hearings to determine sanctions. These guidelines were created by the Federation of State Physical Therapy Boards (FSBPT). <https://www.fsbpt.org>

There are currently 2 positions open on the board. One is the Governor appointed position in St. Croix and one is the public member. There will be two open positions in the spring. These will be the elected position and the Governor appointed position in St. Thomas-St. John. All are welcome to apply. Please contact the administrative office for an application.

What is the Federation of State Physical Therapy Boards (FSBPT)?

FSBPT is the national organization comprised of 53 regulatory bodies throughout the United States. Their goal is to protect the public by promoting safe and competent physical therapy practice. They develop and administer the National Physical Therapy Exam, assist jurisdictions with identifying and promoting safe regulation and hold annual training meetings to assist members. The VI Board of Physical Therapy is a member of FSBPT. FSBPT assisted the VI with the revision of its practice act in 2014.

Board Members

Bonnie O'Rourke-Barr PT,MPH, Chairperson

Dr. Jerry Smith, DPT, Secretary

Dr. Erin Gauthier, DPT, Board Member

Deborah Richardson-Peter, MPA
Administrator

What is the PT Compact?

The Physical Therapy Compact is an agreement between jurisdictions that allows a PT or a PTA to purchase a compact privilege. This allows the licensee to practice in any member state if they complete the requirements for membership such as holding a license in a Compact state, have no disciplinary actions over the past two years and completing the Jurisprudence Exam (if required) in the state where you wish to hold a Compact privilege. The VI is not able to participate at this time because we do not have the appropriate background checks available. Go to: <https://ptcompact.org> for more information.



Where can I find information about the PT Practice Act and the Rules for the VI?

The PT Practice Act can be found at the following link. https://www.fsbpt.org/Portals/0/documents/VI_PTLaw2015.pdf

The Rules are currently being reviewed and have been submitted for promulgation to the Governor's Office. The copy of the proposed rules will be placed on the new website at www.therapyboard.org when they are approved.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

What are the requirements and how can I track these? Licensees must upload their CCUs to CE Broker platform. Each licensee must sign an affidavit that they are compliant with the CCU requirement as specified in the Rules and Regulations. Any licensee can be audited by the board for compliance. The link to CE Broker is: <https://cebroker.com/vi/plans>.

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