



July 2, 2020

INFORMATION

COUNCIL ON SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT

Notice of Emergency Rule Adoption in response COVID-19 disaster, regarding removal of prohibition of online courses to satisfy education requirement for licensure.

On July 2, 2020: In response to COVID-19, the Council on Sex Offender Treatment convened an emergency meeting and adopted emergency amendment to Council Rules found in Title 22 of the Texas Administrative Code, §810.3 that removes from subparagraph (c)(1)(B)(ii) the prohibition of online continuing education courses that an applicant may submit toward education requirements for Licensed Sex Offender Treatment Provider (LSOTP) license.

The emergency rule became effective upon submission to the Secretary of State on July 2, 2020. The emergency rule was published in the July 17 edition of the *Texas Register*. A rule adopted under [Texas Government Code, §2001.034](#), concerning Emergency Rulemaking, may be effective for no longer than 120 days and may be renewed one time for no longer than 60 days. The Council will consider renewal of this emergency rule at its Fall 2020 meeting (tentatively September 11, 2020).

22 TAC §810.3 License Required

(c)(1) *Licensed Sex Offender Treatment Provider (LSOTP)*. To be eligible as a LSOTP, the applicant shall meet all of the following criteria:

- (A) (no change);
- (B) experience and training required as listed in clauses (i) - (ii) of this subparagraph:
 - (i) (no change)
 - (ii) submit proof of completion of a minimum of 40 hours of documented continuing education training obtained within 3 years prior to the application date, in the specific area of sex offender assessment and treatment. [~~Online hours are not acceptable.~~] Of the initial 40 hours training required, 30 hours shall be in the specific area of sex offender assessment and treatment. Ten hours shall be in sexual assault victim related training;
- (C) through (H) (no change).

The Council on Sex Offender Treatment is an independent licensing board administratively attached to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). The Council, as an independent entity, maintains a management structure and decision-making authority separate from HHSC. This message is an official communication from the Council on Sex Offender Treatment.