



Treatment Provider Certification Requirements

July 2022

California Sex Offender Management Board (CASOMB)

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Introduction:

Mental health professionals who provide therapeutic treatment services for adult sexual offenders need to have specialized training, education, and experience that prepare them to work within this field. Sex offender specific assessment and treatment require significant clinical skill and experience. A competent therapist will have specialized knowledge and techniques that are based on empirical evidence. The ultimate goal of therapy is to motivate and enable the offender to develop the ability to self-regulate his or her behavior and by doing so increase safety for children and other vulnerable persons in the community. Maintaining and demonstrating evidence of one's scope of practice and scope of competence in working with adult sexual offenders is the legal and ethical responsibility of each licensed psychotherapist in California treating these individuals.

Sex offender specific treatment is an important part of certified sex offender management. Collaboration among treatment providers, parole agents, probation officers, polygraph examiners, and other stakeholders working together with a victim advocacy perspective is key to the true partnership necessary for the successful treatment and supervision of adult sexual offenders.

Applicants who fulfill the following requirements are eligible to become certified providers at one of three levels described in Part Two. Additionally, a provider who treats PC 290 registered sexual offenders under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system pursuant to PC 1203.067 and 3008 must use sexual offender specific treatment as described in the CASOMB Provider Agency Certification Requirements.

CASOMB may revise these standards and requirements at any time. These criteria are for those mental health practitioners who provide treatment and evaluation of all sexual offenders pursuant to Penal Code section 290.09. The Board recognizes that treatment and evaluation of adult offender clients is significantly different from services provided to youth who have sexual behavior problems.

Definitions:

Offender Client: The word "offender client" as used in this document refers to an individual who has engaged in a sexual offense and is required to register pursuant to PC 290.

Supervision: The word "supervision" as used in this document refers to the clinical supervision or formal oversight provided to mental health professionals. Supervision for CASOMB purposes may be completed concurrently with the supervision requirements for mental health licensure.

Part 1: Requirements that Apply to All Providers

The following requirements and explanations apply to all individuals seeking certification or recertification at any one of the three levels described in Part Two: Independent Provider, Associate Provider, or Student Provider.

A. Training Requirements for Initial Certification or Recertification

A specified amount of training is required for initial certification at each of the three levels of certified providers. Applicants are not required to submit documentation of their training as a required part of the process of seeking certification. However, applicants must sign attestation forms, under penalty of perjury, indicating that they have participated in the required training. Upon request by CASOMB, they must provide documentation of their training. The training must relate to sex offender evaluation, treatment, and management and the focus of the training must be a subject listed on the Approved Topics List found in the Appendix.

The word “training” as used in this document refers to a formalized educational experience. To be acceptable a “training” must meet all of the following criteria:

1. be focused on one or more content areas related to the treatment, evaluation or management of individuals who have offended sexually,
2. be planned,
3. be scheduled prior to its occurrence,
4. be announced in written form, including the time of the training,
5. have a written outline or presentation materials demonstrating internal structure, and
6. be presented by one or more persons with expertise with the content material.

It is not necessary that it be formally certified Continuing Education (CE) as long as it meets the requirements stated here. Hours spent training may be counted as training hours for the presenter.

The following are offered as examples of the types of educational experiences that would be considered acceptable “training” for certification purposes.

- formal trainings, conference presentations or similar experiences that qualify as CE for therapist license recertification purposes
- online CE educational experiences which meet requirements for State licensing purposes
- educational experiences, including online trainings, offered by a reputable organization such as the California Coalition on Sexual Offending (CCOSO), the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) or other recognized providers

- formal intra-agency in-service staff trainings that meet the requirements as enumerated in the paragraph above
 - Agencies who provide intra-agency training, must maintain a roster of attendance including the date(s), times/duration, title of the training, trainer(s) name and signature. Certificates should be issued to the attendees with the same information in order to satisfy CASOMB training requirement series

Examples of types of educational experiences that would not be considered acceptable “training” for certification purposes include, but are not limited to:

- consultations or conversations with experts
- non-formalized self-study such as reading a journal article, book, or viewing an on-line PowerPoint, with no option for asking questions
- providing presentations to non-professionals, such as community groups, etc.
- reading or participating in list-serves, blogs, etc. – even when the content is highly relevant
- supervision sessions, whether given or received
- case conferences, Containment Team meetings, staff meetings, or similar events

B. Experience Requirements for Initial Certification or Recertification

Specialized experience providing therapeutic services to offender clients is required for certification at the Independent provider level. Experience co-facilitating sex offender specific groups must be completed, prior to solo group facilitation at the Associate or Student level or becoming an advanced co-facilitator at the Associate levels. The sex offender specific experience detailed below can be obtained in a variety of settings, including, but not limited to, community based outpatient settings, institutional settings, and residential treatment settings. This experience can be obtained by working with registered or non-registered sex offenders in California or out of state. In order for experience to qualify, it must be sex offender specific evaluation or treatment. Providing substance abuse or mental health treatment to an offender who has committed a sexual offense does not count toward experience hours. No more than 20% of a provider’s experience can be obtained by working with youth (under the age of 18) who have engaged in problematic sexual behavior. Applicants are not required to submit documentation of their experience as part of the process of seeking certification. However, applicants must sign attestation forms under penalty of perjury, indicating they have accumulated the required amount of experience and that they are able to document their claim to have met the experience requirements if such substantiation is requested by CASOMB.

Experience hours are best documented as the experience is obtained. The experience can be documented in one of several ways. A log of experience can be maintained by the provider, and signed off on a weekly or monthly basis by their CASOMB certified Independent level clinical supervisor. At the conclusion of experience, or when a

change in clinical supervisors occurs, the CASOMB certified clinical supervisor could write and sign a letter that should include the starting and ending date for supervising the provider, the number of face-to-face group hours co-facilitated, and the total number of face-to-face hours providing sex offender specific treatment and evaluation. If the provider is matriculating, the supervisor must include a statement about their readiness to be certified at the Independent level.

C. Licensure Requirements for Initial Certification or Recertification

Every individual providing services as a Certified Provider at any level needs to have and maintain a status that authorizes her or him to provide mental health services in California or in the jurisdiction where such services are offered. In California, the eligibility requirements are set by the Board of Behavioral Sciences (B&P §4980-§4999.129 and §1800-§1888.1, and other relevant codes) for the complete statutes and regulations visit the [Board of Behavioral Sciences](#) website, [Board of Psychology](#) (Board of Psychology laws and regulations) and Medical Board. CASOMB may add additional eligibility requirements. In some cases, such status will be attained by holding a license for independent practice. In other cases, the supporting structure will be a formal status as a registered Associate, a Registered Psychological Associate or some similar arrangement. In yet other cases, the status will be maintained through participation in a formal training program of an academic institution. In order to qualify as a training program, the agency must have a written agreement with the training institution with oversight by the academic institution's field placement director or equivalent. Upon request, the Student provider must provide CASOMB with the field placement contract between the agency and the educational institution. In unusual situations in which a standard licensure or registration status does not support the application for certification, the applicant must provide information clarifying her or his eligibility for CASOMB certification.

When transferring from other states to California, CASOMB follows the direction of the state professional licensing board in relation to eligibility to practice. Individuals will have a grace period in which they can practice, while obtaining their California license. During this time, they are not eligible to provide clinical supervision.

D. Background Check

Applicants must pass a criminal background check. Applicants must submit fingerprints via Live Scan so the California Department of Justice can conduct a criminal history background check. Each applicant is required to pay the associated costs for this process. A list of Live Scan vendors in California can be found at: <http://oag.ca.gov/fingerprints/locations>.

In order to receive and maintain CASOMB certification, providers shall not have any prior or pending charges or convictions for sexually related offenses or offenses involving interpersonal violence (including but not limited to domestic violence,

assault, murder), or any other charges or convictions which call into question the suitability of the applicant for certification. For a review of serious and violent offenses see the following Penal Codes PC 667.5(c) and PC 1192.7(c) however, this is not an exhaustive list.

The applicant cannot be the subject of pending licensing revocation proceedings. A pending licensing revocation proceeding may result in suspension of certification status. If a CASOMB certified provider is subject to any Board action, including any conditions, probation, or suspension the provider must notify CASOMB of their change in licensure status. If the licensing board places, any restrictions on the provider, such as a limitation on the ability to provide clinical supervision, this restriction will also apply to CASOMB certification.

Decisions relating to whether criminal history charges, convictions, or pending licensing revocation proceedings should bar certification or recertification are decided by the CASOMB certification staff, by an exercise of reasonable discretion. Appeals are directed to the CASOMB Certification Committee. In order to consider the appeal, applicants may be requested to provide additional information to the Certification Committee. Decisions of the Certification Committee are final.

E. NexTEST Clearance

All applicants must meet FBI and California Department of Justice requirements for access to criminal record offender information by taking and passing the NexTEST exam. This must be renewed every two (2) years. Failure to renew will lead to suspension of provider certification. Email CASOMB staff at CASOMB@cdcr.ca.gov for instructions.

F. Fees

As required by statute [PC 9003(a)(3)], each applicant must pay the initial application fee or recertification fee. If applying for a matriculation from Associate to Independent Provider level prior to the two-year recertification cycle, the application will be processed at no additional fee. The original recertification date will remain the same. The current fee schedule is posted on the CASOMB web site.

G. Continued Placement on Certified Provider List

Certification as a provider, both for initial certification and for recertification, for Associates and Independent providers will be for a period of two (2) years. Students will be certified for one (1) year, and required to recertify annually. Certified providers must apply for continued placement on the Certified Provider list prior to expiration of the current certification. The Board's staff will make reasonable efforts to provide advance notice of each certified provider's recertification date, but the final responsibility for tracking recertification will remain with each provider. The

provider seeking recertification must demonstrate compliance with the certification criteria for recertification as listed for each level.

H. Code of Ethics

In addition to following the generally accepted standards of practice of the provider's mental health profession or discipline, the provider shall adhere to the Code of Ethics published by the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (available at <https://www.atsa.com/>). All services are to be provided in a manner that is consistent with the accepted standard of practice in the sex offender provider community.

I. Letters of Reference

There is no general requirement that an applicant submit letters of reference during an initial certification or recertification. However, as determined on a case-by-case basis, applicants may be required to submit letters of reference or verification related to their application if requested to do so by CASOMB. The Board may also require letters of reference addressing any relevant aspect of the applicant's professional conduct. Letters of Matriculation are required by an applicant's supervisor, when the applicant is matriculating to a higher level of certification.

J. Malpractice Insurance

Professional malpractice insurance coverage is not required for certification but is strongly recommended.

K. Professional Organizations

Applicants are not required to be members of professional associations, although this is strongly encouraged as a means of staying current on research and best practices in the field. Such organizations include the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA), the California Coalition on Sexual Offending (CCOSO), and the National Organization for the Treatment of Abusers (NOTA) and the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders (IATSO).

M. Certification Denial, Revocation, or Denial of Recertification

Failure to comply with the requirements for certification, recertification, or compliance reviews may result in removal from the certified provider list. CASOMB may refuse to accept an application, revoke a certification, or deny a recertification upon verification that the individual has incurred one or more of the following:

1. The individual has been convicted of any felony or misdemeanor involving a sexual or violent offense.
2. The individual's state license or pre-license status is currently revoked, canceled, suspended, has not been renewed, has been placed on inactive status or placed on probation by any state licensing body. Whether licensed, pre-licensed, or in a training program, the provider must be in good standing with the appropriate

licensing body or training program and must report any loss of that good standing status to CASOMB as soon as she or he becomes aware of it.

3. The individual has been determined by CASOMB to have engaged in deceit or fraud in connection with the delivery of services, supervision, or documentation of application requirements or eligibility.
4. CASOMB has determined that a breach of ethics has occurred.
5. The individual has otherwise been determined by CASOMB not to meet the criteria for certification.

N. Appeal Process

Determinations made by the Board with regard to certification or recertification may be appealed by the affected individual. The appeal procedures are noted in Part Three of this document.

O. Special Cases and Exceptions

The Board may consider additional factors relevant to certification and determination of the appeal.

Part 2: Specific Requirements for Each Certification Level

I. Independent Provider Level

The Independent Provider designation describes individuals who qualify for the highest level of CASOMB certification. The certified Independent Provider is recognized as qualified to practice in the field of sex offender evaluation and treatment in a fully independent way.

An Independent Provider's competence to provide any specific type of service is governed by all of the standards and regulations of her or his state mental health provider licensure, by the relevant professional Code of Ethics, and by the Code of Ethics of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.

A. Services which may be provided by a certified Independent Provider

An individual certified at the Independent Provider level may practice independently and provide evaluation, treatment and related services to adult sex offenders without clinical supervision.

Certified Independent Providers who deliver treatment services pursuant to Penal Code Sections 1203.067 and 3008 must meet the requirements to be a certified Provider Agency or be affiliated with a certified Provider Agency. Certified treatment providers who do not provide the above mentioned treatment services are not required to be affiliated with a certified Provider Agency.

Allowable Clinical Supervisor Services

A certified Independent Provider may supervise individuals at the Associate Provider or Student Provider level who need supervision in order to meet the requirements of these certification criteria.

CASOMB certification requires that an Independent Provider, acting as a supervisor must be limited to a maximum number of supervisees, under their certification. The number of supervisees is not determined by the agency. For example, an Independent Provider, offering supervision services to more than one agency, must limit the number of supervisees as required by CASOMB certification and described below.

A supervisor may provide supervision to a maximum of five (5) Students. Students are new to sex offender treatment, and are in the learning and training stages of sex offender treatment and evaluation. Therefore, additional time is needed to supervise Student Providers. A supervisor supervising five (5) Students has reached their

maximum number of supervisees and cannot supervise any Associate Providers for CASOMB purposes. A supervisor that has less than five (5) Student supervisees, can supervise a maximum of seven (7) individuals (i.e. four (4) Students and three (3) Associates; three (3) Students and four (4) Associates, etc.) for CASOMB purposes. In special cases, because of geographical or other considerations, the Board may grant exceptions to this standard. Approval must be granted by CASOMB in writing prior to an exemption being implemented.

Supervisors should have experience in both treatment and evaluation. Supervisors must have conducted a minimum of 200 direct (face-to-face or telehealth) hours of sex offender specific treatment in order to qualify as a clinical supervisor.

B. Requirements for Initial Certification of an Independent Provider

To qualify to provide sex offender treatment at the Independent Provider level, an individual must demonstrate that he or she meets all of the following criteria:

1. **EDUCATION.** An Independent Provider will have completed all the educational requirements needed to become licensed and to maintain licensure.
2. **LICENSURE.** An Independent Provider shall have and maintain a current California license to independently practice in the mental health field as described above. If the client is being treated outside of California, the license must be issued by the jurisdiction in which the practitioner provides the services.
3. **EXPERIENCE.** The applicant shall, within the last five (5) years, have completed a minimum of 1,000 hours of direct (face-to-face or telehealth) clinical experience, specifically in the areas of sex offender evaluation and treatment of offender clients. Of the 1,000 hours, a minimum of 200 hours (20%) must be in sex offender specific treatment.

These hours may have been obtained either while functioning as an independently licensed mental health professional or while working under pre-licensure supervision.

The Board recognizes that some clinicians may have accumulated a significant number of hours of direct sex offender treatment and evaluation experience that may have been gained over a period of many years. Applicants who have met a lifetime experience threshold of providing at least 2,000 hours of direct (face-to-face or telehealth) sex offender specific therapy and assessment services and who continue to maintain professional involvement in the field

will be allowed to submit their lifetime experience in lieu of the 1,000 hours of experience obtained within the last five (5) years. Applicants applying on this basis must be currently licensed. Those certified with lifetime experience must still recertify every two (2) years.

If the experience is not acquired under the direct supervision of a CASOMB certified treatment provider, then CASOMB will require detailed information to determine if the experience meets CASOMB standards.

The Board may require substantiation of a claim that the applicant's current involvement in the field is substantially relevant to the field of sex offender evaluation, treatment, and management services.

4. **TRAINING.** The individual shall, within the last two (2) years prior to initial certification, have accumulated a minimum of 24 documented training hours related to sex offender evaluation, treatment, and management methods.

Training hours shall be in course topics included on the CASOMB Approved Training Topics list provided in the Appendix. No more than half the hours (12 hours) will be accepted on risk assessments. (See details in the Appendix)

The Independent Provider shall maintain a record of her or his training and continuing education hours as applicable to CASOMB requirements. The Independent Provider is required to sign an attestation under penalty of perjury that this training requirement has been fulfilled.

Those certified, including those with lifetime experience, must fulfill the required 24 hours of training every two (2) years.

If the Independent Provider is providing clinical supervision under their CASOMB certification, then they must complete an additional six (6) CE hours in clinical supervision, prior to commencing the clinical supervision.

5. **SUPERVISION.** No supervision requirements are imposed upon an Independent Provider. The standard expectations for any mental health professional with respect to seeking consultation and supervision as needed are applicable.

C. Requirements for Recertification for an Independent Provider

A certified Independent Provider will remain on the Certified Provider list, unless explicitly removed for cause, for a period of two (2) years. The certification must be renewed every two (2) years thereafter. The recertification date is listed on the provider's certificate.

It is the provider's responsibility to keep track of her or his recertification date. Prior to the expiration of her or his certification status, the Independent Provider must submit an application for provider recertification as well as all supporting documentation required for recertification. The CASOMB Application Request Form and payment for provider recertification shall be submitted with a postmark of 60 days prior to the recertification due date. The CASOMB Application Request Form for provider recertification and the fee schedule can be found on the CASOMB website.

A new Live Scan fingerprinting procedure is **not** required for recertification. To renew certification status, an Independent Provider must take the following actions and meet the following criteria:

1. **EXPERIENCE.** An Independent Provider shall attest under penalty of perjury that she or he continues to be involved in the sex offender assessment, treatment, and management field.
2. **TRAINING.** The Independent Provider shall attest under penalty of perjury that she or he has completed a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education and training over the course of the previous two (2) years. No more than half the hours (12 hours) can be obtained on risk assessments (See details in the Appendix).
3. **SUPERVISION.** No specific amount of supervision is required for recertification as an Independent Provider.

II. Associate Provider Level

The Associate Provider designation describes individuals who either are not licensed by the state to independently deliver mental health services or are not at the requisite level of experience and training needed to be certified as an Independent Provider by the California Sex Offender Management Board.

An Associate Provider must have a status, which allows the individual to provide mental health services in accord with California laws and regulations. Eligibility to provide any specific type of service is governed by all of the standards and regulations of her or his state mental health provider licensure, by the relevant professional Code

of Ethics and by the Code of Ethics of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.

A. Services which may be provided by a Certified Associate Provider

Certified Associate Providers who provide treatment services pursuant to Penal Code Sections 1203.067 and 3008 must be affiliated with a CASOMB certified provider agency.

The Associate Provider may facilitate individual therapy sessions, family therapy sessions, or evaluate offender clients while working under the supervision of a certified Independent Provider. The Associate Provider may facilitate group therapy under the following conditions:

1. If unlicensed the Associate Provider, must co-facilitate 20 hours of sex offender specific group therapy over a minimum of three (3) months. Co-facilitation must be with an Independent or experienced Associate, who has completed a minimum of six (6) months AND 40 hours of sex offender specific group facilitation.
2. If licensed the Associate Provider, must co-facilitate 10 hours of sex offender specific group therapy over a minimum of six (6) weeks. Co-facilitation must be with an Independent or experienced Associate, who has completed a minimum of six (6) months AND 40 hours of sex offender specific group facilitation.
3. Prior experience gained as a Student Provider, who has completed six months AND 40 hours of group co-facilitation with a qualified provider satisfies this requirement.

A certified Associate Provider, whether licensed or unlicensed, may not provide clinical supervision regulated by these criteria to any other person.

B. Requirements for Initial Certification of an Associate Provider

To qualify to provide sex offender treatment at the Associate Provider level, an individual must attest that she or he meets all of the following criteria:

1. **EDUCATION.** An Associate Provider shall have a Master's degree or above in a behavioral science area of study recognized by a California licensing board or by the licensing jurisdiction in which the individual practices.
2. **LICENSURE.** An Associate Provider shall meet one of the following requirements:

- i. The individual shall have attained and shall maintain a current license to independently practice in the mental health field. A State of California licensing board must issue the license. If the client is being treated outside of California, the license must be issued by the jurisdiction in which the practitioner provides the services.
 - ii. The individual shall have the required status as an associate with the Board of Behavioral Sciences (AMFT, ACSW, APCC) or Board of Psychology (RPA), Exempt Status (unlicensed employees of accredited or approved academic institutions, public schools, or governmental agencies), post-doctoral intern (in a formal placement recognized by CAPIC, APPIC, or APA), or the equivalent to qualify to provide mental health services, under supervision, in California or in the jurisdiction in which the services are actually provided.
- 3. **EXPERIENCE.** It is strongly recommended that Associates have a minimum of one (1) year of clinical forensic experience, prior to employment at a CASOMB certified agency. Group facilitation is a skill that involves not only managing the content of the group, but also the group dynamics. Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers/American Psychological Association (APPIC/APA) recommends that it take approximately six (6) to eight (8) months and 40 hours of group co-facilitation with an experienced group facilitator to gain proficiency at this skill. The Associate Provider must co-facilitate groups as described above (A. 1-3), before solo facilitation or co-facilitation with a less experienced individual.
- 4. **TRAINING.** The individual shall, within the last two (2) years prior to initial certification, have accumulated a minimum of 16 documented training hours related to sex offender evaluation, treatment, and management methods.

The SARATSO violence risk assessment tool Level of Services/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) will not be accepted as training hours for the initial certification. No more than eight (8) hours can be associated with risk assessment. The other eight (8) hours for the initial certification should be directly related to sex offender specific treatment. If the applicant is new to the field of sex offender treatment and evaluation then the provider should take a minimum of eight (8) hours in introduction and overview topics for sex offender specific treatment and evaluation. These training hours shall be in course topics included on the CASOMB Approved Training Topics list provided in the Appendix.

The Associate Provider will be required to sign an attestation under penalty of perjury that this training requirement has been fulfilled.

5. **SUPERVISION.** Any offender client related services regulated by the CASOMB criteria and provided by an Associate Provider must be provided under the supervision of an Independent Provider.

The supervision described in this document may or may not meet the criteria of any other supervision requirements made by state licensing boards for mental health professionals.

The required supervision should be provided in a face-to-face setting, but may also be conducted by video conferencing or by telephone (if video conferencing capabilities are not available). A minimum of one face-to-face meeting shall be scheduled on a quarterly basis, unless extenuating circumstances exist.

For purposes of this certification, an Associate Provider must receive a minimum of one (1) hour of individual supervision per week. If the Associate provides less than seven (7) hours of direct clinical services per week, then a minimum of one (1) hour of individual supervision must be provided once every two (2) weeks. The Associate must comply with all supervision requirements set forth by the licensing Board and formal post-doctoral training program requirements.

The supervisor and supervisee shall sign a Supervision Agreement Form prior to the commencement of the supervised professional experience. The supervisor shall document the clinical supervision, as described under the supervision section of the Provider Agency Certification Requirements. If the licensed supervisor changes at any point during the supervised professional experience, then a new Supervision Agreement Form must be signed with the new supervisor and submitted to CASOMB.

C. Requirements for Recertification for an Associate Provider

An Associate Provider will remain on the Certified Provider list, unless explicitly removed for cause, for a period of two (2) years. Recertification must occur every two (2) years thereafter. The recertification date is listed on the provider's certificate.

Prior to the expiration of her or his certification status, the Associate Provider must submit the documentation required for recertification. A new Live Scan fingerprinting procedure is not required for recertification.

There is no limit to the length of time an individual may remain at the Associate Provider status, provided the required recertification is successfully completed as specified.

To renew certification status, an Associate Provider must take the following actions and meet the following criteria:

1. **ELIGIBILITY.** Licensure as described in the previous section (See page 12, Section 2. **LICENSURE**).
2. **TRAINING.** The Associate Provider shall attest under penalty of perjury that he or she has completed a minimum of 16 hours of continuing education and training over the course of the previous two (2) years.

Training hours must be in course areas on the list of CASOMB Approved Training Topics (See details in the Appendix). No more than eight (8) hours of training can be in risk assessments.

3. **SUPERVISION.** The supervision requirements remain the same for Associates who recertify. The required supervision should be provided in a face-to-face setting, but may also be conducted by video conferencing or by telephone (if video conferencing capabilities are not available). A minimum of one face-to-face meeting shall be scheduled on a quarterly basis, unless extenuating circumstances exist.

The supervisor and supervisee shall sign a Supervision Agreement Form prior to the commencement of the supervised professional experience. The supervisor shall document the clinical supervision, as described under the supervision section of the Provider Agency Certification Requirements. If the licensed supervisor changes at any point during the supervised professional experience, then a new Supervision Agreement Form must be signed with the new supervisor and submitted to CASOMB.

Supervision for CASOMB purposes may or may not meet the criteria for State licensing purposes. If the Associate Provider is not licensed as a mental health professional, it is to be understood that the individual will continue to receive supervision as required by the state licensing authority or, if applicable, by his or her formal post-doctoral training program.

E. Matriculation of Associate Provider to Independent Provider Status

An Associate Provider may, but is not required to, upgrade to Independent Provider status when she or he meets all of the criteria for the Independent Provider level.

An Associate Provider wishing to upgrade to Independent Provider status may initiate the process to do so, at any point, without additional cost within her or his

current certification period. To apply for Independent Provider status, the individual shall complete and submit the following:

1. An Independent Provider application,
2. A signed attestation under penalty of perjury verifying that she or he has acquired the requisite hours of training and experience, and
3. A statement from each certified Independent Provider (or if supervised prior to July 2022, this may include a licensed Associate Provider) who provided the supervision verifying the following:
 - a. The time frame in which supervision was provided, this would include the start date and end date in which the Associate Provider was directly supervised by a CASOMB Independent Provider.
 - b. The number of hours of direct clinical services provided by the supervisee during that time frame.
 - c. The readiness of the individual to become an Independent Provider.

III. Student Provider Level

The Student Provider designation describes individuals who are only beginning to work in the field of sex offender evaluation and treatment, and are currently enrolled in a graduate level program in mental health or related services, which can lead to license eligibility. Providing practical opportunities to students is a valuable entry point in working with this specialized population. Most formal training programs are intended to last one (1) year, therefore the Student Provider Level certification will be issued for a *one (1) year period*.

A Student Provider must have a status, which allows the individual to provide mental health services in accord with California laws and regulations.

A Student Provider's eligibility to provide any specific type of service is governed by all of the standards and regulations of her or his state mental health provider licensure, by the professional Code of Ethics governing the individual's discipline, and by the Code of Ethics of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.

Procedures for applying for Student Provider status are described on the CASOMB website.

A. Services which may be provided by a Certified Student Provider

Certified Student Providers who provide treatment services pursuant to Penal Code Sections 1203.067 and 3008 must be affiliated with a CASOMB certified provider agency.

The Student Provider may facilitate individual therapy sessions, family therapy sessions or evaluate offender clients. The Student Provider may co-facilitate groups with an Independent or Associate Level Provider who has completed a minimum of six (6) months and 40 hours of sex offender specific group co-facilitation.

Upon completion of six (6) months **AND** a minimum of 40 hours of co-facilitation, as described below, the Student Provider may facilitate group treatment of the offender client under the supervision of a licensed Independent Provider.

A Certified Student Provider, whether licensed or unlicensed, may not provide clinical supervision regulated by these criteria to any other person.

B. Requirements for Certification of a Student Provider

To qualify to provide sex offender treatment at the Student Provider level, an individual must attest that he or she meets **ALL** of the following criteria:

1. **EDUCATION.** A Student Provider shall hold at least a Baccalaureate Degree or above granted by a recognized educational institution **AND** shall have ***completed 24 semester hours*** or the equivalent in an academic institution leading to a Master's degree or above in a behavioral science or related area of study recognized by a California licensing board or by the licensing jurisdiction in which the individual practices.
2. **LICENSURE/ELIGIBILITY TO PRACTICE.** A Student Provider shall meet **BOTH** of the following requirements:
 - a. The Student Provider must be supervised by a CASOMB certified Independent Provider, who is employed by the same agency. The Student Provider and the licensed supervisor must submit a signed Supervision Agreement Form during the application process. The Supervision Agreement Form can be found on the CASOMB website.
 - b. The Student Provider must qualify to provide mental health services, under supervision, in California or in the jurisdiction in which the services are provided. The Student Provider must be providing services at a formal training site that is approved by the learning institution they attend. A formal training site will meet supervision standards and training standards as set forth by the learning institution and in accordance with California licensing board standards.
3. **EXPERIENCE.** It is strongly recommended that students have a minimum of one (1) academic year of clinical experience, prior to training at a CASOMB certified provider agency. Group facilitation is a skill that involves not only managing the content of the group, but also the group dynamics. CASOMB

requires that a Student Provider must co-facilitate sex offender treatment groups with an experienced co-facilitator for at least six (6) months **AND** 40 hours of group co-facilitation. The Student Provider's supervisor should evaluate the Student Provider's readiness for solo group facilitation. An experienced co-facilitator is a CASOMB certified provider at the Independent Level or the Associate Level, who has completed a minimum of six (6) months of providing sex offender specific group treatment **AND** a minimum of 40 hours of sex offender specific group treatment co-facilitation.

4. **TRAINING.** The individual shall, within the last two (2) years prior to initial certification have accumulated a minimum of eight (8) documented training hours related to sex offender evaluation, treatment, and management methods. All of these hours must be in topic areas, which provide an overview or introduction in working with adults who offend sexually. The SARATSO risk assessments require advanced knowledge and will **not** be accepted for initial training for the Student application.

The Student Provider will be required to sign an attestation under penalty of perjury that this training requirement has been fulfilled.

5. **SUPERVISION.** Any sex offender related services regulated by the CASOMB criteria and provided by a Student Provider must be provided under the supervision of a CASOMB certified Independent Provider.

The supervision described in this document may or may not meet the criteria of any other supervision requirements for the Student Provider. The supervisor and supervisee must sign and submit a CASOMB Supervision Agreement Form with the Student application. If the supervisor changes at any point during the supervision term, then a new Supervision Agreement Form must be submitted to CASOMB.

The required supervision should be provided in a face-to-face setting, but may also be by telephone or video conference call. A minimum of one face-to-face meeting shall be scheduled on a quarterly basis, unless extenuating circumstances exist.

For purposes of this certification, a Student Provider must receive a minimum of one (1) hour of individual supervision per week. If the Student Provider provides less than seven (7) hours of direct clinical services per week, then a minimum of one (1) hour of individual supervision must be provided once every two (2) weeks. The Student must comply with all supervision requirements set forth by the educational institution's formal training program and licensing Board requirements.

The supervisor shall document the clinical supervision, as described under the supervision section, in the Treatment Provider Certification Requirements.

C. Requirements for Recertification as a Student Provider

A Student Provider will remain on the Certified Provider list, unless explicitly removed for cause or if no longer employed with a CASOMB certified provider agency or other qualifying agency, for a period of one (1) year.

Prior to the expiration of her or his certification status, the Student Provider must submit the documentation required for recertification.

This certification level is intended for individuals enrolled in a graduate level educational program, who are participating in a formal training program. Recertification at the Student level will be considered if the individual continues to meet the criteria for a graduate student, participating in a formal training program.

A new Live Scan fingerprinting procedure is **not** required for recertification.

To recertify, a Student Provider must meet the same criteria as described for initial certification.

1. **TRAINING.** The Student Provider shall attest under penalty of perjury that she or he has completed a minimum of eight (8) hours of continuing education and training over the course of the previous two (2) years, all of which must be on the list of Approved Training Topics (See details in the Appendix).
2. **SUPERVISION.** For purposes of recertification, a Student Provider must have received and continue to receive at least a minimum of one (1) hour of supervision per week. If the Student Provider provides less than seven (7) hours of direct clinical services per week, then a minimum of one (1) hour of individual supervision must be provided once every two (2) weeks. Supervision must be by an Independent Provider, whether face-to-face, by telephone or video conference call (See page 18, Section 5. **SUPERVISION**).

Part 3: Contesting Denial of Certification

An applicant whose application for certification has been denied may contest the decision.

- A. The appeal must be made in writing and be received by the CASOMB staff within 30 days after the denial was emailed/mailed to the address supplied by the applicant. CASOMB staff will forward the appeal to the Certification Committee.
- B. The Certification Committee will consider only information that addresses the reasons for denial outlined in the denial letter. Other information will not be considered in the appeal process.
- C. The applicant must submit all of the documentation necessary and available to support the challenge to denial of certification.
- D. The Certification Committee may request additional documents, which may include substance abuse treatment completion records, rehabilitation for prior criminal behavior or external psychological evaluations related to the ability to provide CASOMB certified services.
- E. If the individual's application is not for certification at the Independent level then their clinical supervisor and/or primary agency contact will be notified of the appeal and the outcome of the appeal.
- F. The Certification Committee will notify the appellant of the result in writing within two (2) weeks after the determination. The decision of the Certification Committee will be final.
- G. Individuals whose application has been denied and/or contest has been denied, may re-apply for certification when the circumstances leading to the original denial of certification have substantively changed.

Part 4: Complaints

Written Complaints Filed with CASOMB Staff

CASOMB is charged with overseeing compliance with Provider Agency and Treatment Provider Certification Requirements (Penal Code, 290.09). If someone believes that, a certified treatment provider or provider agency is not operating ethically or in compliance with a Provider Agency or Treatment Provider Certification Requirement, the person may submit a complaint in writing to CASOMB with any available documentation or evidence. The complaint form found on the CASOMB website must be legibly signed by the complainant and submitted, identifying the specific requirement that has been violated. Further documentation may be required. Complaints regarding alleged criminal and/or unethical behavior may be investigated and also referred to the appropriate licensing board or agency.

In most cases, a person receiving treatment services who believe a certified treatment provider is not operating in compliance with a certification requirement should address the issue with the provider or supervising officer. In those cases where the matter is not resolved, the person receiving treatment services may file a [written complaint](#) in accordance with the [procedure](#) outlined on the CASOMB website.

Appendix: Approved Training Topics

CASOMB regulates initial and ongoing training for professionals who provide treatment services to registered offender clients. The training hours must be allocated to more than one topic area. Professionals should select training opportunities to broaden their expertise and scope of practice rather than seek training in just a few restricted areas.

Independent Provider

1. An individual seeking certification or recertification at the Independent Provider level must, over the previous two (2) years, complete a minimum of 24 hours of training from the topic areas listed below.
2. No more than 12 hours of training can be counted from risk assessments.

Associate Provider

1. An individual seeking certification or recertification at the Associate Provider level must, over the previous two (2) years, complete a minimum of 16 hours of training from the topic areas listed below.
2. No more than eight (8) hours of training can be counted from risk assessments.

Student Provider

1. An individual seeking certification or recertification at the Student Provider level must, over the previous two (2) years, complete a minimum of eight (8) hours of training from the topic areas listed below.
2. SARTSO risk instrument training will not count toward the Student Provider level for training. It is strongly recommended that a Student's hours include topics related to Risk Needs and Responsivity in the treatment of offenders with a sexual offense.

CASOMB Approved Training Topics

The topic areas listed below represent training areas for those who provide assessment, treatment, and management. The topics must be specifically related to sex offense treatment and evaluation of *adult* offender clients. While general topics are encouraged they do not qualify for CASOMB certification purposes. For Independent and Associate level, no more than half of the training hours can be accounted for by SARATSO risk assessments. SARATSO risk assessment training will not count towards the Student Provider level for training. Refer to page 22 for number of training hour requirements.

TOPICS
Empirical data on sexual offense and victimization demographics, etiology, epidemiology, and offender recidivism
Sexual offender or sexual offense characteristics and typologies
Cycles, patterns, and pathways leading to sexual abuse
Thinking errors or cognitive distortions used by sexual offenders
Neurobiological and neurodevelopmental factors associated with sexual offenders
Special sexual offender populations such as: female offenders, psychopathic offenders, intellectually and developmentally disabled offenders, chronically mentally ill offenders, child pornography offenders
Special issues in sexual offender populations such as: traumatic brain injury, physical disabilities, learning disabilities, or borderline intellectual functioning
Sexual offender assessment procedures
Sexual offender risk assessment tools certified by SARATSO (currently Static 99-R, LS/CMI, and STABLE-2007/ACUTE-2007)
Other validated risk assessment tools such as the PCL-R, HCR 20, MnSOST-3, SOTIPS, SORAG, SVR-20, SRA-FV, VRSSO, Static-2002R
Assessment of special sexual offender populations: female offenders, psychopathic offenders, intellectually and developmentally disabled offenders, chronically mentally ill offenders, child pornography offenders
Measurement of sexual deviance using penile plethysmography or viewing measures
Assessment and diagnosis of paraphilias
Evidence based and promising best practice sexual offender treatment techniques including cognitive behavioral, relapse prevention, self-regulation, and good lives model interventions
Risk, needs, and responsivity principles applied to sexual offender treatment
Strategies or methods to identify and target sexual and non-sexual criminogenic factors in sexual offender treatment
Assessment based sexual offender treatment planning

Approaches to evaluating and increasing motivation and client engagement in the change process
Group therapy dynamics specific to sexual offenders
Pharmacotherapy with sexual offenders
Trauma Informed Care (TIC)
Feedback Informed Treatment
Behavioral treatment techniques used with sexual offenders
Understanding deviant sexual arousal or paraphilias
Etiology and development of deviant sexual fantasies
Utilization of techniques to reduce deviant sexual arousal
Healthy sexuality training for individuals who have sexually offended
Cultural, sociological, and gender issues associated with sexual abuse and the assessment and treatment of sexual offenders
The role of pornography, including child pornography, in sexual offending
Legal and ethical issues regarding sexual offenders and sex offender treatment
Sex offender law, policy and management practices
Theory, implementation and use of the Containment Model
Use of polygraph in the context of containment and treatment
Training in providing clinical supervision and consultation to clinicians working with sexual offenders
Sexual offender registration requirements
Utilization of chaperones, companions, and Circles of Support and Accountability
Issues in family resolution or reunification
Instruction regarding CASOMB certification and other CASOMB related topics
Transtheoretical Stages of Change Model and its application
Motivational Interviewing & related skills
Psychopathy
Program evaluation: program monitoring, program fidelity, program drift
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
Group therapy: group dynamics and effective group facilitation
Adverse early life experiences
Suicide assessment
Issues related to human sex trafficking
Sexual compulsivity and addiction with sexual offenders



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