



**California Sex Offender Management Board**  
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## **THE REVISED ASSOCIATE PROVIDER LEVEL WILL GO INTO EFFECT JULY 1, 2022**

### **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 his or her 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 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 he or she 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 as described above. The license must be issued by a State of California licensing board. 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, Exempt Status, Registered Psychological Assistant, Registered Psychologist, post-doctoral intern, 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 to eight (6-8) 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, 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 sexual 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 Appendix A.

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 his or her 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.
2. **TRAINING.** The Associate Provider shall attest under penalty of perjury that he or she has completed a minimum of sixteen (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. (Appendix A) 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 (1) 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 he or she meets all of the criteria for the Independent Provider level.

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