



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

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 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 Independent Provider

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

Certified Independent Providers who deliver treatment services pursuant 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 while functioning either 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 Appendix A. No more than half the hours (12 hours) will be accepted on risk assessments. (See details in Appendix A.)

The Independent Provider shall maintain a record of his or her 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 his or her recertification date. Prior to the expiration of his or her 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 web site.

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 he or she 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 he or she 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 instruments. (See Appendix A for a list of approved training topics)
3. **SUPERVISION.** No specific amount of supervision is required for recertification as an Independent Provider.