

# Orthotics and Prosthetics

## ► Board of Examiners



consumer**brief**

### THE HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF THE BOARD

The Orthotics and Prosthetics Board of Examiners was created in 1991 as a unit of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs. The Board regulates and licenses the practice of orthotics and prosthetics for the purpose of protecting the citizens of this State from injury or harm caused by ill-prepared, incompetent, unscrupulous or unauthorized practitioners and strives to ensure the highest degree of professional conduct by its licensees.

**"Orthotics"** means the science of measuring, designing, constructing, assembling, fitting, adjusting or servicing orthotic appliances for the correction or alleviation of musculoskeletal diseases, injuries or deformities as permitted by prescriptions from a licensed doctor of medicine, dentist or podiatrist.

**"Prosthetics"** means the science or practice of measuring, designing, constructing, assembling, fitting, adjusting or servicing prosthetic appliances as permitted by a licensed doctor of medicine or podiatry.

The Board comprises 11 residents of New Jersey, each member serving for a term of three years. The Board's responsibilities include:

- Establishing standards, guidelines and procedures for the completion of required clinical internships.
- Evaluating the qualifications of all applicants for licensure.
- Establishing basic requirements for continuing education.
- Disciplining licensees when it is required.

### WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE LICENSED AS AN ORTHOTIST, PROSTHETIST OR PROSTHETIST-ORTHOTIST IN NEW JERSEY?

All applicants must provide:

- Proof of successful completion of the examination administered by the American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics, or its successor.
- A completed application along with the required application fee.
- An official transcript (sent directly to the Board) indicating that the applicant has earned a bachelor's degree or its equivalent at an accredited college or university.
- A notarized document verifying that the applicant has successfully completed a clinical internship in the area for which licensure is sought, of at least 1,900 hours under the supervision of a New Jersey licensee pursuant to *New Jersey Administrative Code* 13:44H-3.6.

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### DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

973-504-6200 ■ 800-242-5846 (toll free within New Jersey)

E-Mail: [AskConsumerAffairs@lps.state.nj.us](mailto:AskConsumerAffairs@lps.state.nj.us)

website: [www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov](http://www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov)

800-242-5846 ► New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs  
[www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov](http://www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov)



## WHAT IS A CERTIFIED PEDORTHIST? WHAT MUST A CERTIFIED PEDORTHIST WHO SEEKS A LIMITED LICENSE IN NEW JERSEY PROVIDE?

A "*certified pedorthist*" is a person certified by the American Board for Certification in Pedorthics, in the design, manufacture, fit and modification of shoes and related foot appliances for use from the ankle and below as prescribed by a licensed doctor of medicine or podiatric medicine for the amelioration of painful or disabling conditions of the foot; and "foot appliances" include, but are not limited to, prosthetic fillers and orthotic appliances for use from the ankle and below. A certified pedorthist who seeks a limited practice of orthotics and prosthetics, in the State of New Jersey, must provide:

- A completed application and the required application fee.
- Proof of certification (sent directly to the Board) by the American Board of Certification for Pedorthists.

### NEW JERSEY'S REGULATION REQUIREMENTS

Every licensed practitioner of orthotics, prosthetics, or both, and every licensed orthotist assistant, prosthetist assistant, and prosthetist-orthotist assistant, and pedorthist shall:

- Maintain an office in New Jersey.
- Notify the Board, in writing, within 30 days of any change in the office address on file with the Board.
- Have the following two notices prominently displayed in a waiting room or other area where they will be visible to patients:

1. Orthotists, prosthetists, prosthetist-orthotists, orthotist assistants, prosthetist assistants and prosthetist-orthotist assistants are licensed by the Orthotics and Prosthetics Board of Examiners, an agency of the Division of Consumer Affairs. Certified pedorthists may obtain voluntary licensure to practice orthotics and prosthetics to the ankle and below. Any member of the public may notify the Board of any complaint relative to the practice conducted by an orthotist, prosthetist, prosthetist-orthotist, orthotist assistant, prosthetist assistant and prosthetist-orthotist assistant or certified pedorthist licensed by the Orthotics and

Prosthetics Board of Examiners. The Board's address is:

New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs  
Orthotics and Prosthetics Board of Examiners  
124 Halsey Street P.O. Box 45034  
Newark, NJ 07101

2. Information on professional fees is available, upon request, from this office.

### OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANT LICENSING INFORMATION

Any applicant who is licensed as an orthotist, prosthetist or prosthetist-orthotist in another state or jurisdiction with standards equivalent to those in New Jersey, and who seeks a temporary license to practice here shall prove that his or her license is current and in good standing. Any holder of a temporary license in this State must be supervised by a New Jersey licensee. If you would like to review the requirements to be licensed as an orthotist assistant, prosthetist assistant or prosthetist-orthotist assistant, please go to the Board's website, [www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/orth](http://www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/orth), and then click on the link for "Laws and Regulations" to find *N.J.A.C. 13:44H-3.5 et seq.*

### FILING A COMPLAINT

Keep in mind that the Board's website is a great place to visit to learn more about the Board's activities. If you or a member of your family require the services of one of the Board's licensees, go the Board's website and click on the link "Licensee Directory." Enter the name of the individual you are considering visiting for an initial consultation and you will be able to check if his/her license is current and in good standing, and whether disciplinary action has ever been taken against that licensee by the Board. In addition, you can find the Board's complaint form on the website. If a consumer should encounter a problem with a licensee, the form can be downloaded, printed out, filled out by hand and mailed with photocopies of any relevant documents to the Board.

**If you need additional information, you can contact the New Jersey Orthotics and Prosthetics Board of Examiners by calling 973-504-64454 or visiting [www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/orth](http://www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/orth).**



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