

The Duty to Self-Report: Accountability and Integrity

The Minnesota Board of Physical Therapy is committed to ensuring the highest standards of care and ethical practice in our state. Each licensed professional shares a responsibility to maintain the integrity of the profession, safeguard public trust, and protect the well-being of our patients. One of the most critical ways we fulfill this duty is by understanding and adhering to our obligation to self-report impairments or legal violations, as well as reporting colleagues who breach the Minnesota Practice Act. Minnesota Statute §148.75 explicitly mandates that physical therapists and physical therapist assistants report their own impairments or legal infractions to the Board. Failing to self-report not only violates the law but may also result in disciplinary action, including license suspension or revocation.

Self-Reporting: Minnesota law requires licensees to self-report any condition or event that may impair their ability to practice safely. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Substance Use Impairments: Alcohol or drug use that impacts professional competence.
- Mental health or physical disability impairment. Change in an individual's mental or physical health that would impair their ability to deliver physical therapy services in a safe manner.
- Criminal Conduct: Convictions for any felony, gross misdemeanor, or certain misdemeanors, especially those related to patient safety or professional ethics.
- Professional Disciplinary Actions: Adverse actions taken by other licensing boards or professional organizations.

Duty to Report: As professionals entrusted with the care of others, we also have a duty to report colleagues whose actions may endanger patients or violate the Minnesota Practice Act. This includes reporting:

- Practicing while impaired by drugs or alcohol.
- Engaging in fraudulent billing practices.
- Committing sexual harassment or inappropriate patient interactions.
- Violating patient confidentiality or other ethical boundaries.

Steps to Report

- Gather Evidence: Document any concerns, including specific incidents, dates, and supporting evidence.
- Contact the Board: Reports can be made confidentially to the Minnesota Board of Physical Therapy through its official website or by phone.

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- Follow Up: Be prepared to provide additional information if needed. The Board will conduct a thorough investigation to ensure fairness and accuracy.

The duty to report is not about judgment or punishment—it is about maintaining a culture of accountability and professionalism. By self-reporting and addressing concerns about colleagues, we strengthen the public’s confidence in our profession and demonstrate our collective commitment to ethical care.

The Board recognizes the challenges inherent in reporting and provides resources to support therapists through these situations, including confidential consultations and guidance on compliance with state laws and ethical standards.

If you have questions or concerns about your obligations under Minnesota law, we encourage you to contact the Board directly. Together, we can ensure the highest standards of care for the public.

[Minnesota Statute 148.75](#)