



Live Webinars Accepted for Initial Credentialing Application

As previously shared, a new category of play therapy training was created to recognize the quality play therapy instruction delivered via live webinars. As with any new policy or program change, questions arise that require clarification. We hope this document and the accompanying [decision tree](#) answers those questions, clarifies program definitions, and helps to simplify the guidelines for APT approved play therapy training.

Prior to the pandemic, APT defined webinars, both live and on-demand, as non-contact training/hours. This was primarily due to the organization's belief that in-person training was essential for mental health professionals working toward the play therapy specialty credential. This has not changed. However, circumstances and access to in-person training has changed. Therefore, as of July 1, 2022, the standards were modified to address these ongoing circumstances, and the attainment of play therapy instruction hours needed to meet the initial Credentialing Application requirements.

To meet the 150-hour requirement, APT accepts play therapy instruction from the following three categories: Contact Training, Non-Contact Training, and Live Webinars.

Live webinars are defined as **specialized online play therapy trainings** where:

- live synchronous instruction occurs in real time,
- the presenter and attendees communicate with each other virtually,
- are limited to no more than 50 attendees,
- are a minimum of two hours in length,
- attendees' cameras must be on throughout the webinar, and
- a post test is required.

While accruing the 150 hours of play therapy instruction required for the initial RPT™ application, how many hours may be accrued in each category?

- **Contact Training** – a minimum of 75 hours is required to be Contact Training. There is no maximum, all 150 hours may be obtained in this category.

The remaining 75 hours may be obtained via:

- **APT Live Webinars (specialized)** – a maximum of 75 hours may be from APT Live Webinars that meet specialized conditions.
- **Non-Contact Training** – a maximum of 40 hours may be from Non-Contact Trainings (book studies, on-demand webinars, live webinars that do not meet the specialized conditions, etc.).

150-hour breakdown by Category	Required	Maximum
Contact	75	Unlimited
APT Live Webinar (specialized)	0	75
Non-Contact	0	40

Approved Providers offering specialized live webinars will provide statements on certificates of attendance in reference to: "This workshop meets APT's definition of Live Webinar," "APT Live Webinar," OR "APT Specialized Live Webinar."

Please note: APT will count hours obtained under the COVID-19 exception (between May 15, 2020, and June 30, 2022) as contact credit, if the Approved Provider met the COVID-19 exception criteria.

Beginning July 1, 2022, contact credit is awarded only for in-person training.