



# The Difference Between MEMBERSHIP AND CREDENTIALING

We are often asked about the difference between Membership and Credentialing. The table below outlines the differences and the benefits of both. Further details can be found on the APT website ([a4pt.org](http://a4pt.org)) under the relevant section.

## MEMBERSHIP



## CREDENTIALING

When applying for <b>Membership</b> you are joining a professional association dedicated to the growth and advancement of play therapy.	<b>OVERVIEW</b>	When applying to be <b>Credentialed</b> as a play therapist, you submit documentation of education, experience, and supervision specific to play therapy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional Member</li> <li>• Affiliate Member</li> <li>• E-Student Member</li> <li>• International Professional Member</li> <li>• International Affiliate Member</li> </ul>	<b>CATEGORIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registered Play Therapist™ (RPT)</li> <li>• Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor™ (RPT-S)</li> <li>• School Based-Registered Play Therapist™ (SB-RPT)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly <i>Play Therapy</i>™ magazine</li> <li>• Free online CE offered every month</li> <li>• Membership in Chartered Branch</li> <li>• Quarterly peer-reviewed research journal</li> <li>• Mentorship Program</li> <li>• Access to members only Community Forums</li> <li>• Weekly member e-newsletter</li> <li>• Discounted fees on Credentialing, APT Store products, and Annual Conference</li> </ul> <p><i>View a complete list of <a href="#">benefits</a> by Member type</i></p>	<b>BENEFITS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion in the <b>Find a Play Therapist</b> directory</li> <li>• Recognition on APT's social media platforms</li> <li>• News Release announcing your accomplishment</li> <li>• Use of RPT™, RPT-S™, or SB-RPT™ to demonstrate your play therapy expertise</li> <li>• Aetna providers that hold a current RPT™ or RPT-S™ will have the 'Play Therapy' specialty added to their Aetna searchable profiles</li> </ul>
Apply to join online anytime at <a href="http://www.a4pt.org">www.a4pt.org</a> .	<b>PROCESS</b>	Licensed mental health professionals that meet the <a href="#">Credentialing Standards</a> may submit an application.
Renewal of membership is required annually.	<b>RENEWAL</b>	Renewal of credential is required annually (with the option to renew for 3-years) and CE is required every 3 years.
<b>Member Dues</b> Professional \$110 Affiliate \$65 International Professional \$80 International Affiliate \$55	<b>COST</b>	<b>Initial Application Fee</b> RPT™ & SB-RPT™ \$210 (for Members) RPT-S™ \$275 (for Members)  <b>Annual Renewal Fee</b> RPT™ & SB-RPT™ \$70 (for Members) RPT-S™ \$100 (for Members)
To find your Membership expiration date, print out a membership card, or view past invoices, review the <a href="#">Membership FAQ</a>	<b>PROFILE INFORMATION</b>	To view your Credential renewal date, CE date, or other additional information, review the <a href="#">Credentialing FAQ</a>