Florida

Scope of Practice

In general, a licensed pedorthist in Florida is permitted to practice, pursuant to a licensed physician’s prescription, the evaluation, treatment formulation, measurement, design, fabrication, assemblage, fit, adjustment, service or provision of initial training to accomplish the fitting of a pedorthic device.

A “pedorthic device” means therapeutic shoes, shoe modifications made for therapeutic purposes, prosthetic fillers of the forefoot and foot orthoses for use from the ankle and below (emphasis supplied); but does not include arch supports, nontherapeutic accommodative inlays and nontherapeutic accommodative footwear, regardless of method of manufacture; unmodified, over-the-counter shoes; or prefabricated foot care products.

Qualifications for Licensure

Florida law (and implementing rules and regulations) requires that an applicant for licensure as a pedorthist:

1. be of good moral character,
2. be aged 18 years or older,
3. possess a high school diploma (or equivalent),
4. complete a minimum of 120 hours of educational preparation and practical training in a Board for Certification in Pedorthics (BCP) approved program which covers the five areas of: pedorthic assessment, techniques and applications, patient management, practice management and professional responsibility,
5. complete 80 hours of pedorthic work experience, supervised by a licensed orthotist, licensed pedorthist, an orthotist certified by the American Board for Certification in Prosthetics and Orthotics (ABC), or a pedorthist certified by BCP.
6. passage of approved licensure examination, which, for pedorthics, is the BCP exam or other exam approved by the Florida Department of Health’s Board of Orthotists and Prosthetists.

Candidates must submit an Application for Licensure to the Board of Orthotists and Prosthetists. Proof meeting the requirements above must be submitted, along with non-refundable fees: $500 application fee, $500 licensure fee, and $5 unlicensed activity fee. If a candidate has not taken and passed the BCP exam, they must pay an additional $500 examination fee for the state to arrange an exam.

Footnotes:

1 Effective as of July 1, 2006; currently, five states (Florida, Illinois, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Tennessee) have direct pedorthic licensure statutes while New Jersey allows a certified pedorthist to apply for a limited orthotist license. Legislation is pending in New York and Pennsylvania and has been considered, but not adopted, in several other states.

2 The Board for Certification in Pedorthics (BCP) has adopted a scope of practice (revised as of March 2003) generally as follows:

Pedorthics is the practice, pursuant to a written order/prescription when addressing a medical condition, of evaluating, treatment planning, patient managing, measuring, designing, fabricating, assembling, fitting, adjusting or servicing, necessary to accomplish the application of a pedorthic device for the prevention or amelioration of painful and/or disabling conditions of the foot and ankle.

“Pedorthic devices” means therapeutic shoes, shoe modifications made for therapeutic purposes, partial foot prostheses (L5000), foot orthoses and subtalar-control foot orthoses (SCFO). Pedorthic devices do not include nontherapeutic, accommodative inlays and nontherapeutic accommodative footwear, regardless of method of manufacture; unmodified, nontherapeutic over-the-counter shoes; or prefabricated foot care products.

SCFO: a lower extremity orthosis designed to manage the function of the anatomy distal to the ankle joint by controlling the range of motion of the subtalar joint. A SCFO does not include a supramalleoli orthosis.
Illinois

Scope of Practice

In general, a licensed pedorthist in Illinois is permitted to measure, design, fabricate, fit or service pedorthic devices and assist in the formulation of the order of pedorthic devices ordered by a licensed physician or licensed podiatrist for the support or correction of disabilities caused by neuro-musculoskeletal diseases, injuries or deformities.

“Pedorthic device” means therapeutic footwear, foot orthoses for use at the ankle or below (emphasis added.), and modified footwear made for therapeutic purposes. “Pedorthic device” does not include nontherapeutic accommodative inlays or nontherapeutic accommodative footwear, regardless of method of manufacture, shoe modifications made for nontherapeutic purposes, unmodified, overthecounter shoes, or prefabricated foot care products. The Code of Ethical Conduct of BCP, with no later amendments or editions (July 2000) applies to licensed pedorthists in Illinois.

Qualification for Licensure

Illinois law requires that an applicant for licensure as a pedorthist:

1. possess a high school diploma (or equivalent),
2. complete a pedorthic education program accredited by BCP,
3. complete 80 hours of pedorthic work experience supervised by a licensed pedorthist (or a BCP certified pedorthist) in a BCP accredited facility, and
4. successfully complete the BCP exam.

The candidate must apply to the state’s licensing body, the Department of Professional Regulation, using its Application for Licensure and/or Examination. This form must be submitted along with documents proving that each of the above requirements has been met. Candidates must also submit a complete history of all work that followed pedorthic education, and a non-refundable application fee of $400.

Work Experience

The 80 hours of required work experience must be performed after completion of the pedorthic educational program. This experience must be supervised, hands-on exposure to all levels of pedorthic care. No more than 45 hours can be from a single week and the hours must be completed within a 12-month period. Upon completion, this work experience is valid for a licensure application for 5 years.

Exam

Candidates must successfully pass the BCP exam. This exam may be taken as often as wished. To prove successful completion of the exam, a candidate must request BCP to certify his/her result for a $5 fee. BCP will send the certification directly to the Department of Professional Regulation.

Ohio

Scope of Practice

A licensed pedorthist in Ohio is permitted to evaluate, measure, design, fabricate, assemble fit, adjust, service or train in the use of pedorthic devices, or repair, replace, adjust or service a pedorthic device.
A “pedorthic device” means a custom fabricated or fitted therapeutic shoe, shoe modification for therapeutic purposes, prosthetic filler of the forefoot, or foot orthoses for use from the apex of the medial malleolus and below. (emphasis supplied.) It does not include an arch support, a nontherapeutic accommodative inlay, nontherapeutic accommodative footwear, prefabricated footcare products or unmodified, over-the-counter shoes.

**Qualification for Licensure**

Ohio law requires that an applicant for licensure as a pedorthist:

1. practice pedorthics for at least eight months under the supervision of a state licensed pedorthist prior to application;
2. possess a high school diploma (or equivalent),
3. complete the education, training, and experience required to take the certification exam developed by BCP, or an equivalent successor organization recognized by the Ohio board of orthotics, prosthetics and pedorthics,
4. pass an examination, which the Ohio board has prescribed is the BCP exam for those seeking licensure in pedorthics.

**Oklahoma**

**Scope of Practice**

A licensed pedorthist in Oklahoma is permitted, pursuant to a written prescription from a physician when addressing a medical condition, to evaluate, plan treatment, measure, design, fabricate, assemble, fit, adjust, manage the patient, or service, as necessary to accomplish, the application of a pedorthic device for the prevention or amelioration of painful and/or disabling conditions of the foot and ankle.

A “pedorthic device” means therapeutic shoes, shoe modifications made for therapeutic purposes, partial foot orthoses and custom made orthoses, inserts, inlays or variants thereof for use from the ankle and below (emphasis supplied.), but does not include nontherapeutic accommodative inlays or nontherapeutic accommodative footwear, regardless of method of manufacture, unmodified over-the-counter shoes, or prefabricated foot care products.

**Qualifications for Licensure**

The Oklahoma Licensed Pedorthist Act requires a candidate to pass all exams necessary for BCP certification. A licensed pedorthist in Oklahoma maintains qualification by adhering to required continuing education, annual renewal and a code of ethics recommended by an advisory committee on pedorthics (until July 1, 2007).

**Tennessee**

**Scope of Practice**

A licensed pedorthist in Tennessee is permitted to measure, design, fabricate, fit or service pedorthic devices and assist in the formulation of the order of pedorthic devices, as ordered by a licensed health care practitioner authorized by law to issue such order for the support or correction of disabilities caused by neuro-musculoskeletal diseases, injuries or deformities.

A “pedorthic device” means therapeutic footwear, foot orthoses for use at the ankle or below (emphasis supplied.), and modified footwear made for therapeutic purposes, as prescribed by a licensed health care practitioner authorized to issue such prescription. “Pedorthic device” does not include nontherapeutic accommodative inlays or nontherapeutic accommodative footwear, regardless of method of manufacture, shoe modifications made for nontherapeutic purposes, unmodified, over-the-counter shoes, or prefabricated foot care products.
**Qualification for Licensure**

Tennessee law requires that an applicant for licensure as a pedorthist:

1. possess a high school diploma (or equivalent);
2. complete formal training, comprised of classroom education and clinical practice;
3. pass all required examinations;
4. complete a qualified work experience program or internship in pedorthics; and
5. be qualified to practice in accordance with a standard of care acceptable to the board.

The formal education program must be a course of instruction which is accredited by BCP.

 Those previously certified by BCP, ABC, The Board for Orthotist/Prosthetist Certification, or from other accrediting bodies with equivalent educational requirements and examination standards may apply for state licensure for a fee. This application must be made before January 1, 2008. After that date, the requirements listed above must be met.

Regardless of other certification, those who practiced full-time for at least the past five years in a prosthetic/orthotic facility as an orthotist or prosthetist, or in a pedorthic facility as a pedorthist may apply for licensure before January 1, 2007. The board will perform an investigation within six months, reviewing the applicant’s work history and scope of practice.

**New Jersey**

**Scope of Practice**

As indicated below, a certified pedorthist need not apply for a license to practice in New Jersey. A “certified pedorthist” means a person certified by BCP (or its successor) in the design, manufacture, fit and modification of shoes and related foot appliances from the ankle and below (emphasis supplied.) 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’ includes, but is not limited to, prosthetic fillers and orthotic appliances for use from the ankle and below. (emphasis supplied.)

**Qualifications for Licensure**

New Jersey regulates licensure for orthotists and prosthetists. The law specifies that a certified pedorthist does not need to apply for state licensure to provide services. However, certified pedorthists may apply for a state license limiting their practice of orthotics and prosthetics to the ankle and below. (emphasis supplied.)

The administrative regulations in New Jersey provide that a certified pedorthist who seeks licensure shall submit to the board the following:

1. A completed and notarized application form;
2. The then required application fee; and
3. Proof of certification by BCP or its successor sent to the board by BCP
Texas

The Texas statute regulates licensure for orthotists and prosthetists, and specifically does not apply to certified pedorthists. State law only recognizes pedorthists certified by BCP, or its successor, in the design, manufacture, fit and modification of shoes and related foot orthoses below the anatomical ankle joint (emphasis supplied.) as prescribed by a licensed doctor of medicine or a doctor of podiatry for the amelioration of a painful or disabling condition of the foot. “Foot orthosis” includes prosthetic toe fillers or orthoses for use below the ankle. (emphasis supplied.)