

Certification Committee

The Board of Directors for the Canadian Association for Play Therapy consists of several Directors on the Certification Committee. The Chair of the Certification Committee is Don Chafe of Rosemary, AB. He has volunteered on the committee for several years, on a yearly basis, the certification committee receives hundreds of queries, and several applicants for file reviews, certification, and approved supervisors. The committee members, although volunteers seek to respond to queries and applications on a quick basis. We are committed to the members of CAPT, as well as work alongside the CAPT Executive Director in her role.

Sometimes the committee has a list of Frequently Asked Questions. Over the past year, we have had the following questions. We hope that we are able to respond to your questions to the best of our ability. If you have any further questions, please feel free to email us.

1. I am very interested in becoming a Play Therapist and recently got accepted into a Masters program but am not sure if it will be accepted as part of your certification program.

The requirement for Certified Play Therapist (CPT) is a Master's Degree in an appropriate discipline such as one that involves human services or a Medical Degree. The standards are very general because we recognize there are hundreds of graduate degrees offered throughout Canada and internationally.

The standards are specific around coursework, regardless of your degree, required to meet the educational component which includes:

- ✓ general concepts and principles of child development, biological, psychological, and social development,
- ✓ child and adolescent behavioural disorders/psychopathology or abnormal child psychology,
- ✓ theories of personality, understanding of personality development,
- ✓ legal, ethical and professional issues: applicable provincial and national legal practices, including family law/child welfare/mental health legislation and her/his specific discipline's ethical code and standards of practice.
- ✓ Graduate course work in general concepts and principles of psychotherapy, individual, family, and group psychotherapy.

If you have related coursework that covers any of these topics, you are welcome to provide your course outlines so that the certification committee can determine if your courses cover the information in the above required areas.

2. What does clinical practice hours refer to:

Clinical practice hours refer to direct, on-site hours of supervised general clinical work. This refers to counselling or psychotherapy services and could include group therapy, family therapy, individual counselling/therapy. These clinical practice hours could involve counseling with adults, children, youth, couples, and families. You cannot count such things as time spent in administrative work, report writing or setting up a playroom. These hours must involve contact with counseling clients with you in a therapeutic role.

3. *I am wondering if my prior work experience would qualify for the required clinical direct practice hours.*

This depends. According to the requirements, if your work experience meets the criteria for clinical practice hours and was supervised by a supervisor, then this will be appropriate. However, if it is before you achieved a graduate degree, then you can only use 1000 direct-service hours. Your direct supervisor must write a letter verifying that the clinical practice hours were supervised to support your claim.

Also, it is important to note that 500 supervised clinical practice hours involve play therapy or child psychotherapy, and must be supervised by a CAPT certified supervisor, a CPT-S. Note that these 500 hours can be included within the 2000 supervised clinical practice hours or be an addition if your overall supervised clinical practice was not with children.

4. *Can I use my direct supervisor to assist to fulfill the 100 hours of clinical supervisor?*

Yes, this is often possible and encouraged to help you fulfill the requirements for clinical supervision. However, your supervisor is required to have experience in child psychotherapy/play therapy to qualify. MUST be a CPT-S.

5. *I have a supervisor who is approved as a supervisor with a different association, such as American Play Therapy Association, would this supervisor qualify to provide supervision hours?*

Your supervisor would need to be a CPT-S.

6. *I have completed training and workshops in play therapy and want to know if they would be considered to replace foundation training offered through CAPT?*

You would need to apply to the education committee for CAPT to determine if workshops can substituted for the foundation training. Typically, workshops would need to have an evaluation component in order to be considered equivalent to foundation training and meet the objectives posted on the CAPT website for Foundation Play Therapy training.

7. *May I register to take Foundation Play Therapy training, even though the registration date has passed?*

Elizabeth Sharpe, Executive Director manages the CAPT foundation training program. Please contact her at: elizabeth@CACPT.com for clarification.

8. *I currently in a position that is not counselling, do you have suggestions for how I can gain experience?*

Many of our certified members have volunteered and took on internships to achieve experience in clinical work. They have been creative and flexible in developing ways to help them provide services to children, youth, and adults in a variety ways. Talk to your colleagues and clinical supervisors to explore different avenues that you could try, as well as check out community and social services programs in your community to find other opportunities.

9. *I have fulfilled all requirements for certification. What should I do now?*

We suggest that you

- Review the application form very carefully to ensure that all requirements are completed.
- Ensure that you have enough clinical practice hours and enough supervision hours and that all supervisors for your child and play therapy work and supervision were CPT-S supervisors.
- Present your application in a well-organized manner such as in a binder with clearly marked sections and with all supportive documents.