



COLLEGE of OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPISTS of NOVA SCOTIA

380 Bedford Hwy, Suite 203 Halifax, NS B3M 2L4  
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September 1, 2021

Dear Applicant/Registrant,

As the provincial regulator of occupational therapists, the College of Occupational Therapists of Nova Scotia requires applicants and registrants to provide a valid Vulnerable Sector Check to process your application/renewal to practice occupational therapy in the province of Nova Scotia.

Occupational therapists are regulated healthcare professionals in Nova Scotia and work directly with vulnerable clients of all ages, across the life span, and in public, private and unsupervised settings. Occupational therapists are in a position of authority with their clients, and their working relationship is based on trust and adherence to professional boundaries.

The *Criminal Records Act* requires that a Vulnerable Sector Check be performed for "a paid or volunteer position" only when that "position is one of authority or trust relative to those children or vulnerable persons." A child means a person under the age of 18.

Vulnerable persons are defined in the *Criminal Records Act* as: "a person who, because of his or her age, a disability, or other circumstances, whether temporary or permanent:

- a. is in a position of dependency on others; or
- b. is otherwise at a greater risk than the general population of being harmed by a person of trust or authority towards them."

Once issued a license to practice, occupational therapists may practice with any population in any setting or environment. Many occupational therapists also have access to the personal health information of clients as part of their practice process.

In keeping with its mandate of public protection, the College endorses a mandatory Vulnerable Sector Check as an important tool for helping to ensure public safety while recognizing that the results may not predict future conduct nor guarantee good character. In addition, the College may refuse registration or put restrictions on a license issued to any applicant or registrant that demonstrates behaviour inconsistent with an occupational therapist's expected professional behaviour.

For additional information regarding this requirement, please visit our website: [cotns.ca](http://cotns.ca)

Please contact me with any questions regarding this requirement (902) 455-0556 or [registrar@cotns.ca](mailto:registrar@cotns.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Wong'.

Kevin Wong, OT Reg. (NS)  
Registrar