



Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation

Massachusetts

<http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/licensee/dpl-boards/mt/>

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Massachusetts regulates massage and has interesting exemption language. Please, read it for yourself and speak with other Structural Integrators who may have a better idea how the statute has been interpreted by the Board. [see below, Section 228, (b) for the language].

Law and Regulation

<http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/licensee/dpl-boards/mt/regulations/>

Chapter 135 SECTION 2. Chapter 112 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following 9 sections:-

Section 227.

"Massage", the systematic treatment of the soft tissues of the body by use of pressure, friction, stroking, percussion, kneading, vibration by manual or mechanical means, range of motion for purposes of demonstrating muscle excursion or muscle flexibility and nonspecific stretching. Massage therapy may include the use of oil, ice, hot and cold packs, tub, shower, steam, dry heat or cabinet baths, in which the primary intent is to enhance or restore the health and well-being of the client. Massage therapy shall not include diagnoses, the prescribing of drugs or medicines, spinal or other joint manipulations or any services or procedures for which a license to practice medicine, chiropractic, occupational therapy, physical therapy or podiatry is required by law.

Section 228. (a) No person shall hold himself out to others as a massage therapist or practice massage or massage therapy unless he holds a valid license issued in accordance with this chapter...The following practitioners shall be exempt from the licensure requirements of this section:

(b) Nothing in this section shall prevent or restrict the practice of a person who uses touch, words or directed movement to deepen awareness of patterns of movement in the body, or the affectation of the human energy system or acupoints or Qi meridians of the human body while engaged within the scope of practice of a profession with established standards and ethics, but such services shall not be designated or implied to be massage or massage therapy. *Such practices shall include, but not be limited to, the Feldenkrais Method; Reflexology; The Trager Approach; Ayurvedic Therapies, Rolf Structural Integration, Polarity or Polarity Therapy; Polarity Therapy Bodywork; Asian Bodywork Therapy that does not constitute massage as defined in this chapter; Acupressure; Jin Shin Do; Qi Gong; Tui Na; Shiatsu; Body-Mind Centering and Reiki. These exempt practitioners may use the terms "bodywork", "bodyworker" and "bodywork therapist" in their promotional literature.*

Section 230.

(c) provides proof of the successful passage of a board approved examination administered by a national organizational or board accredited by the National Commission of Certifying Agencies and approved by the National Organization for Competency Assurance;

Board Members

http://license.reg.state.ma.us/public/dpl_board_members/bm_view_list.asp?board_code_web=MT

Meetings

<http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/licensee/dpl-boards/mt/board-calendar.html>

Notice of Meetings and Topics (right side of page; click through)

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