

# WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR MASSAGE THERAPIST LICENSURE IN ALASKA?

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When the Alaska State Legislature passed HB328 in the fall of 2014, it adopted requirements for licensing both new and practicing massage therapists in Alaska, including education and exam requirements. The new law goes into effect on July 1, 2015.

***IF YOU ARE WORKING AS A MASSAGE THERAPIST IN ALASKA, YOU MUST  
APPLY TO BE LICENSED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015.***

There are currently two pathways to become licensed. Please read below to determine which pathway fits your situation.

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## TRANSITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PRACTICING MASSAGE THERAPISTS

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The legislature created a transitional provision to allow those who have worked as massage therapists in Alaska to waive education and exam requirements. Practitioners applying under the transitional provisions of the new law must meet certain requirements.

**Applicants who meet the transitional requirements below may use the transitional requirements to apply for licensure through June 30, 2017. After July 1, 2017, all applicants must meet the new exam and education requirements.**

In order to become licensed as a massage therapist under this transitional provision, an applicant must:

- apply for a license before July 1, 2017.
- prove ownership, operation, or work for a massage therapy business AND performance of the practice of massage therapy between July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2015 by submitting one of the following documents:
  - o signed federal income tax returns for one of the five years immediately preceding July 1, 2015, listing the person's occupation as massage therapy in Alaska;
  - o signed schedule C federal income tax returns for one of the five years immediately preceding July 1, 2015, demonstrating reported income from the practice of massage therapy in Alaska;
  - o a sworn statement Alaskan employer attesting that applicant has practiced massage therapy within the five years immediately preceding July 1, 2015, a copy of the business license of the person's employer, and a copy of the person's Form W-2 or Form 1099-MISC from the same employer;

- a copy of a municipal occupational license that was current on the day before July 1, 2015 from a municipality in Alaska, stating applicant's occupation as massage therapist;
  - documentation that applicant has, for at least one year immediately preceding July 1, 2015, been an active member, as a massage therapist, in a national professional massage therapy association that was established before 2000, offers professional liability insurance as a benefit of membership, and has an established code of professional ethics; or
  - other documentation satisfactory to the board; and
- apply on a form provided by the department;
  - pay the fees established under AS 08.61.090\*;
  - be 18 years of age or older;
  - have been fingerprinted and provided the fees required by the Department of Public Safety under AS 12.62.160 for criminal justice information and a national criminal history record check;
  - have a current CPR certification; and
  - have not been convicted of, pled guilty or no contest to, a crime involving moral turpitude or who has been convicted of, or pled guilty or no contest to, a crime involving moral turpitude if the board finds that the conviction does not affect the person's ability to practice safely.

These requirements are also explained in the *Initial Application – Practicing Massage Therapists* posted on the web page.

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## **WHAT IF I DO NOT MEET THE TRANSITIONAL REQUIREMENTS?**

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If you are a new massage therapist or an existing massage therapist who cannot meet the transitional requirements, you are required to be licensed effective July 1, 2015 under the new education and exam criteria OR credential criteria set out by the new law.

An *Initial Application – New Massage Therapist* is posted on the board webpage that allows applicants to apply by education/examination OR credentials.

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## WHAT ARE THE EDUCATION/EXAMINATION OR CREDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE?

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### If applying by education/examination:

- Completion of a course of study of at least 500 hours of in-class supervised instruction and clinical work from a board-approved massage school.

**OR**

- Completion of a board approved apprenticeship program (*the Board has not yet approved apprenticeship program details; applicants should submit program information for approval on a case by case basis*)

**AND**

- Verification of having passed the national exam administered
- Have been fingerprinted and passed a national criminal history record check
- Have a current CPR certification
- Completion of at least 4 hours of safety education in bloodborne pathogens and universal precautions in the 2 years preceding July 1, 2015.
- Has not been convicted of, or pled guilty or no contest to, a crime involving moral turpitude, or who has been convicted of, or pled guilty or not contest to, a crime involving moral turpitude if the board finds that the conviction does not affect the applicant's ability to practice competently and safely.

### If applying by credentials:

- Verification of license in good standing to practice massage therapy in another state or country that has licensing requirements that are substantially equal to or greater than Alaska's (as outlined above)

**OR**

- Verification of certification by a certification entity

**AND**

- Have been fingerprinted and passed a national criminal history record check
- Have a current CPR certification
- Must not be the subject of an unresolved complaint or disciplinary action before a regulatory authority in this state or another jurisdiction
- Must not have had a certificate or license to practice massage therapy revoked, suspended or voluntarily surrendered in this state or another jurisdiction
- Has not been convicted of, or pled guilty to or not contest to, a crime involving moral turpitude, or been convicted of, or pled guilty or no contest to, a crime involving moral turpitude if the board finds that the conviction does not affect the person's ability to practice competently and safely

**What are the board-approved schools or credentialing organizations?** *The Board of Massage Therapists has not approved specific schools; however, on June 15, 2015, it approved that the following accrediting/credentialing agencies be included in proposed regulations, being put out for public comment.*

- American Massage Therapy Association
- Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals
- National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork
- Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation

**What are the board-approved exams?** *On June 15, 2015, The Board of Massage Therapists approved that the following accrediting/credentialing agencies be included in proposed regulations, being put out for public comment:*

- Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (MBLEX)
- National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCETMB/NCETM)

**What is the definition of moral turpitude?** *On June 15, 2015, the Board of Massage Therapists approved that the following definition of moral turpitude be included in proposed regulations being put out for public comment:*

- (1) homicide;
- (2) manslaughter;
- (3) assault
- (4) stalking;
- (5) kidnapping;
- (6) sexual assault;
- (7) sexual abuse of a minor;
- (8) unlawful exploitation of a minor, including possession or distribution of child pornography;
- (9) indecent exposure;
- (10) unlawful distribution or possession for distribution of a controlled substance;
- (11) prostitution;
- (12) sex trafficking

\* Fees are currently under review. Applicants will be contacted when fees are final, which is anticipated to be in mid-July. Those who have not applied by that time will need to check the web site for fee information.

## **Further questions about applying for licensure?**

Visit the web site for more information and applications:  
[professionallicense.alaska.gov/boardofmassagetherapists](http://professionallicense.alaska.gov/boardofmassagetherapists)

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## **Have a comment about Proposed Regulations?**

Provide your name and email address to  
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