

Statutes and Regulations **Massage Therapists**

November 2024



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY,
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

***DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS
AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING***

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Section	
1. Message Therapist Statutes (AS 08.61).....	1
2. Message Therapist Regulations (12 AAC 79)	4

CHAPTER 61. MASSAGE THERAPISTS

Section

- 10. Board established
- 20. Duties and powers of board
- 30. Qualifications for license
- 40. Licensure by credentials
- 50. Standards for license renewal
- 60. Grounds for imposition of disciplinary sanctions
- 70. Practice of massage therapy without license prohibited
- 80. Exceptions to application of chapter
- 90. Fees
- 100. Definitions

Sec. 08.61.010. Board established. The Board of Massage Therapists is established in the department. The board consists of five members appointed by the governor as follows:

- (1) four licensed massage therapists who have been engaged in the practice of massage therapy in the state for the three years immediately preceding appointment and who shall remain actively engaged in the practice of massage therapy while serving on the board; not more than one member appointed under this paragraph may have an ownership or partnership interest in a massage school; and
- (2) one public member; the governor may not appoint as a public member
 - (A) a licensed health care provider;
 - (B) an employee of the state; or
 - (C) a current member of another occupational licensing board established under AS 08.

Sec. 08.61.020. Duties and powers of board. In addition to the duties specified in AS 08.01, the board shall

- (1) provide for the examination of applicants by the board or through a nationally recognized competency examination approved by the board and issue licenses to applicants the board finds qualified;
- (2) adopt regulations governing
 - (A) licensing of massage therapists;
 - (B) the practice of massage therapy; and
 - (C) massage therapy establishments;
- (3) establish standards of professional competence and ethical conduct for massage therapists;
- (4) establish standards for continuing education for massage therapists; standards adopted by the board under this paragraph must allow for approval of Internet-based continuing education courses;
- (5) make available to the public a list of massage therapists licensed under this chapter;
- (6) determine which states have educational and licensing requirements equivalent to the requirements of this state;
- (7) enforce the provisions of this chapter and adopt and enforce regulations necessary to implement this chapter; and
- (8) approve one or more nationally recognized competency examinations and publish and periodically update the list of approved examinations.

Sec. 08.61.030. Qualifications for license. The board shall issue a license to practice massage therapy to a person who

- (1) applies on a form provided by the department;
- (2) pays the fees established under AS 08.61.090;
- (3) furnishes evidence satisfactory to the board that the person has completed a
 - (A) course of study of at least 625 hours of in-class supervised instruction and clinical work from an approved massage school; or
 - (B) board-approved apprenticeship program;
- (4) is 18 years of age or older;
- (5) has been fingerprinted and has provided the fees required by the Department of Public Safety under AS 12.62.16 for criminal justice information and a national criminal history record check; the fingerprints and fees shall be forwarded to the Department of Public Safety to obtain a report of criminal justice information under AS 12.62 and a national criminal history record check under AS 12.62.400;
- (6) has a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification;
- (7) has received at least two hours of safety education covering bloodborne pathogens and universal precautions in the two years preceding the application for the license; in this paragraph, "bloodborne pathogens" has the meaning given in AS 18.15.450;
- (8) has successfully completed a nationally recognized competency examination approved by the board; and

(9) 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 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.

Sec. 08.61.040. Licensure by credentials. The board shall issue a license to practice massage therapy to a person who

- (1) is 18 years of age or older;
- (2) applies on a form provided by the department;
- (3) pays the fees established under AS 08.61.090;
- (4) has submitted the person's fingerprints and 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; the fingerprints and fees shall be forwarded to the Department of Public Safety to obtain a report of criminal justice information under AS 12.62 and a national criminal history record check under AS 12.62.400;
- (5) is not the subject of an unresolved complaint or disciplinary action before a regulatory authority in this state or another jurisdiction;
- (6) has not had a certificate or license to practice massage therapy revoked, suspended, or voluntarily surrendered in this state or another jurisdiction;
- (7) has not been convicted of, or pled guilty or no contest to, a crime involving moral turpitude, or 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 competently and safely;
- (8) has a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification; and
- (9) is currently
 - (A) licensed to practice massage therapy in another state or country that has licensing requirements that are substantially equal to or greater than the requirements of this state; or
 - (B) certified by a certification entity approved by the board.

Sec. 08.61.050. Standards for license renewal. The board shall renew a license issued under this chapter to a licensee who

- (1) pays the required fee;
- (2) meets the continuing education requirements established by the board;
- (3) has not been convicted of, or pled guilty or no contest to, a crime involving moral turpitude, or 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 competently and safely;
- (4) has a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification; and
- (5) has been fingerprinted and has 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 at least once every six years; the fingerprints and fees shall be forwarded to the Department of Public Safety to obtain a report of criminal justice information under AS 12.62 and a national criminal history record check under AS 12.62.400.

Sec. 08.61.060. Grounds for imposition of disciplinary sanctions. After a hearing, the board may impose a disciplinary sanction under AS 08.01.075 on a person licensed under this chapter if the board finds that the person

- (1) secured a license through deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresentation;
- (2) engaged in deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresentation in the course of providing massage therapy services or engaging in massage therapy;
- (3) advertised massage therapy services in a false or misleading manner;
- (4) has been convicted of a felony or another crime that affects the licensee's ability to continue to practice competently and safely;
- (5) intentionally or negligently engaged in, or permitted a person under the licensed massage therapist's supervision to engage in, client care that did not conform to minimum professional standards, whether or not actual injury to the client occurred;
- (6) failed to comply with a provision of this chapter, a regulation adopted under this chapter, or an order of the board;
- (7) continued to practice after becoming unfit because of
 - (A) professional incompetence; or
 - (B) addiction or severe dependency on alcohol or another drug that impairs the ability to practice safely; or
- (8) engaged in unethical conduct or sexual misconduct in connection with the delivery of massage therapy services to a client.

Sec. 08.61.070. Practice of massage therapy without license prohibited. (a) A person may not practice massage therapy or represent that the person is a massage therapist unless the person holds a valid license under this chapter. In this subsection, a person represents that the person is a massage therapist when the person adopts or uses a title or description of services that incorporates one or more of the following terms or designations: massage, massage practitioner, massage therapist, massage therapy, therapeutic massage, massage technician, massage technology,

massagist, masseur, masseuse, myotherapist, myotherapy, or another term describing a traditional European or contemporary western massage method, or a derivation of a term that implies a massage technique or method.

(b) A person who knowingly violates (a) of this section is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

Sec. 08.61.080. Exceptions to application of chapter. This chapter does not apply to a

(1) person licensed in the state under a statute outside this chapter who performs massage therapy within the scope of practice for which the person's license was issued;

(2) person who, while acting in an official capacity as an employee of the United States government, performs massage therapy;

(3) person who is licensed, registered, or certified in another state, territory, the District of Columbia, or a foreign country while the person is temporarily

(A) practicing massage therapy in this state in connection with teaching a course related to massage therapy; or

(B) consulting with a person licensed under this chapter;

(4) student enrolled in an approved massage school or course of study who is completing a clinical requirement for graduation under the general supervision of a person licensed under this chapter if the student is clearly identified as a student while performing massage therapy services on members of the public and is not compensated for the massage therapy services;

(5) person only performing massage therapy on members of the person's family;

(6) person only performing techniques that do not involve contact with the body of another person;

(7) person only performing techniques that involve resting the hands on the surface of the body of another person without delivering pressure to or manipulating the person's soft tissues;

(8) person only performing services such as herbal body wraps, skin exfoliation treatments, or the topical application of products to the skin for beautification purposes when the services do not involve direct manipulation of the soft tissues of the body;

(9) person only performing massage therapy for the athletic department of an institution maintained by public funds of the state or a political subdivision of the state or only practicing massage therapy for the athletic department of a school or college approved by the board using recognized national professional standards;

(10) person engaged only in the practice of structural integration for restoring postural balance and functional ease by integrating the body in gravity using a system of fascial manipulation and awareness who has graduated from a program or is a current member of an organization recognized by the International Association of Structural Integrators, including the Rolf Institute of Structural Integration;

(11) person using only light touch, words, and directed movement to deepen awareness of existing patterns of movement in the body as well as to suggest new possibilities of movement or to affect the energy systems;

(12) person performing only the traditional practices of Native American traditional healers;

(13) person practicing only the manipulation of the soft tissues of the hands, feet, or ears and not holding out to be a massage therapist.

Sec. 08.61.090. Fees. The department shall set fees under AS 08.01.065 for application, license issuance, license renewal, and investigation under this chapter.

Sec. 08.61.100. Definitions. In this chapter,

(1) "approved massage school" means a massage therapy school or program that

(A) has an authorization to operate from the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education or a similar entity in another state; or

(B) is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency;

(2) "board" means the Board of Massage Therapists;

(3) "department" means the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development;

(4) "massage therapist" means a person licensed under this chapter;

(5) "practice of massage therapy" means the provision, for compensation, of a service involving the systematic manipulation and treatment of the soft tissues, including the muscular and connective tissues of the human body, to enhance the functions of those tissues and promote relaxation and well-being; in this paragraph, "manipulation and treatment"

(A) includes manual techniques applied with the intent to physically affect local soft tissues, such as pressure, friction, stroking, percussion, kneading, vibration, muscular assessment by palpation, range of motion for purposes of demonstrating muscle exertion for muscle flexibility, nonspecific stretching, and application of superficial heat, cold, water, lubricants, or salts;

(B) does not include diagnosis, the prescription of drugs or medicines, the practice of physical therapy, attempts to manipulate any articulation of the body or spine, or mobilization of these articulations by use of a thrusting force.

**CHAPTER 79.
MASSAGE THERAPISTS.**

Article

- 1. Licensing (12 AAC 79.100 – 12 AAC 79.140)**
- 2. License Renewal and Continuing Education (12 AAC 79.200 – 12 AAC 79.220)**
- 3. General Provisions (12 AAC 79.900 – 12 AAC 79.990)**

**ARTICLE 1.
LICENSING.**

Section

- 100. Application for licensure by examination**
- 110. Application for licensure by credentials**
- 115. Temporary military courtesy license**
- 120. Application for transitional license**
- 130. Criminal justice information**
- 140. Massage school education requirements**

12 AAC 79.100. APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION. (a) The board will issue a license by examination to practice massage therapy to an applicant who meets the requirements of AS 08.61.030 and this section.

- (b) An applicant for licensure by examination under this section must submit
- (1) a completed application, on a form provided by the department; the completed application must include
 - (A) the personal identification information requested on the form;
 - (B) information related to the grounds of disciplinary sanctions under AS 08.61.060;
 - (C) the applicant's fingerprint information described in 12 AAC 79.130; and
 - (D) the application fee, fingerprint processing fee, and license fee specified in 12 AAC 02.396;
 - (2) verification of massage therapy education, sent directly from the school or program to the division office; verification must consist of
 - (A) on or before June 30, 2019, an official school transcript evidencing completion of a course of study of at least 500 hours of in-class supervised instruction and clinical work from a massage therapy school or program that
 - (i) has authorization to operate from the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education under AS 14.48 or from a similar agency of another state; or
 - (ii) is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency;
 - (B) on or after July 1, 2019, an official school transcript evidencing completion of a course of study of at least 625 hours of in-class supervised instruction and clinical work from a massage therapy school or program that
 - (i) has authorization to operate from the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education under AS 14.48 or from a similar agency of another state; or
 - (ii) is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency; or
 - (C) evidence satisfactory to the board of completion of an apprenticeship program that meets the requirements and standards of the Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation (COMTA) and the requirements and standards of the Coalition of National Massage Therapy Organizations, Entry Level Analysis Project (ELAP) *Work Group, The Core: Entry-Level Massage Education Blueprint*, dated December 2013, and adopted by reference;
 - (3) verification, sent directly from the appropriate agency to the division office, of having passed
 - (A) the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx) administered by the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards; or
 - (B) the National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage or the National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork, each administered by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork, if the applicant took the examination before February 1, 2015;
 - (4) a current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation received through
 - (A) the American Red Cross;
 - (B) the American Heart Association;
 - (C) the American Safety and Health Institute;
 - (D) a course that adheres to the most recent American Heart Association guidelines; or
 - (E) a course that is compliant with current Joint Commission standards; and
 - (5) the following:
 - (A) on or before June 30, 2019, verification of having completed at least four hours of safety education in bloodborne pathogens and universal precautions in the two years preceding the application; or
 - (B) on or after July 1, 2019, verification of having completed at least two hours of safety education in bloodborne pathogens and universal precautions in the two years preceding the application.
- (c) In this section, "in-class supervised instruction" means education received either in a physical classroom or

through online distance education.

- (d) To meet the educational requirements of this section and 12 AAC 79.140, online distance education courses
 - (1) must be completed through a board-approved online distance education monitoring program;
 - (2) must meet the requirements of (b)(2)(B) of this section; and
 - (3) may not include the practical application hours described in 12 AAC 79.140(a)(2).

Authority: AS 08.61.020 AS 08.61.030 AS 08.61.090

Editor's note: A copy of *The Core: Entry-Level Massage Education Blueprint*, published by the Coalition of National Massage Therapy Organizations, adopted by reference in 12 AAC 79.100, may be obtained from the ELAP website: http://www.elapmassage.org/_files/ELAP_Blueprint.pdf.

12 AAC 79.110. APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALS. (a) The board will issue a license by credentials to practice massage therapy to an applicant who meets the requirements of AS 08.61.040 and this section.

- (b) An applicant for licensure by credentials under this section must submit
 - (1) a completed application, on a form provided by the department; the completed application must include
 - (A) the personal identification information requested on the form;
 - (B) information related to the grounds of disciplinary sanctions under AS 08.61.060;
 - (C) the applicant's fingerprint information described in 12 AAC 79.130; and
 - (D) the application fee, fingerprint processing fee, and license fee specified in 12 AAC 02.396;
 - (2) verification, sent directly from the appropriate agency to the division office, that the applicant
 - (A) holds a current license to practice massage therapy in another state, jurisdiction, or country where licensing requirements are substantially equal to or greater than the requirements of this state; or
 - (B) is certified by a board-approved credentialing entity; and
 - (3) a current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation received through
 - (A) the American Red Cross;
 - (B) the American Heart Association;
 - (C) the American Safety and Health Institute;
 - (D) a course that adheres to the most recent American Heart Association guidelines; or
 - (E) a course that is compliant with current Joint Commission standards.
- (c) Before approving an applicant for licensure by credentials, the board may require additional documentation to substantiate the education claimed by the applicant.

Authority: AS 08.61.020 AS 08.61.040 AS 08.61.090
AS 08.61.030

12 AAC 79.115. TEMPORARY MILITARY COURTESY LICENSE. (a) The board will issue a temporary military courtesy license or certification to an active duty military member or spouse of an active duty military member of the armed forces of the United States to practice massage therapy to an applicant who meets the requirements of AS 08.01.063 and this section not later than 30 days after the board receives a completed application.

- (b) An applicant for a temporary military courtesy license or certification under this section
 - (1) must submit an application on a form provided by the department;
 - (2) must submit the fingerprint information described in 12 AAC 79.130;
 - (3) must submit a copy of
 - (A) the applicant's current active duty military orders showing assignment to a duty station in this state;
- or
- (B) if the applicant is the spouse of an active duty military member, the applicant's spouse's current active duty military orders showing assignment to a duty station in this state;
- (4) must submit documentation showing the applicant is currently licensed or certified in another licensing or certifying jurisdiction where licensing or certification requirements are substantially equal to or greater than the requirements of this state, as determined by the board, and the applicant's license or certification in the other jurisdiction is not suspended, revoked, or otherwise restricted except for failure to apply for renewal or failure to obtain the required continuing education requirements;
 - (5) may not have been convicted of a crime that affects the applicant's ability to practice massage therapy competently and safely, as determined by the board; and
 - (6) must pay
 - (A) the temporary license application fee and fee for a temporary license set out under 12 AAC 02.105;
- and
- (B) the fingerprint processing fee specified in 12 AAC 02.396.

(c) A temporary military courtesy license or certification issued to an active duty military member or spouse of an active duty military member under this section will be issued for a period of 180 days and may be renewed for one additional 180-day period, at the discretion of the board.

- (d) While practicing under a temporary military courtesy license or certification issued under this section, the

holder of the temporary military courtesy license or certification must comply with the standards of practice set out in AS 08.61 and this chapter.

(e) The board may refuse to issue a temporary military courtesy license or certification for the same reasons that it may deny, suspend, or revoke a license under AS 08.61.060.

Authority: AS 08.01.062 AS 08.01.063 AS 08.61.020

12 AAC 79.120. APPLICATION FOR TRANSITIONAL LICENSE. (a) The board will issue a license under this section to an applicant who applies for licensure before July 1, 2017, and who meets the requirements of AS 08.61.030(1), (2), (4) – (6), and (9) and this section.

(b) An applicant for licensure under this section must submit

- (1) a completed application, on a form provided by the department; the completed application must include
 - (A) the personal identification information requested on the form;
 - (B) information related to the grounds of disciplinary sanctions under AS 08.61.060;
 - (C) the applicant's fingerprint information described in 12 AAC 79.130; and
 - (D) the application fee, fingerprint processing fee, and license fee specified in 12 AAC 02.396;

(2) a current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation through the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute, or an equivalent organization; and

(3) verification that the applicant owned, operated, or worked for a massage therapy business and performed the practice of massage therapy before July 1, 2015, by submitting

(A) a copy of the applicant's signed federal tax income tax returns for one of the five years immediately preceding July 1, 2015, listing the person's occupation as massage therapist in this state;

(B) copies of the applicant's signed schedule C federal income tax returns for one of the five years immediately preceding July 1, 2015, demonstrating that the person has reported income from the practice of massage therapy in this state;

(C) a sworn statement from the applicant's employer in this state attesting that the applicant has practiced massage therapy within the five years immediately preceding July 1, 2015, a copy of the business license of the applicant's employer, and a copy of the applicant's Form W-2 or Form 1099-MISC from the same employer;

(D) a copy of the municipal occupational license that was current on the day before July 1, 2015, from a municipality in this state, stating the applicant's occupation as a massage therapist;

(E) documentation that the person 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 January 1, 2000, offers professional liability insurance as a benefit of membership, and has an established code of professional ethics; or

(F) other documentation satisfactory to the board.

Authority: AS 08.61.020 AS 08.61.090 Sec. 10, ch. 114, SLA 2014
AS 08.61.030

12 AAC 79.130. CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION. (a) An applicant for licensure under 12 AAC 79.100, 12 AAC 79.110, or 12 AAC 79.120 must submit with the application the applicant's fingerprints and other information required by the Department of Public Safety to obtain state and national criminal justice information under AS 12.62 and AS 12.64.

(b) The board will submit the fingerprints received under this section to the Department of Public Safety and request the Department of Public Safety to

(1) submit the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a report on national criminal justice information;

(2) perform a check for state criminal justice information; and

(3) report to the board the results of the criminal justice information checks under (1) and (2) of this subsection.

(c) The request under (b) of this section for a criminal justice information report does not delay administrative processing of the applicant's license application. An application will not be considered complete until the criminal justice information required in (a) of this section is received by the board. If criminal justice information that raises questions about an applicant's qualifications for licensure is received after a license has been issued to the applicant, the department and the board will take action under AS 08.61 and AS 44.62 as appropriate.

Authority: AS 08.61.020 AS 08.61.030 AS 08.61.040

12 AAC 79.140. MASSAGE SCHOOL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS. (a) An applicant for a massage therapy license must show

(1) successful completion of not less than 625 hours of in-class supervised instruction and clinical work from an approved massage school; and

(2) that the practical application portion of the approved massage school curriculum is not more than 20 percent of the total hours of the massage therapy program.

(b) In this section,

(1) “in-class supervised instruction” means education received either in a physical classroom or through online distance education.

(2) “practical application” means a hands-on application of various clinical modalities dedicated to the practice of massage therapy.

Authority: AS 08.61.020

AS 08.61.030

AS 08.61.100

ARTICLE 2. LICENSE RENEWAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION.

Section

200. License renewal

210. Continuing education requirements

220. Audit and documentation

12 AAC 79.200. LICENSE RENEWAL. (a) A massage therapy license must be renewed biennially on or before September 30 of odd-numbered years. A renewal reminder document will be mailed to each currently licensed massage therapist at least 30 days before the renewal date. Failure to receive a renewal notice does not relieve a licensee from the responsibility of renewing a license on time.

(b) An applicant for renewal of a massage therapy license shall meet the requirements set out under AS 08.61.050 and submit

- (1) a completed renewal application on a form provided by the department;
- (2) beginning October 1, 2017, and at least once every six years thereafter, the applicant's fingerprint information described in 12 AAC 79.130 and the fingerprint processing fee specified in 12 AAC 02.396;
- (3) the license renewal fee specified in 12 AAC 02.396; and
- (4) attestation that the applicant

(A) holds a current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation through

- (i) the American Red Cross;
- (ii) the American Heart Association;
- (iii) the American Safety and Health Institute;
- (iv) a course that adheres to the most recent American Heart Association guidelines; or
- (v) a course that is compliant with current Joint Commission standards; and

(B) has satisfied the continuing education requirements set out under 12 AAC 79.210.

(c) The board will reinstate a massage therapy license that has lapsed less than three years if the applicant meets the requirements of (b)(1), (2), and (3) of this section and submits

- (1) proof of current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation through

- (A) the American Red Cross;
- (B) the American Heart Association;
- (C) the American Safety and Health Institute;
- (D) a course that adheres to the most recent American Heart Association guidelines; or
- (E) a course that is compliant with current Joint Commission standards; and

- (2) proof satisfactory to the board of completion of all continuing education required by 12 AAC 79.210.

(d) A massage therapy license that has lapsed three years or more may not be reinstated.

Authority: AS 08.61.020

AS 08.61.050

12 AAC 79.210. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS. (a) Each biennial licensing period, an applicant for renewal of a massage therapy license shall complete

(1) not less than 16 continuing education credits completed between the beginning of the concluding licensing period and the time of application, two of which must be in ethics; and

(2) a cardiopulmonary resuscitation course as required under 12 AAC 79.200.

(b) An applicant for renewal may receive two hours of continuing education credit for completion of a hands-on cardiopulmonary resuscitation course through the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Safety and Health Institute, a course that adheres to the most recent American Heart Association guidelines, or a course that is compliant with current Joint Commission standards.

(c) Continuing education must be completed through

(1) an approved massage school;

(2) a regionally or nationally accredited institution of higher education; a course, seminar, workshop, or other program through that institution must be approved by the board as directly related to the skills and knowledge required for the practice of massage therapy; or

- (3) a local, state, or national professional organization that serves the massage therapy profession, including
- (A) Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals;

- (B) the American Massage Therapy Association;
- (C) the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards; or
- (D) the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork.

(d) An applicant for renewal is responsible for maintaining adequate and detailed records of all continuing education hours claimed and shall make the records available to the board upon request under 12 AAC 79.220. Records must be retained for four years from the date the contact hours were obtained.

(e) An applicant for renewal may receive three continuing education credits for attending at least 75 percent of a regularly scheduled board meeting once every biennial licensing period.

(f) An applicant for renewal who has been licensed more than 90 days but less than 12 months of the concluding biennial license period is not required to submit an attestation of having satisfied continuing education requirements, as required under 12 AAC 79.200(b).

(g) For the purposes of this section,

(1) one continuing education credit equals one hour of classroom instruction between instructor and participant;

(2) one academic semester credit equals 15 contact hours; and

(3) one academic quarter credit equals 10 contact hours.

Authority: AS 08.61.020 AS 08.61.030 AS 08.61.050

12 AAC 79.220. AUDIT AND DOCUMENTATION. A licensee shall comply with all applicable requirements of 12 AAC 02.960 and 12 AAC 02.965. If selected for an audit of continuing education activities, the licensee shall cooperate with the department and shall submit all requested verifications of continuing education activities claimed by the licensee.

Authority: AS 08.61.020 AS 08.61.050

ARTICLE 3. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Section

- 900. Code of ethics, standards of practice, and establishment standards of operation**
- 905. Disciplinary sanctions**
- 910. "Moral turpitude" defined**
- 920. Application form and verifications for licensure**
- 930. Regulation of massage therapy establishments**
- 940. Unregistered massage therapy establishment investigation**
- 950. Internet advertising requirements**
- 990. Definitions**

12 AAC 79.900. CODE OF ETHICS, STANDARDS OF PRACTICE, AND ESTABLISHMENT STANDARDS OF OPERATION. The *Alaska Board of Massage Therapists Code of Ethics, Standards of Practice, and Establishment Standards of Operation*, dated September 2019, is adopted by reference as the code of ethics for massage therapists in the state. In order to maintain a high standard of integrity in the profession and to safeguard the health and welfare of the public, massage therapists licensed in this state shall adhere to the code of ethics.

Authority: AS 08.61.020

Editor's note: A copy of the *Alaska Board of Massage Therapists Code of Ethics, Standards of Practice, and Establishment Standards of Operation*, adopted by reference in 12 AAC 79.900, may be obtained from the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, Board of Massage Therapists, State Office Building, 9th Floor, 333 Willoughby Avenue, Juneau, Alaska 99801; phone (907) 465-3811; website at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardofMassageTherapists.aspx>.

12 AAC 79.905. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS. The following acts constitute grounds for disciplinary sanctions against a licensee:

- (1) failure by the licensee to
 - (A) cooperate with an official investigation by the board or an agent of the board;
 - (B) report to the board a disciplinary action taken against the licensee by another licensing jurisdiction, health care entity, or law enforcement agency within 30 days after the date of the action;
- (2) disciplinary action taken against the licensee by another licensing authority;
- (3) conviction of a crime that affects the licensee's ability to practice competently or safely.

Authority: AS 08.61.020

AS 08.61.040

AS 08.61.060

12 AAC 79.910. "MORAL TURPITUDE" DEFINED. Under AS 08.61.030, a crime involving moral turpitude includes

- (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;
- (13) murder;
- (14) human trafficking;
- (15) criminal sexual conduct;
- (16) incest;
- (17) robbery;
- (18) extortion;
- (19) forgery;
- (20) theft;
- (21) endangering the welfare of a child;
- (22) endangering the welfare of a vulnerable adult;
- (23) reckless endangerment.

Authority: AS 08.61.020

AS 08.61.030

12 AAC 79.920. APPLICATION FORM AND VERIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE. (a) If, upon receipt by the division of the last document required to complete an application file, the file contains an application form or verification that has a postmark date that is more than six months old, the document will be considered to be stale and the applicant must resubmit the document or cause the document to be resubmitted as appropriate before the application will be considered by the board or the board's designee.

(b) Verifications from massage schools and programs will not be considered stale under (a) of this section.

(c) An applicant whose license application has been approved pending receipt of the license fee or additional required documentation must submit the license fee or documentation satisfactory to the board that the additional requirements have been met to the department within six months after being notified that the license application was approved. An applicant who does not submit the license fee or additional required documentation to the department within six months after being notified that the license application was approved must reapply for licensure.

(d) In this section, "application form or verification" means

- (1) an application for a license or permit;
- (2) a verification of licensure from an appropriate licensing authority in a state, territory, province, or other country; or
- (3) fingerprint information described in 12 AAC 79.130.

Authority: AS 08.61.020

12 AAC 79.930. REGULATION OF MASSAGE THERAPY ESTABLISHMENTS. (a) A massage therapy establishment, unless exempted under (b) of this section, must register with the board by submitting

- (1) a completed application form provided by the department;
- (2) a notarized, completed self-inspection report form provided by the department, including certification of compliance with the establishment standards of operation adopted by reference in 12 AAC 79.900;
- (3) the fee required under 12 AAC 02.396; and
- (4) documentation of a current business license (AS 43.70) in this state.

(b) A massage therapy establishment is exempt from complying with (a) and (c) of this section if the majority owner of the massage therapy establishment business is a currently licensed

- (1) acupuncturist under AS 08.06;
- (2) chiropractor under AS 08.20;
- (3) naturopath under AS 08.45;
- (4) massage therapist under AS 08.61;
- (5) physician, osteopath, mobile intensive care paramedic, or physician assistant under AS 08.64;

- (6) direct-entry midwife under AS 08.65;
- (7) advanced practice registered nurse under AS 08.68; or
- (8) physical or occupational therapist under AS 08.84.
- (c) The owner or manager of a massage therapy establishment shall notify the department in writing by submitting the items required under (a) of this section for a new registration not later than 30 days following any change in ownership of the massage therapy establishment.
- (d) The owner or manager of a massage therapy establishment shall notify the department in writing not later than 30 days following a change in physical location by submitting
 - (1) a completed form provided by the department;
 - (2) a completed self-inspection report form described under (a)(2) of this section; and
 - (3) the fee required under 12 AAC 02.396.
- (e) A massage therapy establishment required to be registered under this section must renew the registration on or before September 30 of every odd-numbered year by submitting
 - (1) a complete registration renewal form; and
 - (2) the registration renewal fee required under 12 AAC 02.396.
- (f) A massage therapy establishment owner must notify the department in writing not later than 15 days after the establishment ceases operations.
- (g) The department will maintain a registry of all massage therapy establishments registered with the board.
- (h) In this section, "massage therapy establishment" means a fixed or mobile place of business that
 - (1) is owned by a natural person, partnership, limited partnership, corporation, company, limited liability company, or other entity;
 - (2) engages in, conducts, or permits massage or massage therapy to be conducted for any form of compensation, or uses the word "massage" in any solicitation or advertisement.

Authority: AS 08.01.100 AS 08.61.020

12 AAC 79.940. UNREGISTERED MASSAGE THERAPY ESTABLISHMENT INVESTIGATION. Unless the massage therapy establishment is exempt from registration under 12 AAC 79.930(b), if an inspection or complaint of an unregistered massage therapy establishment results in an investigation, the unregistered massage therapy establishment owner shall pay the investigation fee required by 12 AAC 02.396 to the department for each investigation.

Authority: AS 08.01.065 AS 08.61.020

12 AAC 79.950. INTERNET ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS. (a) A licensed massage therapist or registered massage therapy establishment shall display the licensee's license number or massage therapy establishment's registration number on each Internet advertisement.

(b) For purposes of this section, "Internet advertisement" means a message in an Internet medium that offers or solicits a person to utilize the services of the advertising massage therapist or massage therapy establishment.

Authority: AS 08.61.020 AS 08.61.060 AS 08.61.070

- 12 AAC 79.990. DEFINITIONS.** (a) In AS 08.61 and this chapter,
- (1) "criminal justice information" has the meaning given in AS 12.62.900;
 - (2) "universal and standard precautions" means the infectious control precautions that are recommended by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to be used to prevent the transmission of bloodborne germs such as human immunodeficiency virus and hepatitis B virus.
- (b) In this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise,
- (1) "board" means the Board of Massage Therapists;
 - (2) "department" means the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development;
 - (3) "licensee" means a massage therapist licensed under AS 08.61;
 - (4) "division" means the division of corporations, business, and professional licensing in the department.

Authority: AS 08.61.020