



Press Release
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Massage Therapists to be Licensed by the State beginning in July

July 2, 2015 JUNEAU – Patrons seeking a professional massage in Alaska will soon have a simple way to verify their massage therapists are legitimately trained and operating according to regulated standards: starting late this summer, potential clients can check a [web page](#) to see if their therapist holds an Alaska professional license.

Beginning this month, the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing will start issuing licenses to individuals who meet standards set by the Alaska State Legislature in 2014. HB 328 requires all massage therapists in the state obtain licenses as of this year. The division will continue its efforts throughout the summer to ensure all therapists are aware of the new law before stringently enforcing it.

Information about the licensure requirements and related forms are available on the [division's website](#) at professionallicense.alaska.gov/boardofmassagetherapists.

All massage therapists must pass an FBI background check before a license will be issued by the State of Alaska. Therapists who have been practicing in the state may apply under transitional criteria. Currently, four municipalities regulate massage therapists: Anchorage, Palmer, Fairbanks, and Valdez; city licenses became void on July 1.

The bill that set out the licensure requirement also created a Board of Massage Therapists, which is tasked with setting licensure standards, reviewing license applications, and imposing discipline when warranted after an investigation. The board comprises massage therapists and public members appointed by the governor.

The Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing ensures competent, professional, and regulated commercial services are available to Alaska consumers. The division, along with the Division of Banking and Securities, the Division of Insurance, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, and the Regulatory Commission of Alaska are tasked with protecting consumers in Alaska. For additional information about the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development and its agencies, please visit commerce.alaska.gov.

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