

Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



February 28, 2020

Mr. Melvin L. Ursin
208 Dolby Street
Lake Charles, LA. 70605

Certified Mail R.R.R.

Re: Complaint regarding unlicensed practice of Massage Therapy working out of home located at 208 Dolby Street, Lake Charles, La. 70605

Notice of Complaint/Cease and Desist Notice

Dear Mr. Ursin:

The Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy (Board) is charged with licensing and regulating those persons and businesses in Louisiana engaging in the practice of Massage Therapy.

The regulations are found in the Louisiana Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments Act, La. R.S. 37: Chapter 57.

Applicable Provisions of Louisiana Revised Statute 37, Chapter 57 are as follows:

§3552 Definitions:

(7) "Massage establishment" means any place of business that offers the practice of massage therapy and where the practice of massage is conducted on the premises of the business. . . . The residence of a therapist or an out call location which is not owned, rented, or leased by a massage therapist or establishment shall not be considered a massage establishment, unless the location is advertised as the therapist's or establishment's place of business. . . ."

§3556. Licensure; qualifications

A. No person shall engage in the practice of massage therapy without a current license issued pursuant to this Chapter unless such person is exempt under the provisions of this Chapter.

§3564. Regulation of advertising

A. A person or an entity that does not hold a license as a massage therapist, physical therapist, or chiropractor, a certificate to practice athletic training, or a license as a massage establishment shall not use the words "massage", "body work", or any derivative or variation of the word "massage", including specific bodywork or massage modalities, on any sign or other form of advertising. Any advertisement by a massage therapist or a massage establishment shall contain the license number of such therapist or establishment. Building signs with promotional material shall also include the professional or establishment number.

§3565. Penalties

A. Violation of the provisions of this Chapter shall be considered a misdemeanor and any person, including the owner or operator of a massage establishment, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than one hundred or more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

The Board received a complaint indicating that you work out of your home and travel to various offsite locations, such as private homes or hotels, where you are providing massage therapy services to clients and that you advertise your services on Instagram.

Upon investigating the matter, the Board office has no record of an individual massage therapy license issued in the name of "Melvin Ursin".

Under the Board rules, any location where a therapist provides services at a fixed location, must be registered or licensed as a massage establishment and any person engaging in the practice of massage therapy must be licensed by the Board. If you are operating a massage business out of your home or providing massage services at offsite locations, **you are hereby notified to immediately cease and desist advertising and/or performing massage therapy services until you are properly licensed.**

Your failure to immediately comply with this notice shall result in the matter being referred to the appropriate police authorities for a criminal investigation for violation of the above statutes. The Board may also elect to pursue civil injunctive remedies which could result in imposition of civil penalties and an award of attorney fees.

If you are not operating a massage business out of your home at 208 Dolby Street, Lake Charles, La. and/or providing offsite massage therapy services to clients at other locations such as private homes or hotel rooms or if you feel that you are licensed or otherwise exempt from the license requirements of the statutes that regulate the practice of Massage Therapy, you need to immediately notify the Board office in writing at 2645 O'Neal Lane, Bldg. C, Suite E, Baton Rouge, La. 70816. The Board office can also advise as to the steps required for you to obtain an individual massage therapy license or otherwise become properly licensed to operate a massage business in Louisiana.

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, you may contact the Board Office.

Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy

By: 
Kathy Farris, Assistant Director

51735142.v1