



LOUISIANA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

BOBBY JINDAL

GOVERNOR

January 1 – March 31, 2016

Dear Therapist and Establishment Managers,

After the Massage therapy Practice Act was amended in 2013, the board office directed correspondence to all licensed therapists and establishment managers advising as to the licensing or registration requirements that are applicable to all therapists or establishments practicing or providing massage therapy services in Louisiana. The license requirements are designed to insure that the general public is dealing with therapists who are properly qualified and business locations that comply with safety and sanitary requirements. Due to some possible confusion as to how the rules are applied, the following explanation is being provided:

Individual License Required: Under La. R.S. 37:3556, any person practicing massage therapy in Louisiana must possess a license in the form of a Licensed Massage Therapist Identification Card (LMT-ID Card) which must be carried by the therapist whenever providing services. The Professional License application must contain the name of the therapist and the location where the therapist regularly provides services and the board office must be notified of any changes in status (Rules: Chapter 29§2901), within 30 days of occurrence.

Establishment License/Establishment Registration Required: If a therapist works at a massage establishment, the LMT-ID Card/Professional License must be posted in plain sight at the establishment location. The establishment license or establishment registration must also be posted in plain sight at the normal business location where the massage services are rendered. An establishment license, for which a license fee is charged, is required by any business which offers the practice of massage therapy and employs two or more licensed therapist to provide such services. An establishment registration, for which no registration fee is charged (unless late then a late fee is charged), is required of any business or location offering massage services where only one person engages in the practice of massage therapy at that location. However, a late fee will be incurred if the registration is not renewed prior to March 31st each year.

Apparently there is some confusion as to when a sole practitioner therapist must also register as a massage establishment as some therapists are listing on their license applications or renewal forms that they are regularly working at a particular business location, but the location provided is not licensed or registered as an establishment. Working at a business location that does not have an establishment license or establishment registration is a violation of the board rules and statues applicable to the practice of massage therapy. Persons or businesses violating the rules by operating as an unlicensed or unregistered massage establishment may be subject to being shut down for engaging in unauthorized

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practice as well as being subject to disciplinary action which can include criminal charges, criminal and/or administrative fines and/or revocation of an individual's massage therapy license. R.S. 37:3558 provides that obtaining the proper massage establishment license shall be the responsibility of the entity which controls the physical location where the services are provided. If the physical location is controlled by an individual therapist, then that therapist may be charged with any violations of the license or registration requirements which may be found.

If you are a sole practitioner licensed therapist who regularly works out of an advertised business location, that location must have a valid and current establishment registration. If more than one licensed therapist works out of the same business location, the location must have a valid and current establishment license. The board office will be conducting routine inspections of service or business locations which are listed on the license or renewal applications of individual massage therapists and if the location does not have the proper license or registration on display, discipline action will be taken, including actions against the individual therapist if warranted.

The board office staff is available to answer any questions regarding establishment licensing, but it is the responsibility of the individual therapist or business to comply with the legal requirements. A complete set of the rules and statutes are available on the board's website.

Kindest regards

Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy