

Tennessee Board of Massage Licensure



Newsletter



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A regulatory agency of the State of Tennessee

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227 French Landing, Suite 300; Heritage Place Metro Center; Nashville, TN 37243 (615) 253-2111 or 1-800-778-4123 ext2532111
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time (615) 532-5164 Fax
(closed State and Federal holidays) <http://tennessee.gov/health>

CURRENT COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

The Tennessee Massage Licensure Board is composed of seven (7) members. Five (5) members are licensed massage therapists and (2) members are citizen members.

The Board's purpose is to protect the public from being misled by incompetent, unscrupulous and unauthorized practitioners, and from unprofessional or illegal practices by persons licensed to practice massage therapy. The Board adopts and interprets the laws, rules, and regulations to establish and maintain a high standard of integrity, skills, and practice in the profession of massage therapy. The board is responsible for the investigation of alleged violations of the Practice Act and rules and is responsible for the discipline of licensees who are found guilty of such violations.

Current members are: Marcela Collins, LMT, President; Ed Bolden, LMT, Secretary; Chris Sluss, LMT; Faith Mayton, LMT; Cynthia Jagers, LMT; Pamela Edmond, Public Member; and Michael Velker, Public Member.

RULE CHANGES COMING SOON

The Board has completed an extensive rewrite of the rules governing massage therapy in Tennessee. The new rules will become effective no later than September 6, 2012. Once effective, the new rules will be available on the Massage Licensure Board website at:

<http://health.state.tn.us/Boards/Massage>

Some of the major changes pertain to the application process; continuing education courses and course approvals; requirements for licensure by reciprocity; and the application process and requirements for massage establishments. The following are just a few examples:

- A maximum of eight (8) hours of the twenty-five (25) hour requirement for continuing education may be completed via multi-media format such as on-line/home-study courses during a two-year cycle. (This change will be enforced with the two-year cycle which begins on January 1, 2013.)
- All current continuing education course approvals will expire December 31, 2012. All courses must be resubmitted for review/approval in every continuing education cycle they are offered and must include a fee payment in the amount of \$100.00 per course. Please note that the new rules include changes to the required documentation/information to be submitted.
- "Establishment" is redefined as "A business or institution that is a fixed and permanent location or a mobile vehicle facility that is open and accessible to the general public for compensated massage services."

Again, the above are just a few of the changes. You are strongly encouraged to visit the website frequently for updates to the effective date of the new rules/requirements.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The ending of the current continuing education cycle is December 31, 2012. All massage therapists licensed through January 31, 2011 must complete twenty-five (25) hours of continuing education by December 31, 2012. Therapists licensed February 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012 will have their required continuing education hours prorated over the remaining months of the two (2) year continuing education cycle. *As a reminder, two (2) hours of the twenty-five (25) hour requirement shall pertain to federal and Tennessee statutes and rules concerning massage therapists and establishments; and two (2) hours of the twenty-five (25) hour requirement shall pertain to the management of practicing massage therapy, or to professional ethics, or to substance abuse.* It is the licensee's responsibility to ensure that the courses taken for continuing education credit are approved courses in accordance with the rules.

Please be aware that two (2) year continuing education cycles always begin on January 1st of an odd-numbered calendar year and end on December 31st of the following even-numbered calendar year. The next continuing education cycle is January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2014. The continuing education cycle is **not** tied to the renewal date of a license.

The complete rule regarding Continuing Education is found at **Rule 0870-01-.12**.

CONTINUING EDUCATION VIOLATIONS

In accordance with the policy revised by the board on May 17, 2010, a licensed massage therapist failing to obtain the required continuing education hours, if he or she is a first time offender, is subject to board discipline which includes a one hundred and fifty dollar (\$150.00) civil penalty, a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per deficient hour, a requirement to make up the deficient hours and to obtain an additional six (6) penalty hours of continuing education before the end of the next two-year period. These hours are in addition to the twenty-five (25) hours required for that period.

Due to the high percentage of massage therapists failing to obtain the required hours, a 100% audit of

continuing education hours is now being conducted. As a result, and in accordance with the above policy, ninety-six (96) Agreed Citations in the total amount of \$45,875.00 were ratified by the Board during calendar year 2011. *Please be aware that the board's administrative staff does not have the authority to change or alter the terms of the Agreed Citation.*

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mailing and practice address changes must be reported in writing to the board's office within thirty (30) days after such change is effective. Please include the following:

- Your name and license number;
- Your profession
- Your old address and phone number;
- Your new address and phone number, e-mail address, and/or your fax number;
- Your SIGNATURE

Keeping your address up to date facilitates the timely notification to you of important information such as your application for licensure renewal and important statutory and rule changes. You may fax your change to the Board's administrative office at (615)532-5164 or by mail at: 227 French Landing, Heritage Place MetroCenter, Suite 300, Nashville, TN 37243

ACTIVE LICENSEES AS OF June 30, 2012

Massage Therapists:	4,525
Massage Establishments:	1,577

REMINDER ABOUT PRACTITIONER PROFILES

The Health Care Consumer Right-to-Know Act of 1998, T.C.A. § 63-51-101 et seq, requires designated licensed health professionals to furnish certain information to the Tennessee Department of Health. The information for public dissemination includes: (1) A description of any criminal convictions for felonies within the most recent ten (10) years. (2) A description of any final disciplinary actions of licensing boards in other states within the most recent ten (10) years. (3) A description of any final disciplinary actions of licensing boards in other states within the most recent ten (10) years. (4) A description of revocation or involuntary restriction of hospital privileges for reasons related to competence or character that has been taken by the hospital's governing body or any other official action of the hospital after procedural due process has been afforded, or the resignation from or nonrenewal of medical staff membership or the restriction of privileges at a hospital taken in lieu of or in settlement of a pending disciplinary case related to competence or character in that hospital. Only cases which have occurred within the most recent ten (10) years shall be disclosed by the department to the public. (5) All medical malpractice court judgments, all medical malpractice arbitration awards in which a payment is awarded to a complaining party and all settlements of medical malpractice claims in which a payment is made to a complaining party beginning with reports for 1998 and each subsequent year; provided, such reports shall not be disseminated beyond the most recent ten-year period, but shall include the most recent ten-year period for which reports have been filed. From the information submitted, the Department will compile a practitioner profile which is required to be made available to the public via the World Wide Web and toll-free telephone line after May 1, 1999.

Each practitioner who has submitted information must update that information in writing by notifying the Department of Health, Healthcare Provider Information Unit, within 30 days after the occurrence of an event or an attainment of a status that is required to be reported by the law. A copy of your initial or updated profile will be furnished to you for your review prior to publication. That opportunity will allow you to make corrections, additions and helpful explanatory comments. **Failure to comply with**

the requirement to submit and update profiling information constitutes a ground for disciplinary action against your license.

A blank copy of the profile may be obtained at:

<http://health.state.tn.us/Downloads/g6019027.pdf>

ACCESSING THE BOARD'S WEBSITE

- Log onto <http://tn.gov/health>
- Click on "For Health Care Professionals"
- Under "Health Related Boards": Click on "Massage"

There are many resources on our website including, but not limited to, rules, statutes, applications, and policy statements. License renewal and licensure verification may also be utilized on this website. This is a valuable resource. Please use it.

BOARD MEETING DATES

Nov. 5 – 6, 2012

2013

Feb. 4 – 5, 2013

May 6 – 7, 2013

Aug. 5 – 6, 2013

Nov. 4 – 5, 2013

All Board meetings begin at 9:00 a.m., Central Time. Board meetings are held at the Board's office and are open to the public. Dates are subject to change, but are listed on the Board's Website. [In the event of an electronic meeting, a conference room is made available to the public and is the location from which the electronic meeting is conducted.]

Tennessee Massage Licensure Board

227 French Landing, Suite 300
Heritage Place Metro Center
Nashville, TN 37243



**Tennessee Massage Licensure Board
Board Members as of July 31, 2012**

Faith Mayton, LMT
Board Member

Marcela Collins, LMT
President

Ed Bolden, LMT
Secretary

Chris Sluss, LMT
Board Member

Pamela Edmond
Citizen Member

Cynthia Jagers, LMT
Board Member

Michael Velker
Citizen Member

Board Staff

Lisa Lampley
Unit Director

Dianne Birkner
Board Manager

Dale Hill
Board Administrator

Mary Ann Beaty
Licensing Tech