



Rules of
Department of Insurance,
Financial Institutions and
Professional Registration
Division 2197—Board of Therapeutic Massage
Chapter 2—Massage Therapist Licensure Requirements

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**Title 20—DEPARTMENT OF
INSURANCE, FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS AND
PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION**
Division 2197—Board of Therapeutic
Massage
Chapter 2—Massage Therapist Licensure
Requirements

**20 CSR 2197-2.010 Application for
Licensure**

PURPOSE: This rule outlines the requirements for licensure as a massage therapist including the grandfathering provisions and temporary two (2)-year license.

(1) A person who has completed massage therapy studies consisting of at least five hundred (500) clock hours of supervised instruction in a Coordinating Board of Higher Education (CBHE) certified school, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) approved vocational program or school, or school, college, university, or other institution of higher learning in the United States accredited by a regional accrediting commission recognized by the United States Department of Education or an equivalent approving body for out-of-state applicants, shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age and shall submit or cause to be submitted:

(A) A completed notarized application and the accompanying application fee;

(B) Two (2) sets of fingerprints for the purpose of conducting a criminal background check by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The applicant shall provide proof of submission of fingerprints to the Missouri State Highway Patrol's approved vendor(s) for both a Missouri State Highway Patrol and FBI criminal background check. Proof shall consist of any documentation acceptable to the board. Any fees due for a fingerprint background check shall be paid by the applicant directly to the Missouri State Highway Patrol or its approved vendor(s);

(C) An official final transcript showing successful completion of the program to be submitted directly to the board office from the massage therapy program which includes:

1. The applicant's name;
2. Date of enrollment;
3. Date of completion; and

4. Documentation that the massage therapy program consisted of at least five hundred (500) clock hours of supervised instruction which consisted of:

A. At least three hundred (300) clock hours dedicated to massage theory and prac-

tice techniques. An instructor for massage theory and practice techniques shall document at least two (2) years of massage therapy practice and either be licensed as a massage therapist in this state or be licensure eligible, based upon board review of the instructor's credentials. An instructor of kinesiology within the massage theory and practice technique curriculum shall submit verification of education and/or experience in kinesiology instruction and licensure as a massage therapist or licensure eligibility shall not be required;

B. One hundred (100) clock hours dedicated to the study of anatomy and physiology provided by one of the following:

(I) An instructor with an associate, bachelor, or advanced degree in a science related field that includes a course of study in anatomy and physiology. Such degrees include but are not limited to physical therapy, chiropractic, osteopathy, medicine, nursing, chemistry, or biology and shall be from a college, university, or other institution of higher learning in the United States accredited by a regional accrediting commission recognized by the U.S. Department of Education;

(II) An instructor with fifteen (15) semester hours or twenty-five (25) quarter hours in science or science related courses from a college, university, or other institution of higher learning in the United States accredited by a regional accrediting commission recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. All course work must have a passing grade and at least eight (8) semester hours or fifteen (15) quarter hours of the course of study shall be in anatomy and physiology. For the purpose of this regulation a semester hour is equivalent to fifteen (15) clock hours and a quarter hour is equivalent to ten (10) clock hours;

C. Fifty (50) clock hours dedicated to business practice, professional ethics, hygiene and massage law in the state of Missouri provided by an instructor who demonstrates documented experience/education in a related field; and

D. Fifty (50) clock hours dedicated to ancillary therapies provided by an instructor(s) who demonstrates documented experience/education in a related field. The fifty (50) clock hours shall include but not be limited to cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid which shall be provided by an instructor who holds the respective instructor certification; and

(D) Evidence of passing an examination from one of the following:

1. The National Certification Board of Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork

(NCBTMB);

2. The National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM);

3. The American Medical Massage Association National Board Certification Examination (AMMA NBCE) administered as of 2006; or

4. An examination deemed appropriate by the board;

(E) An applicant completing a massage therapy program consisting of less than five hundred (500) hours of supervised instruction from a Missouri Coordinating Board of Higher Education (CBHE) approved school, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) approved vocational program or school, college, university, or other institution of higher learning in the United States accredited by a regional accrediting commission recognized by the United States Department of Education or an equivalent approving agency for out-of-state schools, or who has completed a massage therapy program deficient in clock hours according to 20 CSR 2197-2.010(1)(C)4.A.-D. may complete deficiencies at either a Missouri CBHE approved school, DESE approved vocational program, mentorship approved by the board, or school, college, university, or other institution of higher learning in the United States accredited by a regional accrediting commission recognized by the United States Department of Education, or an out-of-state school approved by an agency equivalent to CBHE; and

(F) For the purpose of 20 CSR 2197-2.010, the course of instruction meeting the educational requirements for licensure shall not be provided via correspondence course, audiotape, videotape, or the Internet unless approved by the board. The course of instruction shall be face-to-face, visually and verbally interactive, between an instructor and the student(s).

(2) A person who has completed five hundred (500) clock hours in an apprenticeship with a certified mentor and has successfully passed an examination approved by the board shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age and shall submit or cause to be submitted:

(A) A completed notarized application and the accompanying application fee;

(B) Two (2) sets of fingerprints for the purpose of conducting a criminal background check by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and FBI. The applicant shall provide proof of submission of fingerprints to the Missouri State Highway Patrol's approved vendor(s) for both a Missouri State Highway Patrol and FBI criminal background check. Proof shall



consist of any documentation acceptable to the board. Any fees due for fingerprint background check shall be paid by the applicant directly to the Missouri State Highway Patrol or its approved vendor(s);

(C) Official evidence of completing five hundred (500) clock hours of massage therapy training in an apprenticeship with a certified mentor which includes:

1. The applicant name;
2. Date of enrollment;
3. Date of completion;

4. Documentation that the mentorship program consisted of at least five hundred (500) clock hours of supervised instruction which consisted of:

A. Three hundred (300) clock hours dedicated to massage theory and practice techniques provided directly by the certified mentor;

B. One hundred (100) clock hours dedicated to the study of anatomy and physiology provided by one (1) of the following:

(I) The board approved mentor with an associate, bachelor, or advanced degree in a science related field from a college, university, or other institution of higher learning in the United States accredited by a regional accrediting commission recognized by the U.S. Department of Education that includes a course of study in anatomy and physiology. Such degrees include but are not limited to physical therapy, chiropractic, osteopathy, medicine, nursing, chemistry, or biology;

(II) A school, college, university, or other institution of higher learning in the United States accredited by a regional accrediting commission recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, a massage therapy program approved by the Missouri CBHE, or an out-of-state school approved by an agency equivalent to the Missouri CBHE; or

(III) The board approved mentor with fifteen (15) semester hours or twenty-five (25) quarter hours in science or science related courses from a college, university, or other institution of higher learning in the United States accredited by a regional accrediting commission recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. All course work must have a passing grade and at least eight (8) semester hours in fifteen (15) quarter hours of the course of study shall be in anatomy and physiology. For the purpose of this regulation a semester hour is equivalent to fifteen (15) clock hours and a quarter hour is equivalent to ten (10) clock hours;

C. Fifty (50) clock hours dedicated to business practice, professional ethics, hygiene and massage law in the state of Missouri. The mentor shall document educa-

tion and/or experience to provide a course of instruction for this area; and

D. Fifty (50) clock hours dedicated to ancillary therapies. The mentor shall document education and/or experience to provide a course of instruction for this area. The fifty (50) clock hours shall include but not be limited to cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid which shall be provided by an instructor who holds the respective instructor certification;

(D) Evidence of passing a statistically valid examination from one of the following:

1. NCBTMB;
2. NCCAOM;
3. AMMA NBCE administered as of 2006; or

4. An examination deemed appropriate by the board; and

(E) For the purpose of 20 CSR 2197-2.010, the course of instruction meeting the educational requirements for licensure shall not be provided via correspondence course, audiotape, videotape, or the Internet unless approved by the board. The course of instruction shall be face-to-face, visually and verbally interactive, between an instructor and the student(s).

(3) Grandfathering Provisions.

(A) A person who has passed a statistically valid examination on therapeutic massage and bodywork prior to August 28, 1999 and applies for such license prior to December 31, 2000 shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age and shall submit:

1. A completed notarized application and the accompanying application fee;

2. Two (2) sets of fingerprints for the purpose of conducting a criminal background check by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and FBI. The applicant shall provide proof of submission of fingerprints to the Missouri State Highway Patrol's approved vendor(s) for both a Missouri State Highway Patrol and FBI criminal background check. Proof shall consist of any documentation acceptable to the board. Any fees due for a fingerprint background check shall be paid by the applicant directly to the Missouri State Highway Patrol or its approved vendor(s); and

3. Evidence of passing a statistically valid examination from one of the following:

- A. NCBTMB; or
- B. NCCAOM.

(B) A person who has been in the practice of massage therapy for at least ten (10) years prior to August 28, 1999 and applies for such license prior to December 31, 2000 shall submit or cause to be submitted:

1. A completed notarized application and the accompanying application fee;

2. Two (2) sets of fingerprints and the criminal background check fee;

3. Evidence documenting at least ten (10) years of massage therapy practice (minimum of one hundred fifty (150) massage hours per year practiced between August 28, 1984 to August 28, 1999) which may include but not be limited to a combination of the following:

A. Income tax forms;

B. Professional massage therapy association membership(s);

C. Certificates of continuing education in massage therapy;

D. Business license(s);

E. Office rent or lease agreement(s);

F. Yellow page advertisements with dates;

G. Printed advertisements with dates;

H. Professional insurance;

I. Cancelled checks related to the massage therapy practice which shall include but not be limited to payment for rent, services rendered and/or massage therapy supplies;

J. Verifiable letter(s) from employer(s);

K. Verifiable letter(s) of referral for massage therapy services from a licensed healthcare professional;

L. Verifiable letters of confirmation from clients of massage therapy experience;

M. Work log or client records consisting of client's name, address and/or telephone number, appointment date, and time period worked on client.

(C) A person who has been in the practice of a massage therapy for at least three (3) years prior to August 28, 1999, has completed at least one hundred (100) clock hours of formal training in massage and applies for such license prior to December 31, 2000 shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age and shall submit or cause to be submitted:

1. A completed notarized application and the accompanying application fee;

2. Two (2) sets of fingerprints and the criminal background check fee;

3. Evidence documenting at least three (3) years massage therapy practice (minimum of one hundred fifty (150) massage hours per year practiced between August 28, 1994 to August 28, 1999) which may include but not be limited to a combination of the following:

A. Income tax forms;

B. Professional massage therapy association membership(s);

C. Certificates of continuing education in massage therapy;

D. Business license(s);

E. Office rent or lease agreement(s);



F. Yellow page advertisements with dates;

G. Printed advertisements with dates;

H. Professional insurance;

I. Cancelled checks related to the massage therapy practice which shall include but not be limited to payment for rent, services rendered and/or massage therapy supplies;

J. Verifiable letter(s) from employer(s);

K. Verifiable letter(s) of referral for massage therapy services from a licensed healthcare professional;

L. Verifiable letters of confirmation from clients of massage therapy experience; or

M. Work log or client records consisting of client's name, address and/or telephone number, appointment date, and time period worked on client; and

4. Evidence of at least one hundred (100) clock hours of formal massage therapy training approved by the board which shall include any combination of the following:

A. Classroom and directly supervised student clinical massage therapy practice hours;

B. Continuing education credits in massage therapy; or

C. Massage therapy seminar and/or workshop attendance.

(4) A massage therapist license shall not be issued until the results of the criminal background check have been reviewed by the board. The results of the criminal background check shall be valid for two (2) years from receipt of the criminal background check in the board office.

(5) Educational Review.

(A) The board may review a person's educational credentials prior to application for licensure upon receiving a written request to the board. The person requesting the educational review shall be responsible for providing official transcripts and paying the required fee.

AUTHORITY: sections 324.240 and 324.267, RSMo 2000 and sections 324.243, 324.245, 324.265 and 324.270, RSMo Supp. 2007. This rule originally filed as 4 CSR 197-2.010. Original rule filed Feb. 25, 2000, effective Sept. 30, 2000. Amended: Filed Nov. 26, 2003, effective June 30, 2004. Moved to 20 CSR 2197-2.010, effective Aug. 28, 2007. Amended: Filed Aug. 21, 2007, effective March 30, 2008.*

**Original authority: 324.240, RSMo 1998, amended 1999; 324.243 RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2001;*

324.245, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2003, 2006; 324.265, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2006; 324.267, RSMo 1998, amended 1999; and 324.270, RSMo 1998, 2006.

20 CSR 2197-2.020 Reciprocity

PURPOSE: This rule outlines the requirements for licensure by reciprocity.

(1) A person applying for licensure by reciprocity whose state, territory, or commonwealth of the District of Columbia has requirements which substantially conform to those in the state of Missouri shall submit or cause to be submitted the following:

(A) A completed notarized application and the accompanying application fee;

(B) Two (2) sets of fingerprints for the purpose of conducting a criminal background check by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The applicant shall provide proof of submission of fingerprints to the Missouri State Highway Patrol's approved vendor(s) for both a Missouri State Highway Patrol and FBI criminal background check. Proof shall consist of any documentation acceptable to the board. Any fees due for fingerprint background check shall be paid by the applicant directly to the Missouri State Highway Patrol or its approved vendor(s);

(C) A copy of a current massage therapy license;

(D) When requested by the board a copy of the other state, territory, commonwealth, or the District of Columbia's statutes and rules and regulations pertaining to massage therapy; and

(E) A letter of verification to be submitted directly to the board office from the state, territory, commonwealth, or the District of Columbia's licensing agency, if applicable, which shall include:

1. Verification of the applicant's license;
2. License issuance date;
3. License expiration date; and
4. Information regarding any pending or prior investigations or disciplinary action.

(2) A person applying for licensure by reciprocity whose state, territory, commonwealth, or the District of Columbia has licensure requirements that are not substantially the same as Missouri shall be required to meet the requirements of section 324.265, RSMo and 20 CSR 2197-2.010.

(3) A massage therapist license shall not be issued until the results of the criminal background check have been reviewed by the board. The results of the criminal background check shall be valid for two (2) years

from receipt of the criminal background check in the board office.

AUTHORITY: sections 324.245 and 324.265, RSMo Supp. 2007. This rule originally filed as 4 CSR 197-2.020. Original rule filed Feb. 25, 2000, effective Sept. 30, 2000. Moved to 20 CSR 2197-2.020, effective Aug. 28, 2006. Amended: Filed Aug. 21, 2007, effective March 30, 2008.*

**Original authority: 324.245, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2003, 2006 and 324.265, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2006.*

20 CSR 2197-2.030 Provisional License

PURPOSE: This rule outlines the requirements to obtain a provisional license.

(1) A person shall request an application for provisional licensure from the Missouri Board of Therapeutic Massage, PO Box 1335, Jefferson City, MO, 65102-1335 by calling (573) 522-6277 or sending an email to massagether@pr.mo.gov. The TDD number is (800) 735-2996. An application for provisional licensure shall include the following information:

(A) An official transcript from the massage therapy program, school, or board approved mentor documenting completion of a massage therapy program pursuant to 20 CSR 2197-2.010(1) or (2). For the purpose of this regulation, the massage therapy program shall not be provided via correspondence course, audiotape, videotape, or the Internet unless approved by the board. The course of instruction shall be face-to-face, visually and verbally interactive, between an instructor and the student(s). The board may accept transcripts issued to the applicant and placed in a sealed envelope that carries the massage therapy program, school, or mentor's seal or stamp;

(B) Written verification from the massage therapy school, program, mentor, or testing entity that the applicant has applied or is scheduled to take an examination pursuant to 20 CSR 2197-2.010(1)(D)1.-3.;

(C) Fingerprints for the purpose of conducting a criminal background check by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The applicant shall provide proof of submission of fingerprints to the Missouri State Highway Patrol's approved vendor(s) for both a Missouri State Highway Patrol and FBI criminal background check. Proof shall consist of any documentation acceptable to the board. Any fees due for fingerprint background checks shall be paid by the applicant directly to the Missouri State Highway Patrol or its approved vendor; and



(D) Any applicable fees.

(2) A provisional license is valid for up to ninety (90) days from the date of issuance. A provisional license shall expire upon passing the examination as defined in 20 CSR 2197-2.010(1)(D) or 20 CSR 2197-2.010(2)(D) or conclusion of the ninety (90)-day licensure provisional period whichever comes first. Upon expiration of a provisional license the licensee shall no longer engage in the practice of massage therapy. To resume practicing massage therapy a person must either apply to renew the provisional license, pursuant to 20 CSR 2197-2.030(3), if he/she has not passed the national examination, or obtain a license as a massage therapist pursuant to 20 CSR 2197-2.010(1) or (2).

(3) A provisional license may be renewed for an additional ninety (90) days from the date of expiration at the discretion of the board. To renew a provisional license the applicant must complete an application, submit written verification from the massage therapy school, program, mentor or testing entity that the person has applied or is scheduled to take an examination pursuant to 20 CSR 2197-2.010(1)(D) or 20 CSR 2197-2.010(2)(D), and pay the required fee.

(4) A provisional licensee is subject to all statutes and regulations relating to the licensing and regulation of licensed massage therapists and licensed massage therapy businesses.

(5) A provisional license shall not be issued until the results of the criminal background check have been reviewed by the board. The results of the criminal background check shall be valid for two (2) years from receipt of the criminal background check in the board office.

AUTHORITY: sections 324.245 and 324.265, RSMo Supp. 2007. This rule originally filed as 4 CSR 197-2.030. Original rule filed Feb. 25, 2000, effective Sept. 30, 2000. Amended: Filed Nov. 26, 2003, effective June 30, 2004. Moved to 20 CSR 2197-2.030, effective Aug. 28, 2006. Rescinded and readopted: Filed Aug. 21, 2007, effective March 30, 2008.*

**Original authority: 324.245, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2003, 2006 and 324.265, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2006.*

20 CSR 2197-2.040 Students/Student License

PURPOSE: This rule outlines the requirements to obtain a student license.

(1) Upon enrollment the school or the certified mentor shall submit to the board a completed application for student licensure. The application shall include the following information:

(A) Verification by the instructor or certified mentor that the student has demonstrated substantial progress and competency, as approved within the course of instruction, with a grade of "C" or better in the following:

1. Basic hygiene;
2. Universal precautions;
3. Contraindications; and
4. Basic massage theory and basic massage hands-on practice;

(B) Verification that the student has submitted a set of fingerprints for the purpose of conducting a criminal background check by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The student shall submit two (2) sets of fingerprints to the Missouri State Highway Patrol's approved vendor(s) for both a Missouri State Highway Patrol and FBI criminal background check. Any fees due for fingerprint background checks shall be paid by the student directly to the Missouri State Highway Patrol or its approved vendor(s); and

(C) Any applicable fees.

(2) A student license shall not be issued until the results of the criminal background check have been reviewed by the board. The results of the criminal background check shall be valid for two (2) years from receipt of the criminal background check in the board office.

(3) As a part of the course of study, any student may practice massage therapy on fellow students and family members.

(4) Student licenses shall be displayed in a conspicuous place with a photograph that has been taken within the last two (2) years or retained by the school in a folder or file that is easily accessible for inspection by the board or a board representative.

(5) The holder of a student license may practice massage therapy on members of the public while under the direct supervision of a massage therapy instructor or certified mentor.

(6) Students shall not receive compensation from the school or client for any massage therapy services.

(7) When the student is no longer enrolled or has graduated, the school shall return the stu-

dent license within thirty (30) days to the board office.

(8) No massage therapy instructor shall have more than five (5) students under his/her direct supervision at one (1) time during massage therapy clinical practice.

AUTHORITY: sections 324.245 and 324.265, RSMo Supp. 2007. This rule originally filed as 4 CSR 197-2.040. Original rule filed Feb. 25, 2000, effective Sept. 30, 2000. Moved to 20 CSR 2197-2.040, effective Aug. 28, 2006. Rescinded and readopted: Filed Aug. 21, 2007, effective March 30, 2008.*

**Original authority: 324.245, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2003, 2006 and 324.265, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2006.*

20 CSR 2197-2.050 License Renewal

PURPOSE: This rule outlines the requirements for the renewal of licensure and specifies continuing education requirements.

(1) Each licensee who holds a license pursuant to sections 324.240 to 324.275, RSMo shall complete, during the two (2)-year license period prior to renewal, as a condition of the license renewal, twelve (12) clock hours of continuing education relevant to the practice of massage therapy.

(A) Continuing education credits earned after the expiration date of a license may apply to the previous renewal cycle if the licensee pays the continuing education late fee as defined in 20 CSR 2197-1.040(3)(F)3. and documents completion of the continuing education as required by 20 CSR 2197-2.050(1). Payment of the continuing education late fee will entitle a licensee to earn continuing education credits for the previous year. Such hours shall be completed no later than thirty (30) days from the expiration date of the license.

(2) Licensees shall maintain evidence of their course participation or course completion for a period of at least six (6) years. Such evidence must be submitted upon request by the board.

(3) A license issued pursuant to section 324.265, RSMo shall be renewed on or before the expiration of the license by submitting the signed renewal application and fee to the division.

(4) Failure of a licensee to receive the notice and application to renew his/her license shall not excuse him/her from the requirements of section 324.265, RSMo to renew that license.



(5) The license of a massage therapist that is not renewed by the expiration date shall lapse and become not current. A person may renew the lapsed license by completing the renewal form and paying the required renewal and late fees as defined in 20 CSR 2197-1.040(3)(F) and (3)(F)1. within thirty (30) days of the expiration date. The lapsed licensee shall not provide massage therapy until filing the renewal form and paying the required fees.

(6) A licensed massage therapist may request reinstatement of a license up to two (2) years from the expiration date by completing the required reinstatement application, paying the required fees as defined in 20 CSR 2197-1.040(3)(F) and 20 CSR 2197-1.040(3)(F)2. and document completion of the continuing education as required by 20 CSR 2197-2.050(1). If the massage therapist fails to reinstate a license within two (2) years of the expiration date, the former licensee must submit an application for licensure, pay the required fee, and comply with the current requirements for licensure.

(7) A massage therapist with a lapsed license, as provided in this rule, may be reinstated at the sole discretion of the board upon completion of the required continuing education, payment of the required fee, and submitting the required application.

AUTHORITY: sections 324.245, 324.262 and 324.265, RSMo Supp. 2007. This rule originally filed as 4 CSR 197-2.050. Original rule filed Feb. 25, 2000, effective Sept. 30, 2000. Amended: Filed Nov. 26, 2003, effective June 30, 2004. Moved to 20 CSR 2197-2.050, effective Aug. 28, 2006. Amended: Filed Aug. 21, 2007, effective March 30, 2008.*

**Original authority: 324.245, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2003, 2006; 324.262, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2006; and 324.265, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2006.*