

Part 1 **General Provisions**

58-47b-101 Title.

This chapter is known as the "Massage Therapy Practice Act."

Amended by Chapter 159, 1998 General Session

58-47b-102 Definitions.

In addition to the definitions in Section 58-1-102, as used in this chapter:

- (1) "Board" means the Board of Massage Therapy and Acupuncture created in Section 58-47b-201.
- (2) "Bodywork" means:
 - (a) the systematic manual or mechanical manipulation of the soft tissue of the body;
 - (b) the use of the hands or a mechanical or electrical apparatus in connection with an activity described in this Subsection (2);
 - (c) range of motion movements or movements without adjustment or articulation of the spinal column as defined in Section 58-73-102;
 - (d) the use of oil rubs, heat lamps, salt glows, hot and cold packs, or tub, shower, steam, and cabinet baths;
 - (e) manual traction and stretching exercise;
 - (f) activities and modality techniques similar or related to the activities and techniques described in this Subsection (2); or
 - (g) providing, offering, or advertising a paid service using the term "massage" or a derivative of the word "massage" regardless of whether the service includes physical contact.
- (3) (a) "Breast" means the female mammary gland.
 - (b) "Breast" does not include the muscles, connective tissue, or other soft tissue of the upper chest.
- (4) "Homeostasis" means the maintenance, the stabilization, or the return of the muscular system to equilibrium.
- (5) "Licensed individual" means an individual who is a massage assistant-in-training, a massage assistant, a massage apprentice, or a licensed massage therapist.
- (6) "Licensed massage therapist" means an individual licensed under this chapter to perform massage services without supervision.
- (7) "Limited massage therapy" means:
 - (a) bodywork that is not intended to be billed to an insurance company; or
 - (b) bodywork that is not supervised by:
 - (i) a physical therapist licensed under Chapter 24b, Physical Therapy Practice Act;
 - (ii) a physician licensed under Chapter 67, Utah Medical Practice Act;
 - (iii) an occupational therapist licensed under Chapter 42a, Occupational Therapy Practice Act;
 - (iv) an osteopathic physician licensed under Chapter 68, Utah Osteopathic Medical Practice Act;
 - (v) an acupuncturist licensed under Chapter 72, Acupuncture Licensing Act; or
 - (vi) a chiropractic physician licensed under Chapter 73, Chiropractic Physician Practice Act.
- (8) "Massage apprentice" means an individual licensed under this chapter as a massage apprentice.

- (9) "Massage assistant" means an individual licensed under this chapter as a massage assistant.
- (10) "Massage assistant-in-training" means an individual licensed under this chapter as a massage assistant-in-training.
- (11)
 - (a) "Massage establishment" means a place where massage services are performed by an individual.
 - (b) "Massage establishment" includes a location an owner rents or leases to multiple sole practitioners to perform massage services.
 - (c) "Massage establishment" does not include:
 - (i) a location owned, rented, or leased by a single sole practitioner to perform massage services;
 - (ii) an out-call location; or
 - (iii) a massage school where massage services are only performed for an educational purpose.
- (12) "Massage services" means massage therapy or limited massage therapy.
- (13) "Massage therapy" means:
 - (a) bodywork that is intended to be billed to an insurance company;
 - (b) bodywork that is supervised by:
 - (i) a physical therapist licensed under Chapter 24b, Physical Therapy Practice Act;
 - (ii) a physician licensed under Chapter 67, Utah Medical Practice Act;
 - (iii) an occupational therapist licensed under Chapter 42a, Occupational Therapy Practice Act;
 - (iv) an osteopathic physician licensed under Chapter 68, Utah Osteopathic Medical Practice Act;
 - (v) an acupuncturist licensed under Chapter 72, Acupuncture Licensing Act; or
 - (vi) a chiropractic physician licensed under Chapter 73, Chiropractic Physician Practice Act;
 - (c) the examination, assessment, and evaluation of the soft tissue structures of the body for the purpose of devising a treatment plan to promote homeostasis;
 - (d) counseling, education, and other advisory services to reduce the incidence and severity of physical disability, movement dysfunction, and pain;
 - (e) the use of rehabilitative procedures involving the soft tissue of the body;
 - (f) correction of muscular distortion by treatment of the soft tissues of the body; or
 - (g) work on an acute or subacute injury.
- (14) "Massage therapy supervisor" means a licensed massage therapist in good standing who has lawfully engaged in massage services for at least 3,000 hours.
- (15) "Out-call location" means a location:
 - (a) where massage services are provided; and
 - (b) that a sole practitioner or a massage establishment does not own, lease, or rent.
- (16)
 - (a) "Owner" means an individual who controls the operation of a massage establishment.
 - (b) "Owner" includes:
 - (i) a shareholder, as defined in Section 16-10a-102, who owns, directly or indirectly through an entity controlled by the individual, any of the outstanding shares of an entity that owns, leases, or otherwise operates a massage establishment that:
 - (A) is a corporation; or
 - (B) is not publicly listed or traded;
 - (ii) an individual who owns, directly or indirectly through an entity controlled by the individual, any part of an entity that is not a corporation and that owns, leases, or otherwise operates a massage establishment;
 - (iii) an individual:

- (A) in whose name a certificate of occupancy has been issued for a massage establishment; or
- (B) that operates a massage establishment under a lease, operating agreement, franchise, or other arrangement; and
- (iv) a sublessee or other legal possessor.

(17) "Registered massage establishment" means a massage establishment that is registered with the division to lawfully provide massage services at a fixed massage establishment location in this state.

(18) "Soft tissue" means the muscles and related connective tissue.

(19) "Sole practitioner" means a licensed massage therapist who:

- (a) does not employ or contract with a licensed individual to offer massage services; and
- (b) does not employ an individual who works at the sole practitioner's location on a regular basis.

(20) "Unlawful conduct" means the same as that term is defined in Sections 58-1-501, 58-47b-501, and 58-47b-501.1.

(21) "Unprofessional conduct" means the same as that term is defined in Sections 58-1-501, 58-47b-502, and 58-47b-502.1 and as may be further defined by division rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

Amended by Chapter 236, 2025 General Session