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