# Rules of Department of Commerce and Insurance

## Division 2197—Board of Therapeutic Massage

### Chapter 2—Massage Therapist Licensure Requirements

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Title 20—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE  
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 seeks licensure as a massage therapist and has completed either five hundred (500) clock hours of massage therapy training in an apprenticeship with a certified mentor and has successfully passed an examination approved by the board or massage therapy studies consisting of at least five hundred (500) clock hours of supervised instruction from 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 the following:

(A) A completed notarized application and 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). 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) Official evidence of completing five hundred (500) clock hours of massage therapy training in an apprenticeship with a certified mentor or an official final transcript showing successful completion of a massage therapy program to be submitted directly to the board office from the certified mentor or 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 therapy and practice techniques provided directly by the certified mentor or an instructor within a massage therapy program. An instructor for massage therapy and practice techniques or certified mentor 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.

   (I) An instructor of kinesiology or pathology within the massage therapy program shall submit verification of education and/or experience in kinesiology or pathology instruction and licensure as a massage therapist or licensure eligibility is not required;

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

      (I) The certified mentor who must hold 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, a massage therapy program approved by the Missouri CBHE, or an out-of-state school approved by an agency equivalent to the Missouri CBHE;

      (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;

      (III) The certified mentor who must have earned at least 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

      D. Fifty (50) clock hours dedicated to ancillary therapies provided by a certified mentor or an instructor(s) within a massage therapy program with documented experience/education in a related field; and

      E. Fifty (50) clock hours dedicated to business practice, professional ethics, hygiene, and massage law in the state

(D) Evidence of passing one (1) of the following:

1. National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCETBM) as administered by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork or its successor organization;

2. National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage (NCETM) as administered by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork or its successor organization;

3. Asian Bodywork Therapy (ABT) Examination as administered by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM);

4. The American Medical Massage Association National Board Certification Examination (AMMA NBCEx) administered as of 2006;

5. Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx) as administered by the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards or its successor organization; or
6. 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.

4. CODE OF STATE REGULATIONS

ments are not substantially the same, the

gations, or disciplinary action on the license.

ry, or the District of Columbia's license

ted to the board office from the state, territo-

pose of conducting a criminal background

check shall be paid by the applicant directly

criminal background

check by the Missouri State Highway Patrol

or other electronic means unless approved by

correspondence course, audiotape, videotape,
or other electronic means unless approved by

the board.

(2) A person applying for licensure based

upon licensure in another state, territory, or

the District of Columbia shall submit the fol-

owing:

(A) A completed notarized application and

application fee;

(B) Two (2) sets of fingerprints for the pur-

pose of conducting a criminal background

check pursuant to 20 CSR 2197-2.010, a clock hour is defined as fifty (50)

minutes of instruction and the course of

instruction meeting the educational require-

ments for licensure shall not be provided via

correspondence course, audiotape, videotape,
or other electronic means unless approved by

the board.

(3) If the board determines a state, territory,
or the District of Columbia licensure require-

ments are not substantially the same, the

applicant may qualify for licensure by meet-

ing the requirements of section 324.265,

RSMo, and this rule.

(4) The board may review a person’s educa-

tional credentials prior to application for

licensure upon receiving a written request to

the board. The person requesting the educa-

tion review shall be responsible for providing

official transcripts and paying the required

fee.

AUTHORITY: sections 324.240, 324.243,

324.245, 324.265, 324.267, and 324.270.

RSMo 2016.* This rule originally filed as 4

CSR 197-2.010. Original rule filed Feb. 25,

2000, effective Sept. 30, 2000. Amended:


Moved to 20 CSR 2197-2.010, effective Aug.

28, 2007. Amended: Filed Aug. 21, 2007,

effective March 30, 2008. Amended: Filed


Amended: Filed Aug. 21, 2019, effective Feb.


*Original authority: 324.240, RSMo 1998, amended


324.267 RSMo 1998, amended 1999; and 324.270 RSMo


20 CSR 2197-2.020 Reciprocity

(Rescinded February 29, 2020)

AUTHORITY: sections 324.245 and 324.265,

RSMo Supp. 2007. This rule originally filed as 4


Amended: Filed Aug. 21, 2007, effective March

30, 2008. Rescinded: Filed Aug. 21, 2019,


20 CSR 2197-2.030 Provisional License

PURPOSE: This rule outlines the require-

ments 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 provi-

sional licensure shall include the following

information:

(A) An official transcript from the massage

therapy program, school, or certified mentor

documenting completion of a massage ther-

apy program pursuant to 20 CSR 2197-

2.010(1) or (2) and application fee. 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; and

(C) Two (2) sets of fingerprints for the pur-

pose of conducting a criminal background

check by the Missouri State Highway Patrol

and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Any fees due for fingerprint background

checks shall be paid by the applicant directly to

the Missouri State Highway Patrol or its

approved vendor.

(2) A provisional license is valid for one (1)

year from the date of issuance. Upon expira-

tion of a provisional license the licensee shall

no longer engage in the practice of massage

therapy. To resume practicing massage ther-

apy a person must either apply to renew the

provisional license, if he/she has not passed

the national examination, or obtain a license

as a massage therapist pursuant to 20 CSR

2197-2.010.

(3) A provisional license may be renewed for

an additional number of months at the discre-

tion of the board, not to exceed one (1) year.

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

applicant has applied or is scheduled to take an

examination pursuant to 20 CSR 2197-

2.010, provide a written explanation for

renewing the provisional license, and pay the

required fee.

(4) The results of the criminal background

check shall be valid for one (1) year from

receipt of the criminal background check in

the board office.

AUTHORITY: sections 324.245 and 324.265,


20 CSR 2197-2.040 Students/Student License

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

(1) Upon completion of the required course of study, 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 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; and
(B) Applicable fee.

(2) The applicant for student licensure shall submit to a background check conducted by the Missouri State Highways Patrol and Federal Bureau of Investigation and pay any fees required directly to the Missouri State Highways Patrol or its approved vendor(s).

(3) 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 are valid for one (1) year from receipt of the criminal background check in the board office.

(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 and shall not receive compensation from the school, mentor, or client for any massage therapy services.

(6) A student license shall expire six (6) months from the issue date or when the student completes or withdraws from a massage therapy program or apprenticeship, whichever comes first. A student license may be renewed upon submission of a written request by the massage therapy school or certified mentor explaining the reason for the student license renewal. The renewal of the license is at the discretion of the board.

(7) A massage therapy instructor shall have no more than five (5) students under their direct supervision at one (1) time during massage therapy clinical practice.

(A) For the purpose of this rule, direct supervision is defined as control, direction, instruction, and oversight of a student within a massage therapy program or apprenticeship.


20 CSR 2197-2.050 License Renewal and Name and Address Changes

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

(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, 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 four (4) 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 the license shall not excuse the licensee from the requirements of section 324.265, RSMo, to renew that license.

(5) An expired license can be reinstated within two (2) years of the expiration date by submitting the reinstatement form, applicable fees, and proof of continuing education compliance. Reinstatement of an expired license is at the sole discretion of the board. If the license is not reinstated within two (2) years of the expiration date, the former licensee must submit an application for licensure, application fee, and comply with the current requirements for licensure.

(6) A licensed massage therapist, provisional licensed massage therapist, or student licensed massage therapist shall insure the license bears the current legal name of that individual.

(7) A licensed massage therapist, provisional licensed massage therapist, or student licensed massage therapist shall notify the board office, in writing, within thirty (30) days of a name or address change. Changes in email or a telephone number shall be submitted to the board office in the same manner. A copy of the documentation authorizing the name change shall be submitted to the board office.
