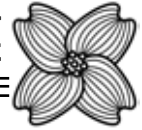




RULES OF
**Department of Commerce and
Insurance**
Division 2197—Board of Therapeutic Massage
Chapter 2—Massage Therapist Licensure
Requirements

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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 six hundred twenty-five (625) 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 six hundred twenty-five (625) 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 six hundred twenty-five (625) 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 six hundred twenty-five (625) clock hours of supervised instruction which consisted of –

A. At least three hundred (300) clock hours dedicated to massage theory and practice techniques provided directly by the certified mentor or an instructor within a massage therapy program. An instructor for massage theory 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.

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

(1) 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 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;

(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 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;

(IV) An instructor within a massage therapy program who must hold 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 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; or

(V) An instructor within a massage therapy program 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 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. At least fifty (50) clock hours dedicated to business practice, professional ethics, hygiene, and massage law in the state of Missouri provided by a certified mentor or an instructor within a massage therapy program with documented experience/education in a related field;

D. At least 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. The fifty (50) clock hours shall include at a minimum cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid provided by an instructor who holds the respective instructor certification; and

E. Applicants for licensure shall have completed no less than six hundred twenty-five (625) clock hours. Hours may be completed in any combination identified in subsection (1) (C) as long as the minimum number of hours are met in each category;

(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 NBCE) 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 six hundred twenty-five (625) clock 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.–E. 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, a clock hour is defined as fifty (50) minutes of instruction and the course of instruction meeting the educational requirements for licensure shall not be provided via 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 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); and

(C) Verification of licensure, to be submitted to the board office from the state, territory, or the District of Columbia's license authority that includes –

1. License issue and expiration date; and

2. Complaints, prior or pending investigations, or disciplinary action on the license.

(3) If the board determines a state, territory, or the District of Columbia licensure requirements are not substantially the same, the applicant may qualify for licensure by meeting the requirements of section 324.265, RSMo, and this rule.

(4) 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 education

review shall be responsible for providing official transcripts and paying the required fee.

AUTHORITY: sections 324.240, 324.243, 324.245, 324.267, and 324.270, RSMo 2016, and section 324.265, RSMo Supp. 2024. 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. Amended: Filed July 9, 2008, effective Jan. 30, 2009. Amended: Filed Aug. 21, 2019, effective Feb. 29, 2020. Emergency amendment filed May 24, 2024, effective July 1, 2024, expired Feb. 27, 2025. Amended: Filed May 24, 2024, effective Dec. 30, 2024.*

**Original authority: 324.240, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2008; 324.243, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2001, 2008; 324.245, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2003, 2006; 324.265, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2006, 2008, 2020; 324.267, RSMo 1998, amended 1999; and 324.270, RSMo 1998, amended 2006.*

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 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. Rescinded: Filed Aug. 21, 2019, effective Feb. 29, 2020.

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 certified mentor documenting completion of a massage therapy 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 purpose 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 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, 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 discretion 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, RSMo 2016. 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. Amended: Filed Aug. 27, 2009, effective Feb. 28, 2010. Amended: Filed Aug. 21, 2019, effective Feb. 29, 2020.*

**Original authority: 324.245, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2003, 2006 and 324.265, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2006, 2008.*

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 Highway Patrol and Federal Bureau of Investigation and pay any fees required directly to the Missouri State Highway 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.

AUTHORITY: sections 324.245 and 324.265, RSMo 2016. 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. Amended: Filed Aug. 21, 2019, effective Feb. 29, 2020.*

**Original authority: 324.245, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2003, 2006 and 324.265, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2006, 2008.*

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, 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 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.

AUTHORITY: sections 324.245, 324.262, and 324.265, RSMo 2016.
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. Amended: Filed Aug. 21, 2019, effective Feb. 29, 2020.*

**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, 2008.*