ALABAMA MASSAGE THERAPY LICENSING BOARD
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 532-X-4
MASSAGE THERAPY ESTABLISHMENT LICENSURE AND STANDARDS

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532-X-4-.01 Massage Therapy Establishment License Required.

(1) No massage therapy establishment shall operate in Alabama without a valid license issued by the board.

(2) There shall be a physical location for each licensed massage therapy establishment.

(3) A licensed massage therapy establishment may provide on-site or out-call services as defined in these rules, provided that:

(a) Such services are provided by a licensed massage therapist who is registered to the licensed massage therapy establishment.

(b) The client is made aware that the licensed massage therapist performing the services is the owner of or is employed by or contracted from the licensed massage therapy establishment.

(4) In order for an individual or entity to be deemed employed by or contracted with a massage therapy establishment or by an entity exempted from licensure pursuant to §34-43A-4, Code of Alabama 1975, the following conditions must exist:

(a) Documentation of the licensed massage therapist's appointments is maintained by the licensed massage therapy establishment in the manner required by 532-X-3-.11(2)(n); and

(b) There exists an employment or contractual relationship between the licensed massage therapist and the licensed massage therapy establishment.

(5) If the conditions prescribed in §532-X-4-.01(4) are not met, any individual or entity providing massage therapy services shall not be deemed to be employed by or contracted with the establishment or other covered entity, and shall be required to maintain licensure as a separate massage therapy establishment.
Author: Alabama Massage Therapy Licensing Board
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-43A-6.
History: **New Rule:** Filed January 29, 2001; effective March 5, 2001. **Amended:** Filed November 9, 2006; effective December 14, 2006. **Amended:** Published September 29, 2023; effective November 13, 2023. **Repealed and New Rule:** Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14, 2024. **Amended:** Published September 30, 2025; effective November 14, 2025.

532-X-4-.02 Requirements For Licensed Massage Therapy Establishments.

1. A licensed massage therapy establishment must demonstrate and maintain the following requirements:

   a. Right to occupy the premises as demonstrated by a deed, lease, or other document establishing lawful possession in the name of the sole proprietor, corporation, limited liability company, or partnership that holds a massage therapy establishment license.

   b. Proof of coverage demonstrating that the licensed massage therapy establishment possesses professional and general liability insurance with an "A" rated or better insurance carrier in the amount of at least one million dollars.

   c. Each massage therapy establishment, including establishments that perform massage therapy services exclusively by out-call appointment, shall maintain a physical location where records and supplies/equipment are kept and available for inspection.

   d. Compliance with state and local fire and safety requirements.

   e. A fire extinguisher in good working condition.

   f. Provision for extermination of vermin, insects, termites, and rodents.

g. Laundering or sanitation of all equipment and linens or other materials furnished for use of the customer or client, prior to reuse, if applicable.

h. Maintenance of equipment in a safe and sanitary condition.

i. Adequate toilet and lavatory facilities with running water, equipped with toilet tissue, soap dispenser with soap or other hand cleansing materials, sanitary towels or hand- drying devices, waste receptacle, with adequate lighting and ventilation sufficient to remove objectionable odors.

j. Adequate and sanitary shower facilities if the establishment maintains a whirlpool bath, sauna, hot tub, spa, steam cabinet or steam room; the shower, if any, is to be equipped with soap, sanitary cloth towels, and adequate lighting and ventilation.

k. Clean drape material (towel, sheet, blanket, linen) for draping clients during the massage.

l. Documentation of all massage therapy appointments, whether the appointments are provided at the licensed massage therapy establishment or are out-call or onsite appointments.

    1. Appointments shall be documented prior to commencement of the massage therapy services.

    2. There shall be no undocumented massage therapy appointments.

    3. Documentation of appointments shall be maintained on the premises of the licensed massage therapy establishment and available for inspection.

    4. Documentation shall include the name of the client(s) who will receive massage therapy services at the appointment, the name of the licensed massage therapist(s) performing the massage therapy services, the location at which the massage therapy services will occur, the type and duration of the massage therapy services to be performed, and the date and time at which the massage therapy services will occur.

    5. Maintain current and post appointment calendar records on site for a minimum of three (3) years.

    6. Provide for the secure storage of confidential client information.

2. All massage therapy services performed at or for an establishment shall be performed by a licensed massage therapist.

3. Effective January 1, 2026, a massage therapy establishment shall notify the board of each licensed massage therapist employed to perform massage therapy at or for the licensed massage therapy establishment. When a licensed massage therapist enters or exits the employ of a licensed massage therapy establishment, the establishment shall notify the board within thirty (30) days following the date of the licensed massage therapist's change in employment.

4. A massage therapy establishment shall ensure, at all times, that one licensed massage therapist is registered with the board as the designee who will ensure that the massage therapy establishment complies with state law and all administrative rules. The name and license number of the designee shall be prominently identified by signage placed in plain view within the establishment.

5. Any advertisement by a massage therapy establishment shall include the license number of the massage therapy establishment.

6. Each massage therapy establishment shall prominently post its license and the license of each massage therapist who practices within the massage therapy establishment in plain sight at the massage therapy establishment.

7. A licensed massage therapy establishment shall not be used as an overnight sleeping accommodation. A licensed massage therapy establishment may petition the board for an exception to this requirement if the establishment is also the residence of a sole proprietor licensee and the licensed massage therapy establishment demonstrates that the overnight sleeping accommodations are used only by the sole proprietor or the sole proprietor's immediate family.

8. A licensed massage therapist who is an owner, employee, or contractor of a licensed massage therapy establishment may perform on-site or out-call massage therapy so long as the client knows the massage therapist owns, is employed by, or contracted from a licensed establishment. When performing on-site or outcall massage therapy services, the licensed massage therapist shall take the following items to the appointment:

    a. A copy of the massage therapy establishment license and a copy of the massage therapist license for the licensed massage therapist performing the massage therapy services.

b. All sanitized equipment necessary to perform the massage therapy services.

c. Clean drape material (towel, sheet, blanket, linen) for draping clients during the massage.

9. If the physical location of a massage therapy establishment has been shut down by the board or by local, state, or federal law enforcement, the physical location is permanently prohibited from being licensed or operating as a massage therapy establishment.

10. A massage therapy establishment may not advertise or offer to perform services on any sexually explicit website or online platform that promotes prostitution, sexually explicit services, or human trafficking.

11. A sexually oriented business may not operate as a massage therapy establishment or be licensed by the board.

12. A licensed massage therapy establishment shall comply with the Code of Ethics for Licensed Massage Therapy Establishments.

13. A licensed massage therapy establishment shall comply with all state, federal, and local laws.

A licensed massage therapy establishment which provides only on-site or out-call massage therapy services and which does not provide any massage therapy services on the premises of the massage therapy establishment may request exemption from the requirements of paragraph (1)(c), (d), (h), and (i).
Author: Alabama Massage Therapy Licensing Board
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-43A-6.
History: **New Rule:** Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14, 2024. **Amended:** Published September 30, 2025; effective November 14, 2025.

532-X-4-.03 Massage Therapist Establishment Initial License Application.

1. An applicant for a massage therapy establishment license shall be the owner, lessee, or legal possessor of the physical establishment.

a. If the massage therapy establishment is owned, leased, or legally possessed by a sole proprietor (individual person, sole owner/officer of a corporation, or sole member of a limited liability company), the individual who is a sole proprietor, as well as any other natural person appearing on the documentation of the applicant's right to occupy the establishment, shall apply for the

massage therapy establishment license and shall be considered the ”applicant” for all purposes in these rules.

b. If the massage therapy establishment is owned, leased, or legally possessed by a partnership, corporation, or limited liability company, each owner/director/officer of a corporation, each partner in a partnership, and each member of a limited liability company, shall be considered the “applicant” for all purposes in these rules.

c. If an entity owns or manages more than one million dollars ($1,000,000.00) in assets in Alabama, the entity may designate one officer and the manager of the establishment as applicants for the entity.

2. An applicant for a massage therapy establishment license shall submit:

a. A completed application on a Board-approved form.

b. Required fees.

c. Proof of the applicant’s right to occupy the premises as demonstrated by a deed, lease, or other document establishing lawful possession in the name of the sole proprietor, corporation, limited liability company, or partnership applying for a massage therapy establishment license.

d. Proof of coverage demonstrating that the applicant possesses professional and general liability insurance with an “A” rated or better insurance carrier in the amount of at least one million dollars.

(3) Each applicant for initial licensure who has not previously submitted to a criminal history background check under the Alabama Massage Therapy Licensing Board, shall submit to a background check in a manner prescribed by the Board.

a. An applicant for a massage therapy establishment license, who is a massage therapist and has completed a criminal history background check pursuant to Chapter 532-X-8 within the preceding two years, is exempt from completing a criminal history background check.

(4) If the applicant’s United States citizenship has not previously been established pursuant to the requirements of Code of Alabama § 31-13-7, a completed Citizenship or Lawful Presence Checklist and supporting documentation.

(5) If the establishment will be operated under a name other than that of the sole proprietor, corporation, limited liability company, or partnership, the name under which the establishment will be operated must be identified and will be included on the establishment license when issued.

a. The physical location of a proposed massage therapy establishment shall be subject to an initial inspection by the board before a massage therapy establishment license is granted to the applicant.

(6) A massage therapy establishment license is not assignable or transferable, except as described in §532-X-4-.05 of these rules.
Author: Alabama Massage Therapy Licensing Board
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala., 1975, §34-43A-6
History: **New Rule:** Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14, 2024. **Amended:** Published January 31, 2025; effective March 17, 2025. **Amended:** Published September 30, 2025; effective November 14, 2025. **Amended:** Published July 31, 2026; effective September 14, 2026.

532-X-4-.04 Massage Therapy Establishment License Renewal.

1. Each massage therapy establishment license shall be renewed biennially, on or before the anniversary date of the license.

2. Any massage therapy establishment license not renewed biennially on or before the anniversary date shall expire.

3. The licensed massage therapy establishment shall submit to the Board:

a. Proof of the massage therapy establishment’s right to occupy the premises as demonstrated by a deed, lease, or other document establishing lawful possession in the name of the sole proprietor, corporation, limited liability company, or partnership applying for a massage therapy establishment license.

b. Proof of coverage demonstrating that the licensed massage therapy establishment possesses professional and general liability insurance with an “A” rated or better insurance carrier in the amount of at least one million dollars.

c. If the massage therapy establishment is owned, leased, or legally possessed by a sole proprietor (individual person, sole owner/officer of a corporation, or sole member of a limited liability company), the individual who is a sole proprietor, as well as any other natural person appearing on the documentation of the applicant's right to occupy the establishment, shall apply for the

massage therapy establishment license and shall be considered the ”applicant” for all purposes in these rules.

d. Each applicant who has not previously submitted to a criminal history background check under the Alabama Massage Therapy Licensing Board shall submit to a criminal history background check in a manner prescribed by the Board.

1. A licensed massage therapist establishment applying for renewal who is also a licensed massage therapist and who has completed a criminal history background check pursuant to Chapter 532-X-8 within the preceding two years, is exempt from completing a criminal history background check.

e. If the applicant’s United States citizenship has not previously been established pursuant to the requirements of Code of Alabama § 31-13-7, a completed Citizenship or Lawful Presence Checklist and supporting documentation.

f. If the establishment operates under a name other than that of the sole proprietor, corporation, limited liability company, or partnership, the name under which the establishment operates must be identified and will be included on the establishment license when issued.

Author: Alabama Massage Therapy Licensing Board
Statutory Authority: §34-43A-6
History: New Rule: Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14, 2024. **Amended:** Published September 30, 2025; effective November 14, 2025. **Amended:** Published July 31, 2026; effective September 14, 2026.

532-X-4-.05 Licensed Massage Therapy Establishment Change Of Location.

(1) If the holder of a massage therapy establishment license moves the location of the massage therapy establishment without changing either the name or ownership of that massage therapy establishment, the board shall waive the new establishment license fee, provided that the holder of the massage therapy establishment license provides the following documentation:

(a) Proof of the massage therapy establishment’s right to occupy the new premises as demonstrated by a deed, lease, or other document establishing lawful possession in the name of the sole proprietor, corporation, limited liability company, or partnership applying for a massage therapy establishment license.

(b) Proof that the licensed massage therapy establishment has vacated the prior location or is required to vacate the prior location by a date-certain within ninety (90) days of the request.

(c) The establishment shall submit to an inspection by the board prior to providing massage therapy services at the new location.

(2) The expiration date of the massage therapy establishment license shall not change.
Author: Alabama Massage Therapy Licensing Board
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-43A-6.
History: New Rule: Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14, 2024.

532-X-4-.06 Code Of Ethics For Licensed Massage Therapy Establishments.

(1) The license massage therapy facility must comply with all legal requirements in the applicable jurisdictions and meet the established code of ethics include in this chapter. Violations of the code of ethics may result in disciplinary action. A licensed massage therapy establishment shall:

(a) Have a sincere commitment to provide the highest quality of care in the furtherance of public protection to those who seek professional services and provide a physical setting that is safe and meets all applicable legal requirements for health and safety.

(b) Maintain required liability insurance and honestly represent all professional qualifications and affiliations.

(c) Disclose a schedule of fees in advance of the session.

(d) Make financial arrangements in advance which are clearly understood by, and safeguard the best interests of, the client or consumer.

(e) Follow Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and file all applicable municipal, state, and federal taxes.

(f) Maintain accurate financial records, contracts and legal obligations, appointment records, tax reports, and receipts, adhering to any state or federal laws.

(g) Respect the client’s right to be treated with informed and voluntary consent. The licensed massage therapist and establishment shall ensure that consent is obtained and record

the informed consent of the client, or client's advocate, before providing treatment.

(h) Respect the client's right to refuse, modify, or terminate treatment, regardless of prior consent given.

(i) Keep accurate and complete records on all employees working at the facility and be able to provide those records when requested.

(j) Accurately and truthfully represent the qualifications of all massage therapists who work at the facility, including education and professional affiliations, and ensure that they provide only those services they are qualified to perform.

(k) Accurately inform clients, other health care practitioners, and the public of the scope and limitations of their discipline. Acknowledge the limitations of and contraindications for massage and bodywork and refer clients to appropriate health professionals as applicable.

(l) Conduct their business and professional activities with honesty, integrity, and respect the inherent worth of all persons. Maintain adequate client records for each client session.

(m) Advertise in a manner that is honest, dignified, accurate, and representative of services provided and remain consistent with applicable local, state, and federal laws, as well as national standards of practice.

(n) Promote his/her business with integrity and avoid potential and actual conflicts of interest.

(o) Advertise in a manner that is not misleading to the public.

(p) Comply with all laws regarding sexual harassment, human trafficking, and the practice of massage therapy, and does not discriminate against clients and/or health professionals.

(q) Safeguard the confidentiality of the client's identity and information in all conversations, advertisements, and all other matters, unless disclosure of identifiable information is requested by the client in writing, is medically necessary, or is required by law.

(r) Be accountable and responsible to not exploit the trust and dependency of others, including clients, employees, independent contractors, and coworkers.

(s) Ensure that massage therapist(s) working in the establishment are appropriately draping and providing

treatment in a way that ensures the safety, comfort, and privacy of the client or the profession.

(t) Exercise the right to refuse to treat any person or part of the body for a just and reasonable cause.

(u) Avoid any interest, activity, or influence which might conflict with the practitioner's obligation to act in the best interests of the client or the profession.

(v) Respect the client's boundaries regarding privacy, disclosure, exposure, emotional expression, beliefs, as well as the client's reasonable expectations of professional behavior.

(w) Refuse any gifts or benefits that are intended to influence a referral, decision, or treatment, or that are purely for personal gain and not for the good of the client.

(x) Cause the massage therapist(s) who are working in the establishment to be fully clothed and to wear professional attire while providing massage therapy services.

(y) Monitor and prevent non-licensed person(s) from providing massage therapy services in the establishment.

(z) Immediately report any concerns about an unlicensed, illegal, or unreputable establishment to the board.

(aa) Document all massage therapy appointments, whether the appointments are provided at the licensed massage therapy establishment or are out-call or onsite appointments.

1. Appointments shall be documented prior to commencement of the massage therapy services.

2. There shall be no undocumented massage therapy appointments.

3. Documentation of appointments shall be maintained on the premises of the licensed massage therapy establishment and available for inspection.

4. Documentation shall include the name of the client(s) who will receive massage therapy services at the appointment, the name of the licensed massage therapist(s) performing the massage therapy services, the location at which the massage therapy services will occur, the type and duration of the massage therapy services to be performed, and the date and time at which the massage therapy services will occur.

5. Maintain current and post appointment calendar records on site for a minimum of three (3) years.

Author: Alabama Massage Therapy Licensing Board
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