



## South Carolina

<http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/massagetherapy/>

### Contact Information

Labor Licensing & Regulation  
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Administrator: [Theresa Richardson](#)

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**South Carolina licenses massage therapy, defining it very broadly. There is no exemption language in Statute or Rules, and the statutory interpretation language on their website only includes energy work as an exempt profession. It appears one could petition for acceptance of the CESI for use as a licensing exam.**

### Law and Regulation

<http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/massagetherapy/index.asp?file=laws.htm>

### Statute

<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t40c030.php>

SECTION 40-30-30. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(6) "Massage/bodywork therapy" means the application of a system of structured touch of the superficial tissues of the human body with the hand, foot, arm, or elbow whether or not the structured touch is aided by hydrotherapy, thermal therapy, a massage device, human hands, or the application to the human body of an herbal preparation.

SECTION 40-30-40. Panel for Massage/Bodywork.

(A) There is created the *Panel for Massage/Bodywork* under the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

SECTION 40-30-110. Qualifications for license.

(3) shall have received a passing grade on the National Certification Exam for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCETMB), National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage (NCETM), the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx), or any other examination provided for in regulation.

### Rules

<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/coderegs/Ch%2077.pdf>

CHAPTER 77 Massage/Bodywork Therapy

77-100. Qualification for Licensure.

1. The Department shall issue a license to a person who:

(c) passes a national examination approved by the Department.

## **South Carolina Massage/Bodywork Therapy INTERPRETATIONS OF THE MASSAGE PRACTICE ACT**

May 21, 2003

This is a statement of the Advisory Panel for Massage/Body Work as to what ethical practice is and should not be construed to control billing issues, insurance issues or employment contracts. The purpose of the interpretations is to help safeguard public health, safety and welfare by clarifying the use of certain terms that are used in the practice act and to provide guidelines for licensees that are consistent with accepted standards and practice in the profession.

### **INTERPRETATIONS OF SECTION 40-30-30**

A. A person who advertises as a massage/bodywork therapist when a person uses or adopts any title or description, including but not limited to "massage practitioner," "massage therapist," "manual therapist," "muscle therapist," "massotherapist," "myotherapist," "bodywork therapist," "body therapist," "masseur," "masseuse," "massagist" or any other derivation of these terms implying the practice of massage/bodywork therapy.

C. In addition to the definitions provided in Section 40-1-20, as used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise:

4. "Massage/bodywork therapy" means the application of a system of structured touch of the superficial tissues of the human body with the hand, foot, arm, or elbow with or without aid by hydrotherapy, thermal therapy, massage devices, human hands, or the application of herbal preparations for therapeutic, relaxation, or educational purposes.

It is further defined by pressure, friction, stroking, rocking, kneading, percussion, or passive active stretching within the normal anatomical range of movement. Complimentary methods including the external application of water, thermal therapy, hydrotherapy, lubricants, and other topical preparations, including but not limited to herbal remedies, body wraps and salt scrubs.

### **D. Exemptions from Licensure**

The Department considers exempt those persons engaging in a profession with established standards and ethics in which touch is limited to that which is essential for affecting the human energy system, provided that their services are not within the scope of practice of massage/bodywork therapy as defined. Further, their services cannot be designated or implied to be massage or massage/bodywork therapy as defined.

### **Board Members**

<http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/massagetherapy/index.asp?file=BoardMembers.htm>

### **Meetings**

<http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/massagetherapy/index.asp?file=cal.htm>

### **Synergy Business Park**

**Kingstree Building, Conference Room 105  
110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, SC 29210**

### **Agendas**

<http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/massagetherapy/index.asp?file=Agendas.htm>

### **Minutes**

<http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/massagetherapy/index.asp?file=Minutes/minutes.htm>