

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS
TITLE 6. MASSAGE THERAPY

SUBTITLE 1. DEFINITIONS; GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Md. HEALTH OCCUPATIONS Code Ann. § 6-101 (2017)

§ 6-101. Definitions.

(a) In general. -- In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) Board. -- "Board" means the State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners.

(c) Health care setting. -- "Health care setting" means:

(1) The office of a health care provider regulated under this article; or

(2) A health care facility as defined in § 19-114 of the Health - General Article.

(d) License. -- "License" means, unless the context requires otherwise, a license issued by the Board to practice massage therapy.

(e) Licensed massage therapist. -- "Licensed massage therapist" means an individual who is licensed by the Board to practice massage therapy.

(f) Massage therapy. --

(1) "Massage therapy" means the use of manual techniques on soft tissues of the human body including effleurage (stroking), petrissage (kneading), tapotement (tapping), stretching, compression, vibration, and friction, with or without the aid of heat limited to hot packs and heating pads, cold water, or nonlegend topical applications, for the purpose of improving circulation, enhancing muscle relaxation, relieving muscular pain, reducing stress, or promoting health and well-being.

(2) "Massage therapy" includes the laying on of hands, consisting of pressure or movement on an individual who is fully clothed, except for footwear, to specifically affect the electromagnetic energy or energetic field of the human body if this practice includes use of the manual techniques set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(3) "Massage therapy" does not include:

(i) The diagnosis or treatment of illness, disease, or injury;

(ii) The adjustment, manipulation, or mobilization of any of the articulations of the osseous structures of the human body or spine; or

(iii) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the laying on of hands, consisting of pressure or movement on an individual who is fully clothed, except for footwear, to specifically affect the electromagnetic energy or energetic field of the human body.

(4) The provisions of paragraph (3) of this subsection do not preclude the application of the modalities described in paragraph (1) of this subsection to an individual who has an injury.

(g) Practice massage therapy. -- "Practice massage therapy" means to engage professionally and for compensation in massage therapy.

(h) Registered massage practitioner. -- "Registered massage practitioner" means an individual who is registered by the Board to practice massage therapy in a setting that is not a health care setting.

(i) Registration. -- "Registration" means, unless the context requires otherwise, a registration issued by the Board to practice massage therapy in a setting that is not a health care setting.

HISTORY: 2016, ch. 739, § 3.