



MASSAGE BUSINESSES

WHAT IS A MESSAGE BUSINESS?



A massage or massage therapy means a health care service involving the external manipulation or pressure of soft tissue for therapeutic purposes. Massage therapy includes techniques such as tapping, compressions, friction, reflexology, Swedish gymnastics or movements, gliding, kneading, shaking, and fascial or connective tissue stretching, with or without the aids of superficial heat, cold, water, lubricants, or salts.

MESSAGE BUSINESS IS NOT



Massage therapy **does not** include diagnosis or attempts to adjust or manipulate any articulations of the body or spine or mobilization of these articulations by the use of a thrusting force, nor does it include genital manipulation.

Reflexology is not considered a massage business, however, a Reflexology license must be issued by the WA State Department of Health prior to providing services.

CITY LICENSE REQUIREMENTS



- ◆ City Business License, and Massage Business Location Supplemental
- ◆ Copy of current WA State Department of Health Massage Therapist License and current Government Issued Photo ID for all therapists operating at the location. Both license and ID should be with the therapist at all times they are working at the massage business.
- ◆ Copy of current Government Issued Photo ID for all owners and officers of the business.

HOURS OF OPERATION



Massage business locations or offices are allowed to operate between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 10:00 P.M. and are required to be closed to the public at all other times.

MASSAGE BUSINESS VIOLATIONS



MASSAGE BUSINESS OWNER

A business owner that has knowledge of or permits the unlicensed practice of massage therapy to be committed within their massage business is guilty of a misdemeanor per RCW 18.108.035.

Subsequent violations are a gross misdemeanor punishable according to 9A.20 RCW.

MASSAGE THERAPIST

A person that practices massage therapy without a massage therapy license is guilty of a gross misdemeanor per RCW 18.130.190(7)(a).

Subsequent violations are a class C felony punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW.



Finance Department

Tax & License Division

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Note: This Information Sheet does not substitute for codes and regulations. The business owner is responsible for compliance with all codes and regulations, whether or not described in this document. To request this information in an alternative format or a reasonable accommodation, please