



MASSAGE BUSINESS LOCATIONS

Introduction

This rule provides information required when submitting an application for a City business license for the activity of massage therapy services to ensure public health, safety and welfare as outlined in Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) 6B.10.115 and 6B.10.117.

TMC 6B.10.030 Definitions

“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. 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.

“Massage business” means the operation of a business where massages are given.

TMC 6B.10.040.B – License Required.

Persons applying for a city business license shall maintain all local, state, and federal licenses required for the operation of the business and shall remain in compliance with such licenses while the business remains in operation.

TMC 6B.10.115 Hours of Operation – Massage

Business locations or offices that offer massage therapy services, as defined above, shall not be open between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. daily.

If a licensed massage business is physically located wholly within the premises of a larger business or location, including, but not limited to, such facilities as a salon, spa, hotel, or health care provider, then only the area where the massage business is conducted shall be closed to customers between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

6B.10.117 Unlicensed Practice of Massage

The unlicensed practice of massage therapy pursuant to RCW 18.130.190(7)(a) is a gross misdemeanor for each single violation.

Any person who with knowledge or criminal negligence allows or permits unlicensed practice of massage therapy to be committed within his/her massage business by another per RCW 18.130.190(7)(a) to be guilty of a misdemeanor for each single violation.



Information Required

To ensure compliance with 6B.10.115 and 6B.10.117 and to protect public health, safety, and welfare, upon application for a City business license, massage business owners must provide the following information:

1. Daily hours of operation.
2. Number of rooms available for massage within the location.
3. For all massage therapists operating at the business:
 - a. Full Name
 - b. Contact Information (i.e. phone, email or address)
 - c. Current government issued photo identification
 - d. Copy of valid Washington State Massage license
4. For all owners, officers and managing agents of the business:
 - a. Current government issued photo identification
 - b. Submit to a state and/or federal criminal background check per TMC 6B.10.190

Updated and current information may be requested after a City business license is issued and/or upon inspection by a Tax & License Compliance Officer.

Adopted: April 2023



License Rule 108