



Oregon

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Board of Massage Therapists

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The Practice of Massage, Massage Therapy and Bodywork as defined in ORS Chapter 687 and OAR 338

The definition of massage in Oregon's laws and rules are intentionally broad, meant to incorporate and include most modalities and specialties that, by practice and profession, meet the definition of massage in Oregon.

Exemptions for licensure are intentionally limited and specific. By legal definition, if a practitioner uses massage techniques during the performance of an exempted practice, the practitioner is practicing massage.

ORS 687.011 (4)(a) defines "Massage," "massage therapy" or "bodywork" as the use of pressure, friction, stroking, tapping or kneading on the human body, or the use of vibration or stretching on the human body by manual or mechanical means or gymnastics, with or without appliances such as vibrators, infrared heat, sun lamps or external baths, and with or without lubricants such as salts, powders, liquids or creams, for the purpose of, but not limited to, maintaining good health and establishing and maintaining good physical condition.

ORS 687.011 (5) (a) defines a massage facility as a facility where a person engages in the practice of massage.

ORS 687.011 (6) defines the title "Massage therapist" as a person licensed by the Board to practice massage in Oregon.

ORS 687.011 (7) (2) specifies massage must be for compensation. Compensation is defined in OAR 334-001-0060 (1).

ORS 687.031 (i) defines the practice of reflexology as limited to practitioners who are not practicing massage, either expressly or implicitly, AND who limit their work to the application of **pressure with the thumbs to reflex points on the feet, hands and ears only.**

Practitioners of "Reflexology" and "foot massage" who do not limit the scope of their services and who massage feet, hands, shoulders, legs, or practice "full body" reflexology are practicing massage and must be licensed.

ORS 687.991 (1) defines the unlicensed practice of massage and/or violations of the Board's administrative rules, a Class A misdemeanor.

OAR 334-001-0060 (3) defines "Barter" as a full or partial trade or exchange of goods or service for massage services.

OAR 334-001-0060 (5) defines "Bodywork" as the use of appliances, tools or devices, topical preparations, or hot and cold topical applications used in the practice of massage.

OAR 334-001-0060 (12) defines "Compensation" as something given or received as payment for massage services, including but not limited to bartering, tips, monies, donations, or services.

OAR 334-010-0025 (6) limits the use of the abbreviation "LMT" by massage practitioners in Oregon to licensed massage practitioners, only. The rule prohibits the use of the "LMT" title, abbreviations and any other words, letters, signs, or figures to indicate that the practitioner is a licensed massage therapist.

This document is provided for general informational purposes only, to educate and inform individuals, at an entry level, on the laws and rules defining massage in Oregon. If you have any questions regarding the practice of massage in Oregon, please call the Board at 503-365-8657 or visit www.oregon.gov/obmt.

Oregon Board of Massage Therapist Jurisdiction

Under the authority of ORS 687.115 (1), the Oregon Board of Massage operates as a semi-independent state agency with the mandated responsible to regulate and monitor the practice of massage therapy in Oregon

ORS 687.061 (2) defines the jurisdiction of the Board to include individuals engaging in the unlicensed practice of and/or who operate a massage facility without a health care license or massage facility permit.

ORS 687.081 and ORS 687.250 (1) (2) authorizes the Board to assess civil penalties against individuals found by the Board to be in violation of Oregon's laws and rules.

ORS 687.250 (1) requires the Board report cases that, in the judgment of the Board warrant criminal prosecution, to the appropriate District Attorney's office. The Board is required to report disciplinary actions to the National Practitioner Databank, and may report disciplinary actions directly to other licensing boards or jurisdictions if the practitioner is licensed by another Oregon regulatory board or in another jurisdiction.

It is a violation of Oregon's laws and rules to:

- Practice massage in Oregon - as defined in ORS 687.011 (4) (a) - without a massage therapist license issued by the Board. *ORS 687.021 (1) (a) and OAR 334-040-0010 (1).*
- Operate a massage facility in Oregon without either (a) being licensed as an Oregon health care provider as defined in ORS 687.021 (1) (a) or (b) a Massage Facility Permit issued by the Board. *ORS 687.021 (1) (b).*
- Advertise the practice of massage in Oregon without either (a) being licensed as an Oregon health care provider as defined in ORS 687.021 (1) (a) or (b) a Massage Facility Permit issued by the Board. *ORS 687.021 (1) (c) and OAR 334-040-0010 (7).*
- Use the word "Massage" in a business name in Oregon without either (a) being licensed as an Oregon health care provider as defined in ORS 687.021 (1) (a) or (b) a Massage Facility Permit issued by the Board. *ORS 687.021 (1) (d).*
- Allow the practice of massage by an unlicensed practitioner at a permitted massage facility. *ORS 687.059 (2).*
- Represent oneself as a practitioner licensed or certified to practice massage in Oregon without being issued a massage therapist license by the Board. *OAR 334-010-0025 (6).*
- Allow the use of an issued LMT license by someone other than the LMT. *OAR 334-040-0010 (8).*
- Practice massage under a false or assumed name. *OAR 334-040-0010 (10).*
- Assist, employ, or otherwise permit an unlicensed person to practice massage. *OAR 334-040-0010 (12).*
- Practicing massage when an LMT licensed has been revoked or surrendered, or while licensure status is suspended, lapsed or inactive. *OAR 334-040-0010 (13).*
- Exhibiting unprofessional, immoral, or unethical conduct in relation to the practice of massage as defined in ORS Chapter 687 and OAR 334.

This document is provided for general information and educational purposes, and is not meant to encompass all laws and rules regulating the practice of massage. If you have any questions regarding the practice of massage in Oregon, please contact the Board's office at 503-365-8657 or visit www.oregon.gov/obmt.