

The messages below were shared with licensees of the AMTLB on Friday, June 21, 2024.



**ALABAMA MASSAGE THERAPY LICENSING BOARD**

770 WASHINGTON AVENUE - SUITE 250  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130  
(334) 230-3999

WWW.AMTLB.ALABAMA.GOV

The Alabama Massage Therapy Licensing Board (AMTLB) is pleased to announce that new rules have been adopted, effective immediately (June 21, 2024) as emergency rules. These rules will be adopted on a permanent basis, pending completion of a public comment period, which closes on September 4, 2024. The new rules are comprised of distinct chapters. We encourage each of you to read the entire code and become familiar with all of the changes. To prepare you for the changes, we wanted to take the time to highlight below a few of the most significant of these to your area of licensure. The goal is to align regulation with standards of practice (Code of Ethics) for the profession and to elevate Massage Therapy in the state. We recognize your commitment to excellence and are confident that you will agree that these revisions move the AMTLB forward toward our shared goals.

We welcome your constructive feedback and look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure the high quality of massage therapy service in our state. Please feel free to share your questions, comments, and suggestions by email to [AMTLB@amtlb.alabama.gov](mailto:AMTLB@amtlb.alabama.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Sellers Benson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peggy Sellers Benson, MSN, RN, MSHA, NE-BC  
Executive Officer

**All Licensees**

**Licensure and Renewal**

- Licensure - The updated statute (Alabama Law No. 2024-361) requires fingerprint background checks for all applicants, and our staff has worked with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) to comply with that requirement. Going forward, applicants and licensees will be able to utilize local sheriff's offices to complete fingerprinting cards in lieu of coming to Montgomery and fingerprinting with ALEA. There will be precise instructions on the website and within the application. Be sure to follow these instructions to expedite your application for licensure or renewal.
- Under new rules, licensees will be issued a single license number, which will remain the individual for throughout his or her career. Current licensees will maintain the latest license number going forward.

- For the first time, temporary permits for supervised practice will be available for first-time applicants. This will help expedite entry into the workforce with supervised practice pending completion of the full licensure process.
- Any individual or entity licensed, accredited, or registered by the former Alabama board of Massage Therapy on June 1, 2024, and whose license, accreditation, or registration was due to be renewed in the month of June 2024 will have until July 31, 2024, to renew said license, accreditation, or registration. I encourage you to complete the renewal process early and not wait until July 31 to ensure that your license remains in an active status.
- Any licensee who was required to renew in May 2024 and did not renew or apply for renewal by May 31, 2024, as required, will need to file a reinstatement application and pay the appropriate late fees etc.

### **Licensed Massage Therapist Requirements**

- Under the new statute, each licensed massage therapist (LMT) must be registered to a facility. We have developed a process for individuals and facilities to comply. Please note that the LMT will be required to file a registration form and pay the \$25 registration fee.
- Code of Ethics The new rules establish a Code of Ethics for LMTs to follow in their practice. The Code serves as a standard of practice for your profession. Please note that violations of the Code of Ethics may result in disciplinary action.

### **Massage Therapy Schools:**

Please review Chapter 532-X-5 - Massage Therapy Schools carefully, as it has been significantly revised to comply with the new statute.

- The board will conduct surveys and evaluations as often as necessary to determine compliance with all standards set forth in Chapter 5.
- New programs must submit an application to the board listing detailed curriculum components.
- All programs will be required to complete an annual report to the board (specified by the board).
- School documentation forms and checklist are available on the board's website to assist with required documentation to comply and/or meet board approval.
- Board staff may make site visits to the school to evaluate policies, procedures, curriculum compliance, etc.
- A massage therapy school approved by the board must register annually with the board, submitting a renewal form and/or application, the renewal fee, a current curriculum, and a list of all instructors of massage therapy who teach or supervise at the school. The form specified is located on the Boards website.
- Massage therapy schools who do not meet requirements may be issued a deficiency letter and will then be required to submit a plan of correction to the board.

### **Massage Therapy Establishments:**

- Code of Ethics: A Code of Ethics has been developed to clearly articulate expectations related to massage therapy facilities, appointment documentation, and record keeping.

- Effective October 1, 2024, a massage therapy establishment must ensure that, prior to permitting a licensed massage therapist to perform massage therapy at or for a massage therapy establishment, the licensed massage therapist is registered with the board to perform massage therapy at or for the licensed massage therapy establishment.
- A massage therapy establishment must ensure, at all times, that one licensed massage therapist is registered with the board as the designee who will ensure that the massage therapy establishment complies with state law and all administrative rules.
- A licensed massage therapy establishment shall not be used as an overnight sleeping accommodation. A licensed massage therapy establishment may petition the board for an exception to this requirement if the establishment is also the residence of a sole proprietor licensee and the licensed massage therapy establishment demonstrates that the overnight sleeping accommodations are used only by the sole proprietor or the sole proprietor's immediate family.
- If the massage therapy establishment is owned, leased, or legally possessed by a partnership, corporation, or limited liability company, each director/officer of a corporation, each partner in a partnership, and each member of a limited liability company, shall be considered the "applicant" for all purposes in these rules.
- The applicant requesting an initial establishment license shall present in person their application to the board for consideration and/or approval.
- Applicants: the fingerprint card and form (see Chapter 532-X-8)
  - An applicant for a massage therapy establishment license, who is a massage therapist and has completed a criminal history background check pursuant to Chapter 532-X-8 within the preceding two years, is exempt from completing a criminal history background check.
- Renewals: The fingerprint card and form (see Chapter 532-X-8)
  - A licensed massage therapist establishment applying for renewal who is also a licensed massage therapist and who has completed a criminal history background check pursuant to Chapter 532-X-8 within the preceding two years, is exempt from completing a criminal history background check.
- Document all massage therapy appointments, whether the appointments are provided at the licensed massage therapy establishment or are out-call or onsite appointments.
- Appointments shall be documented prior to commencement of the massage therapy services.
- There shall be no undocumented massage therapy appointments.
- Documentation of appointments shall be maintained on the premises of the licensed massage therapy establishment and available for inspection.
- Documentation shall include the name of the client(s) who will receive massage therapy services at the appointment, the name of the licensed massage therapist(s) performing the massage therapy services, the location at which the massage therapy services will occur, the type and duration of the massage therapy services to be performed, and the date and time at which the massage therapy services will occur.
- Maintain current and post appointment calendar records on site for a minimum of three (3) years.
- A licensed massage therapy establishment which provides only on-site or out-call massage therapy services and which does not provide any massage therapy services on the premises of the massage therapy establishment may request exemption from the requirements of Paragraph (1)(c), (d), (h) and (i) of 532-X-4-.02(8)

**Requirements for Instructors:**

- Evidence of professional and general liability insurance with an “A” rated or better insurance carrier in the amount of at least one million dollars as required for all licensed massage therapists.
- The licensed massage therapy instructor must comply with all legal requirements in the applicable jurisdictions and meet the established Code of Ethics included in chapter 9. Violations of the Code of Ethics may result in disciplinary action.
- A Code of Ethics may be found in Chapter 532-X-9.