



**Texas Regulation – Massage Establishments – General Requirements – Rule 117.28**

- (a) A massage establishment shall employ or contract with only licensed massage therapists to perform massage therapy or other massage services. Documentation of the employment or contract relationship and verification that the licensed massage therapist is a United States citizen or a legal permanent resident with a valid work permit shall be maintained by the massage establishment and made available during an inspection or investigation. Required documentation for each person providing massage therapy or other massage services shall include:
- (1) A copy of the current massage therapist license.
  - (2) Proof of eligibility to work in the United States, and
  - (3) If an employee, a completed I-9 form, or if under an independent contractor or contract labor agreement, a copy of the contract signed by both the owner or operator and the licensed massage therapist.
- (b) No massage establishment shall be operated until the department has approved and licensed the establishment.
- (c) A massage establishment must maintain separation from rooms used wholly or in part for residential or sleeping purposes by a solid wall or by a wall with a solid door which shall remain locked during business hours.
- (d) A massage establishment must display the license in a prominent location in the establishment where it is available for inspection by the public.
- (e) A license issued by the department is the property of the department and must be surrendered on demand.
- (f) Massage establishments shall be inspected in accordance with Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 51, and the inspection rules under 16 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 60, Subchapter H.

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### Relevant Terms and Definitions

Term	Definition
<b>Massage establishment</b>	A place of business that advertises or offers massage therapy or other massage services. The term includes a place of business that advertises or offers any service described by a derivation of the terms "massage therapy" or "other massage services."
<b>Massage therapist</b>	The manipulation of soft tissue by hand or through a mechanical or electrical apparatus for the purpose of body massage and includes effleurage (stroking), petrissage (kneading), tapotement (percussion), compression, vibration, friction, nerve strokes, and Swedish gymnastics. The terms "massage," "therapeutic massage," "massage technology," "myotherapy," "body massage," "body rub," or any derivation of those terms are synonyms for "massage therapy."
<b>Massage therapy</b>	The manipulation of soft tissue by hand or through a mechanical or electrical apparatus for the purpose of body massage and includes effleurage (stroking), petrissage (kneading), tapotement (percussion), compression, vibration, friction, nerve strokes, and Swedish gymnastics. The terms "massage," "therapeutic massage," "massage technology," "myotherapy," "body massage," "body rub," or any derivation of those terms are synonyms for "massage therapy."
<b>Other massage services</b>	Include any services offered or performed for compensation at a massage establishment that involve physical contact with a client, and may include the use of oil, lubricant, salt glow, a heat lamp, a hot and cold pack, or a tub, shower, jacuzzi, sauna, steam, or cabinet bath.