

Alaska Board of Massage Therapists

Code of Ethics, Standards of Practice, and Establishment Standards of Operation

September 2019



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY,
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

***DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS
AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING***

ALASKA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPISTS CODE OF ETHICS, STANDARDS OF PRACTICE, AND ESTABLISHMENT STANDARDS OF OPERATION

SEPTEMBER 2019

In order to maintain a high standard of integrity in the profession and to safeguard the health and welfare of the public, massage therapists licensed in this state must adhere to the Alaska Board of Massage Therapists Code of Ethics, Standards of Practice, and Establishment Standards of Operation:

CODE OF ETHICS

- 1) I will represent my qualifications honestly including education, certifications and professional affiliations and accurately inform clients, health care professionals and the public of the scope and limitations of my discipline. I will provide only those services I am qualified to perform.
- 2) I will provide treatment only where there is a reasonable expectation that it will be advantageous to the client and will acknowledge the limitations of and contraindications for massage therapy and refer clients to appropriate health care professionals when indicated.
- 3) I will not discriminate against clients and/or healthcare professionals.
- 4) I will abide by the Federal guidelines of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).
- 5) I will respect the client's right to refuse, modify or terminate treatment at will regardless of prior consent given.
- 6) I will exercise my right to refuse to treat any person or part of the body for just and reasonable cause.
- 7) I will respect the client's autonomy by providing draping and treatment in a way that ensures the safety, comfort and privacy of the client.
- 8) I will not, in any circumstance, initiate or engage in sexual conduct, activities, advertising, or sexualizing behavior involving a client, even if the client attempts to sexualize the relationship.
- 9) I will refuse any gifts or benefits that are intended to influence a referral, decision or treatment or those that are purely for personal gain and I will avoid any interest, activity or influence which may conflict with my obligation as a massage therapist to act in the best interest of my client or the profession.
- 10) I will refrain from practicing under the influence of alcohol, drugs or any illegal substances, with the exception of a prescribed dosage of prescription medication which does not impair my ability to practice safely.
- 11) I will report in accordance to AS 47.17.020(a)(1) any suspected child abuse or neglect.

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

- 1) Obey all applicable local, state and federal laws when pertaining to massage therapy.
- 2) Maintain a record of daily clientele including name and date of service and adequate progress notes when applicable.
- 3) Provide a setting that is safe and meets all applicable legal requirements for health, safety, sanitation, hygiene, universal and standard precautions, in accordance with local, state and federal regulatory bodies including guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institute of Health (NIH), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).
- 4) Therapists shall prominently display their current State of Alaska massage license in his or her place of business. Therapists will make available proof of current licensure and legal identification while practicing off site.
- 5) Therapists shall display or discuss a schedule of fees in advance of the session that is clearly understood by the client.

ESTABLISHMENT STANDARDS OF OPERATION

- 1) Code of Ethics, Standards of Practice, and Establishment Standards of Operation must be on the premises and made available to the public on request.
- 2) Display within full public view, current massage licenses of all employed massage therapists.
- 3) A written and or digital system of maintaining client records for at least five (5) years. This includes safeguarding verbal and written confidential information of the client, unless disclosure is required by law, court order or authorized by the client.
- 4) Maintain all equipment used to perform massage therapy services on the premises in a safe and sanitary condition.
- 5) Maintain compliance with all applicable state and local building and fire codes.
- 6) Provide for removal of garbage and refuse in a sanitary manner.
- 7) Provide for safe storage cleaning, and/or removal of soiled linens.
- 8) Rooms or any cubicle for massage or massage therapy practices may not be equipped with an externally locking door.
- 9) The establishment shall not operate or be open for business between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.
- 10) No owner, operator, or employee shall allow television, video, or recording equipment in any room where massage services are being provided. A security surveillance monitor that can only receive images of the inside of the common areas of the establishment is allowed. With written client consent, a massage therapist may use video and photography equipment for therapeutic purposes.