

Tennessee Board of Massage Licensure



Newsletter



FALL 2014

A regulatory agency of the State of Tennessee

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Bureau of Health Licensure and Regulation – Health Related Boards – 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37243
Phone: (615) 253-2111 – Toll Free: (800)778-4123 ext. 2532111 Fax: (615)532-5164 <http://tn.gov/health>

CURRENT COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

The Tennessee Massage Licensure Board is composed of seven (7) members. Five (5) members are licensed massage therapists and (2) members are citizen members.

Current members are: Ed Bolden, LMT, President; Marvis Burke, LMT, Secretary; Bethann Easterly, LMT; Cynthia Jagers, LMT; Julie Wray, LMT; Michael Velker, Public Member; and Christi Cross, Public Member.

OUR MOVE IS COMPLETE

The Department of Health's Bureau of Health Licensure and Regulation, Office of Health Related Boards, has made the transition to its new state-owned space. Please note our new address:

Division of Health Related Boards
Massage Licensure Board
665 Mainstream Drive
Nashville, TN 37243
(615) 253-2111
(800)778-4123 ext. 2532111
(615) 532-5164 (Fax)

All individual employee phone numbers and e-mail addresses remained the same.

YOUR PRACTITIONER PROFILE

Pursuant to the "Health Care Consumer Right-to-Know Act", massage therapists licensed in Tennessee are obligated to make certain information available to the public. This obligation is continuing, meaning it is not discharged by the initial submission of relevant information. **Licensees must notify the Department of Health of updates to their profiles within thirty (30) days of the date on which a change occurs.**

To check the accuracy of your profile, please visit:

<http://health.state.tn.us/Licensure/Default.aspx>.

Should you find that your profile is in need of revision, please submit a practitioner profile questionnaire containing your updated information to the Massage Licensure Board. The practitioner profile form may be access electronically at:

<http://health.state.tn.us/Downloads/PH-3585.pdf>.

Failure to timely update your profile constitutes a violation of the practice act and may result in disciplinary action.

CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) HOURS OBTAINED VIA MULTI-MEDIA FORMAT

All continuing education hours, including all make up and penalty hours for non-compliance for the 2011-2012 audit cycle, shall meet the current rules requirements. **Rule 0870-01-.12** states that each licensed massage therapist must attend and complete twenty five (25) hours of massage therapy-related continuing education every two (2) calendar years in courses approved by the Board, and only eight (8) of the twenty-five (25) hours required may be completed in a multi-media format. **Based upon the revised rules, licensees are only permitted to obtain a maximum of eight (8) hours via multi-media format to fulfill the continuing education requirements for the current cycle and any non-compliance with previous cycles.** The administrative office will accept all make-up and penalty hours obtained via multi-media format for the 2009-2010 & 2011-2012 audit cycle for hours that were completed before October 1, 2013.

Reminder: The 2013-2014 Continuing Education cycle ends on December 31, 2014.

The complete set of rules governing massage is available via our website:

<http://health.state.tn.us/boards/Massage>

ACTIVE LICENSEES AS OF October 31, 2014

Massage Therapists:	4,367
Massage Establishments:	1,634

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Public Chapter No. 949

This act allows for initial licensure applications to be accepted online. Currently, renewing licenses is already available online. This also makes available to the public annual inspections of health care facilities and pharmacies, similar to how nursing home inspections are already available.

If you wish to review any of the Public Chapters in their entirety, please visit:

<http://tennessee.gov/sos/acts/index.htm>

REMINDER TO “OPT- IN” TO RECEIVE ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATIONS

If you wish to receive notifications from the Department of Health electronically rather than by United States Mail, you have the option to “opt-in” to receive electronic notifications. **PLEASE NOTE: by opting-in and providing a current email address, you will begin to receive ALL notices electronically rather than through the United States mail.** This means that your renewal notification will also be delivered electronically approximately forty-five (45) days in advance of the expiration date of your license.

You can request to opt-in from the portal at: <https://apps.tn.gov/hlrs/begin.jsp>. You may also submit a written request to opt-in to the Board’s administrative office. If you choose to receive all Department of Health correspondence by electronic mail, it is imperative that you take care to keep the administrative office apprised of changes to your email address.

REMINDER REGARDING RENEWAL OF YOUR LICENSE

The renewal of your professional license is your responsibility. Failure to timely renew your license is not excused by a third party's negligence or your failure to receive the biennial renewal notice provided by the Board's Administrative Office. Continued practice on a lapsed license is a violation of the practice act and may result in reportable disciplinary action.

Unless you are a newly licensed massage therapist, your biennial renewal period will expire on the last day of your birth month in an even or odd year – depending on your birth year. For example, if you were born on September 20, 1965, your last renewal period ended on September 30, 2013 and your next renewal period will end on September 30, 2015.

If you are a newly licensed massage therapist with the same birthdate, your initial renewal period is not a full two-year period. Your initial license renewal period will expire on September 30, 2015 in order to standardize your future renewal periods. All renewal periods occurring after your initial renewal will be biennial.

Please note that the licensure renewal cycle is NOT the same as the continuing education cycle.

PEER ASSISTANCE SERVICES AVAILABLE

The Massage Licensure Board has contracted with Lighthouse Professional Services, Inc. to assist in safeguarding health care consumers in Tennessee by providing a consultation, referral, and monitoring program for massage therapy practitioners whose practice is impaired or potentially could be impaired due to the use of alcohol or drugs, or a psychological or physiological condition.

Services are provided for licensed massage therapists, massage therapy students, and massage therapy schools. Services handled directly through Lighthouse personnel are free to the participants.

The peer assistance program assists the Massage Licensure Board administration by reviewing and assessing licensure applicants who, in accordance with board policies, have been referred to Lighthouse for fitness-for-duty assessments.

A referral to the peer assistance program can be made confidentially by an employer, school, co-worker, family member, friend, or the practitioner him/herself.

For more information, please refer to the Board's website, or contact the peer assistance program at:

Lighthouse Professional Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 727
White Bluff, TN 37187
Phone: (615) 797-2000
Fax: (615) 797-2011
diann@lighthouseps.org

2015 BOARD MEETING DATES

February 9 - 10, 2015

May 4 - 5, 2015

August 10 - 11, 2015

November 2 – 3, 2015

All Board meetings begin at 9:00 a.m., Central Time. Board meetings are held at the Board's administrative office and are open to the public. Dates are subject to change, but are listed on the Board's website. In the event of an electronic meeting, a conference room is made available to the public and is the location from which the electronic meeting is conducted.

MISSION OF THE BOARD

The Board's purpose is to protect the public from being misled by incompetent, unscrupulous and unauthorized practitioners, and from unprofessional or illegal practices by persons licensed to practice massage therapy. The board adopts and interprets the laws, rules, and regulations to establish and maintain a high standard of integrity, skills, and practice in the profession of massage therapy. The board is responsible for the investigation of alleged violations of the Practice Act and rules and is responsible for the discipline of licensees who are found guilty of such violations.

Tennessee Massage Licensure Board Board Members as of October 31, 2014

Julie Wray, LMT
Board Member

Ed Bolden, LMT
President

Marvis Burke, LMT
Secretary

Bethann Easterly, LMT
Board Member

Christi Cross
Citizen Member

Cynthia Jagers, LMT
Board Member

Michael Velker
Citizen Member

Board Staff

Lisa Lampley
Board Director

Kimberly Hodge
Board Manager

Dale Hill
Board Administrator

Ruth Stewart
Licensing Tech