

MICHIGAN MASSAGE THERAPY LICENSING GUIDE

OVERVIEW:

The massage therapist license type allows a licensee to engage in the practice of massage therapy.

NOTE: The content contained below is a general overview of licensing requirements. Links to access the Occupational Code and Administrative Rules for this profession can be found at the end of this guide.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST.....	1
APPLICATION AND FEES	1
THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO ALL APPLICANTS	1
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION	2
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT	3
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN EDUCATED OR TRAINED APPLICANTS	3
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THOSE APPLYING FOR RELICENSURE	4
RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST	4
HELPFUL RESOURCES AND FORMS.....	5
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.....	5

LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

APPLICATION AND FEES

- ☐ Online Application for a Massage Therapist License - Complete all fields, answer all questions, and upload any supporting documentation.
- ☐ Online applications can be completed by visiting www.michigan.gov/miplus
- ☐ Application Fee + 3 year license fee: (Must be paid by Visa, Mastercard, American Express, or Discover credit or debit card)

Massage Therapist by Exam or Endorsement: \$270.10

THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO ALL APPLICANTS

- ☐ Criminal Background Check – Once the application is completed and submitted you will be emailed an Application Confirmation letter containing instructions to complete the Criminal Background Check (except those applicants seeking relicensure if the license expired within the last three years).

MICHIGAN MASSAGE THERAPY LICENSING GUIDE

- ❑ Good Moral Character Questions – Documentation and explanation will be required if you answer “yes” to either question to show at the current time you have the ability to, and are likely to, serve the public in a fair, honest and open manner, that you are rehabilitated, or that the substance of the former offense is not reasonably related to the occupation or profession for which you are seeking a license.
- ❑ Human Trafficking – Beginning March 14, 2022, completion of training to identify victims of human trafficking is required for initial licensure that meets the standards of Administrative Rule 338.732. This is a one-time training.
- ❑ Social Security Number (SSN) – An individual applying for licensure is required to provide his or her social security number at the time of application. If exempt under law from obtaining an SSN or do not have an SSN, the SSN affidavit form will be required to be submitted with the application.
- ❑ Verification of Licensure – Verification of licensure must be submitted directly to our office by the licensing agency of any state of the United States or country in which you hold or ever held a license. The verification must show that disciplinary proceedings are not pending against the applicant and sanctions are not in force at the time of application. Verification can be emailed to bpldata@michigan.gov or mailed to the Bureau of Professional Licensing, PO Box 30670, Lansing, MI 48909.
- ❑ English Language Proficiency – An individual applying for licensure must demonstrate a working knowledge of the English language. This can be established if either the applicant’s required health professional educational program was taught in English, a transcript established the applicant earned not less than 60 college level credits from an English-speaking graduate or undergraduate school, or that the applicant obtained a passing score on an approved English proficiency exam as established by the department under [R 338.7002b\(2\)](#) of the Public Health Code – General Rules.
- ❑ Implicit Bias Training– Beginning June 1, 2022, completion of 2 hours of implicit bias training within the 5 years immediately preceding issuance of the license or registration is required.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION (These are in addition to the requirements stated above that apply to ALL applicants)

- ❑ Pass either the Federation of State Massage Therapy Board's Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx), or the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork's (NCBTMB) National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCETMB), if taken prior to November 1, 2014.
- ❑ Have official academic transcripts submitted directly to this office from the institution confirming the completion of the massage education program that meets the requirements of MCL 333.17959 and R 338.722 and approved by the NCBTMB as an assigned school or accredited by CHEA.
- ❑ Certification of Completion of Massage Therapy Supervised Curriculum form.
 - Graduate from an approved massage therapy supervised curriculum. Curriculum shall include, at a minimum, both of the following: **(a)** Classroom instruction as defined in R 338.701(b)(i), including all of the following: (i) 500 total hours, if the applicant is or was enrolled in school before August 1, 2017, or at least 625 hours if the applicant enrolls in the school on or after August 1, 2017 (ii) 40 hours performing massage therapy services in a student clinic that is supervised by a licensed massage therapist. (iii) 200 hours of massage and bodywork assessment theory, and application instruction **(b)**

MICHIGAN MASSAGE THERAPY LICENSING GUIDE

Classroom instruction as defined in R 338.701(1)(b) or (ii) including all of the following: 125 hours of instruction on the body systems, that includes anatomy, physiology and kinesiology (iii) 40 hours in Pathology (iv) 10 hours of business, professional practice, and ethics instruction, with a minimum of 6 hours in ethics (iv) 85 hours of instruction in an area or related field, as determined by the school, that complete the massage therapy program of study.

- A supervised curriculum shall use only classroom instruction as defined in R 338.701(b) to satisfy the requirements of this rule.
- Any curriculum that meets the requirements of R 338.722, or R 338.722a, as applicable.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT **(These are in addition to the requirements stated above that apply to All applicants)**

An applicant applying by endorsement must meet either of the following requirements:

- ☐ Has first been licensed in another state and actively engaged in the practice of massage therapy for **LESS** than 3 years before the filing of an application and meet all requirements above (the same requirements as an examination applicant).
- ☐ Has first been licensed in another state, country, jurisdiction, territory, or province for 3 years or **MORE** preceding the date of application satisfies the requirements for licensure pursuant to section 19759(2) of the code, MCL 333.19759 section 1(a) (b) Good moral character and 18 years or older. An applicant shall have his or her license, certification, or registration in good standing verified by the licensing, certifying, or registering agency of each state, country, jurisdiction, territory, or province in which the applicant holds, or has ever held, a license, certification, or registration as a massage therapist. If applicable, verification must include the record of any disciplinary action taken or pending against the applicant.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN EDUCATED OR TRAINED APPLICANTS WHO RECEIVED EDUCATION OR TRAINING OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES **(These are in addition to the requirements stated above that apply to All applicants)**

- ☐ Pass either the Federation of State Massage Therapy Board's Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx), or the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork's (NCBTMB) National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCETMB), if taken prior to November 1, 2014.
- ☐ If your massage therapy curriculum was completed outside of the United States, you must have your education reviewed and certified by a recognized and accredited credential evaluation agency that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES). You may find an accredited credentialing agency by visiting their website at www.naces.org. Credential evaluations may be submitted directly from a current member organization of NACES by email to bpldata@michigan.gov or by mail to the Bureau of Professional Licensing, PO Box 30670, Lansing, MI 48909.

MICHIGAN MASSAGE THERAPY LICENSING GUIDE

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THOSE APPLYING FOR RELICENSURE (These are in addition to the requirements stated above that apply to All applicants)

- ☐ Online application can be completed by visiting www.michigan.gov/miplus and selecting **MiPLUS Login**. Once logged in, select “**Modification**” next to your license number and this will start the relicensure process.
- ☐ Marriage and Family Therapist Relicensure Application and Fee: \$290.10 (Must be paid by Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Discover credit or debit card)

All relicensure applicants must complete the following:

- ☐ Continuing Education (CE) - During the 3 years preceding the application for relicensure, successful completion of 18 hours of continuing education that are approved by the board are required. At least 1 hour of the continuing education shall be earned in the area of pain and symptom management and at least 2 hours of CE shall be earned in the area of professional ethics and boundaries.

Applicants for relicensure whose license has lapsed for 7 years or more at the time of application, must complete the above requirement listed for all relicensure applicants along with EITHER of the following requirements:

- ☐ Within the 3-year period immediately preceding the application for relicensure, pass either the Federation of State Massage Therapy Board’s Massage and Bodywork Licensing exam (MBLEX) or the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork’s (NCBTMB) National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork (NCETMB), if taken prior to November 1, 2014.
- ☐ Verification of current licensure in another state, country, jurisdiction, territory, or province.

RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

- ☐ Online Application for Massage Therapist Renewal – Must be completed by visiting www.michigan.gov/miplus no sooner than 90 days prior to the expiration date of current license.
- ☐ Marriage and Family Therapist Renewal Application Fee: \$248.10 (Must be paid by Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Discover credit or debit card)
- ☐ Renewal Cycle: 3 years
- ☐ Good Moral Character Questions - Documentation and explanation will be required if you answer “yes” to either question to show at the current time you have the ability to, and are likely to, serve the public in a fair, honest and open manner, that you are rehabilitated, or that the substance of the former offense is not reasonably related to the occupation or profession for which you are seeking license renewal.

MICHIGAN MASSAGE THERAPY LICENSING GUIDE

- ☐ Disciplinary Question - Documentation will be required if you answer “yes” to having sanctions imposed against you by a similar licensure, registration, certification, or disciplinary board of another state or country you have not previously reported to the department.
- ☐ Accept Renewal Attestation - By accepting the renewal attestation you, as the licensee, are certifying that you have met the human trafficking requirements and the continuing education requirements during the renewal period.
- ☐ Continuing Education (CE) Requirement:
 - During the 3 years preceding the application for renewal, successful completion of 18 continuing education contact hours that are approved by the board.
 - Minimum of 1 hour of continuing education earned in the area of pain and symptom management.
 - Minimum of 2 hours of continuing education earned in the area of professional ethics and boundaries.
- ☐ Human Trafficking – Licensees seeking renewal must certify on their renewal application that prior to renewing their license they have completed a one-time training in identifying victims of human trafficking that meets the standards in Administrative Rule 338.732.
- ☐ Implicit Bias Training – Licensees and registrants are required to complete 1 hour of implicit bias training for each year of their license or registration cycle. Please note this is not a one-time training and must be completed for each renewal cycle prior to the renewal being completed.

HELPFUL RESOURCES AND FORMS

- ☐ By visiting www.michigan.gov/healthlicense and clicking on the massage therapy link you can access the following helpful resources and forms:

Resources:

- ☐ [Public Health Code](#)
- ☐ [Administrative Rules for Massage Therapy](#)

Forms:

- ☐ [Supervised Curriculum Form](#)
- ☐ Track continuing education using CE Broker – The Bureau of Professional Licensing (BPL) has partnered with CE Broker to help licensed professionals keep track of their continuing education (CE) credits. Additional information can be found on our [website](#).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **How long are Massage Therapy licenses valid? Can I renew my license early? How will I know when I need to renew?**

Your initial Massage Therapy license is good for 3 years. All subsequent MT renewals will also be valid for 3 years. You will be mailed and emailed a renewal notification postcard to your mailing and email addresses on record approximately 90 days prior to the expiration date of your license. Remember to notify the

MICHIGAN MASSAGE THERAPY LICENSING GUIDE

Department of any address change by submitting a MiPLUS modification. It is your responsibility as a licensed health professional to renew your license on time. **Failure to receive the renewal postcard or email notification, or to notify the Department of an address change does not exempt you from renewing your license on time.**

You can renew online by logging into your MiPLUS account at www.michigan.gov/MiPLUS. You may pay your renewal fee by using a debit or credit card containing a Discover, MasterCard, American Express, or Visa logo.

2. Can I receive a Massage Therapy license by application (grandfathering)?

The Massage Therapy license by application (grandfathering) was only available for those who were licensed prior to November 29, 2014. For those who would like to be licensed after November 29, 2014, visit the Massage Therapy License Information section on our website for information on licensing options.

3. How do I become eligible for the Massage Therapy exams?

Once you have successfully registered with the Federation of State Massage Therapy Board's (FSMTB), Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEX), you will be able to take the exam. Our office does not need to make you eligible for the exam.

4. Where can I determine if my educational program is approved by the board for licensure?

You can find assigned schools on the NCBTMB website by visiting <https://ncbtmb.org/directory> and clicking "Search Directory" under the Assigned Schools section.

To explore schools or programs approved by CHEA or the United States Department of Education, visit <https://ope.ed.gov/dapip/#/home>.

5. I attended a school in Michigan that is now closed. How do I get transcripts sent?

Effective Monday, October 4, 2021, Proprietary Post Secondary Schools (PSS) has partnered with DiplomaSender to fulfill transcript requests/education verifications for closed, private schools. Please visit DiplomaSender.com to submit your request and make your payment on-line. This self-service website is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week. You may also reach a DiplomaSender specialist Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Central Time at 855-313-5799.

6. Do I need to complete continuing education?

Yes. Per Administrative Rule R 338.739

An applicant for license renewal who has been licensed for the 3-year period immediately preceding the expiration date of the license shall accumulate not less than 18 hours of continuing education in activities approved by the board during the 3 years immediately preceding the application for renewal. At least 1 hour of CE shall be earned in the area of pain and symptom management and at least 2 hours of CE shall be earned in the area of professional ethics and boundaries. Licenses renewed in 2018 must complete continuing education by renewal in 2021; renewals for 2019 by renewal in 2022, etc.

7. How do I verify my Michigan license?

Certified license verification requests must be obtained online. You must submit your request via the MiPLUS system. There is a \$15.00 fee for certification processing for each address you list. Licenses may

MICHIGAN MASSAGE THERAPY LICENSING GUIDE

also be verified online on the Bureau's License Verification website free of charge. You may need to confirm with the recipient if verifying a license on this website is acceptable or if a certified license verification is needed.

8. My license was lost/stolen/destroyed, how do I get a new one?

You may request a duplicate license online at www.michigan.gov/miplus. In order to request a hard copy of your license you will need to log in to your MiPLUS account and pay a \$10.00 fee.

9. How do I file a complaint against a health care professional?

Information on how to [File an Allegation Against a Health Care Licensee](#) can be located on the Bureau of Professional Licensing's website at www.michigan.gov/bpl.