

CHAPTER 131
LICENSURE OF MASSAGE THERAPISTS

[Prior to 6/26/02, see 645—130.4(152C) and 645—130.6(152C)]

645—131.1(152C) Definitions. For purposes of these rules, the following definitions shall apply:

“*Board*” means the Iowa board of examiners for massage therapy.

“*Lapsed license*” means a license that a person has failed to renew as required or the license of a person who failed to meet stated obligations for renewal within a stated time.

“*Licensee*” means any person licensed to practice as a massage therapist in the state of Iowa.

“*License expiration date*” means the fifteenth day of the anniversary month every two years.

“*Licensure by endorsement*” means the issuance of an Iowa license to practice massage therapy to an applicant who is currently licensed in another state.

“*Massage therapy*” means performance for compensation of massage, myotherapy, massotherapy, bodywork, bodywork therapy, or therapeutic massage including hydrotherapy, superficial hot and cold applications, vibration and topical applications, or other therapy which involves manipulation of the muscle and connective tissue of the body, excluding osseous tissue, to treat the muscle tonus system for the purpose of enhancing health, providing muscle relaxation, increasing range of motion, reducing stress, relieving pain, or improving circulation.

“*Reciprocal license*” means the issuance of an Iowa license to practice massage therapy to an applicant who is currently licensed in another state that has a mutual agreement with the Iowa board of examiners for massage therapy to license persons who have the same or similar qualifications to those required in Iowa.

645—131.2(152C) Requirements for licensure. All persons acting or serving in the capacity of a massage therapist shall hold a massage therapist’s license issued by the board. The following criteria shall apply to licensure:

131.2(1) The applicant shall complete a board-approved application packet. Application forms may be obtained from the board’s Web site (<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure>) or directly from the board office. All applications shall be sent to Board of Examiners for Massage Therapy, Professional Licensure Division, Fifth Floor, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075.

131.2(2) The applicant shall complete the application form according to the instructions contained in the application. If the application is not completed according to the instructions, the application will not be reviewed by the board.

131.2(3) Each application shall be accompanied by the appropriate fees payable by check or money order to the Board of Examiners for Massage Therapy. The fees are nonrefundable.

131.2(4) The applicant shall have official copies of academic transcripts sent directly from the board-approved school to the board of examiners for massage therapy.

131.2(5) The board may consider applications on a case-by-case basis which do not appear on their face to meet requirements if the requirements may be alternatively satisfied by demonstrated equivalency. The burden shall be on the applicant to document that the applicant’s education and experience are substantially equivalent to the requirements which may be alternatively satisfied.

131.2(6) The applicant shall submit proof of completion of a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course and a first-aid course that were certified by the American Red Cross or by the American Heart Association. One of the following shall be required:

a. Official transcript documenting completion of a CPR class and a first-aid class within one year prior to submitting the application for licensure; or

b. Copy of the current certification card(s) or renewal card(s).

131.2(7) The applicant shall provide proof of passing the National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork administered by the testing service contracting with the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork. Proof of passing shall be sent directly from the testing service to the board of examiners for massage therapy. The passing score on the written examination shall be the passing point criterion established by the national testing authority at the time the test was administered.

131.2(8) Licensees who were issued their licenses within six months prior to the renewal shall not be required to renew their licenses until the renewal month two years later.

131.2(9) Incomplete applications that have been on file in the board office for more than two years shall be considered invalid and shall be destroyed.

645—131.3(152C) Educational qualifications.

131.3(1) The applicant shall have graduated from a board-approved school that has a minimum of 500 hours of massage therapy education.

131.3(2) Foreign-trained massage therapists shall:

a. Provide an equivalency evaluation of their educational credentials by one of the following: International Educational Research Foundations, Inc., Credentials Evaluation Service, P.O. Box 3665, Culver City, CA 90231-3665, telephone (310)258-9451, Web site www.ierf.org or E-mail at info@ierf.org; International Credentialing Associates, Inc., 7245 Bryan Dairy Road, Bryan Dairy Business Park II, Largo, FL 33777, telephone (727)549-8555. The professional curriculum must be equivalent to that stated in these rules. A candidate shall bear the expense of the curriculum evaluation.

b. Provide a notarized copy of the certificate or diploma awarded to the applicant from a massage therapy program in the country in which the applicant was educated.

c. Receive a final determination from the board regarding the application for licensure.

645—131.4(152C) Examination requirements. The examination required by the board shall be the National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork.

131.4(1) The applicant shall apply to the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork.

131.4(2) Results of the examination are mailed directly from the examination service to the board of examiners for massage therapy after the applicant takes the examination.

645—131.5(152C) Temporary licensure of a licensee from another state.

131.5(1) An applicant from another state with license requirements less stringent than those in Iowa shall:

a. Submit to the board a completed application;

b. Pay the licensure fee;

c. Provide an official copy of the academic transcript sent directly from the board-approved school to the board of examiners for massage therapy;

d. Submit a certified copy of the scores from the appropriate professional examination sent directly from the examination service to the board, if applicable; and

e. Provide verification of license(s) from every state in which the applicant has been licensed, sent directly from the state(s) to the board office.

131.5(2) A temporary license shall be valid for a period of up to one year and shall not be renewed.

645—131.6(152C) Licensure by endorsement. An applicant who has been a licensed massage therapist under the laws of another jurisdiction shall file an application for licensure by endorsement with the board office. The board may receive by endorsement any applicant from the District of Columbia or another state, territory, province or foreign country who:

1. Submits to the board a completed application;
2. Pays the licensure fee;
3. Shows evidence of licensure requirements that are similar to those required in Iowa;
4. Provides official copies of the academic transcripts sent directly from the school to the board;
5. Submits a certified copy of the scores from the appropriate professional examination to be sent to the board, if applicable; and
6. Provides verification of license(s) from every state in which the applicant has been licensed, sent directly from the state(s) to the board office.

645—131.7(152C) Licensure by reciprocal agreement. The board may enter into a reciprocal agreement with the District of Columbia or any state, territory, province or foreign country with equal or similar requirements for licensure of massage therapists.

645—131.8(152C) License renewal.

131.8(1) The biennial license renewal period for a license to practice massage therapy shall begin on the sixteenth day of the anniversary month and end on the fifteenth day of the anniversary month two years later. All licensees shall renew on a biennial basis.

131.8(2) A renewal of license application and continuing education report form to practice massage therapy shall be mailed to the licensee at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the license. Failure to receive the renewal application shall not relieve the license holder of the obligation to pay the biennial renewal fees on or before the renewal date.

a. The licensee shall submit the completed application and continuing education report form with the renewal fee to the board office before the license expiration date.

b. Those persons licensed for the first time shall not be required to complete continuing education as a prerequisite for the first renewal of their licenses.

c. Persons licensed to practice massage therapy shall keep their renewal licenses displayed in a conspicuous public place at the primary site of practice.

131.8(3) Late renewal. If the renewal fees, continuing education report and renewal application are received within 30 days after the license expiration date, the late fee for failure to renew before expiration is charged.

131.8(4) When all requirements for license renewal are met, the licensee shall be sent a license renewal card by regular mail.

645—131.9(272C) Exemptions for inactive practitioners.

131.9(1) A licensee who is not engaged in practice in the state of Iowa may be granted a waiver of compliance and obtain a certificate of exemption upon written application to the board. The application shall contain a statement that the applicant will not engage in practice in the state of Iowa without first complying with all regulations governing reinstatement after exemption. The application for a certificate of exemption shall be submitted upon the form provided by the board. A licensee must hold a current license to apply for exempt status. The licensee shall apply for inactive status prior to the license expiration date.

131.9(2) Reinstatement of exempted, inactive practitioners. Inactive practitioners who have requested and been granted a waiver of compliance with the renewal requirements and who have obtained a certificate of exemption shall, prior to engaging in the practice of the profession in Iowa, satisfy the requirements for reinstatement as outlined in 645—133.10(152C,272C).

131.9(3) Licensees shall renew at the scheduled renewal. Licensees whose licenses were reinstated within six months prior to the renewal shall not be required to renew their licenses until the renewal date two years later.

131.9(4) A new licensee who is on inactive status during the initial license renewal time period and reinstates before the first license expiration date will not be required to complete continuing education for that first license renewal time period only. Twelve hours of continuing education will be required for every renewal thereafter.

131.9(5) Verification of license(s) is required from every state in which the licensee has practiced since the Iowa license became inactive.

131.9(6) Reinstatement of inactive license after exemption. The following chart illustrates the requirements for reinstatement based on the length of time a license has been inactive.

An applicant shall satisfy the following requirements:	1 renewal	2 renewals	3 or more renewals
Submit written application for reinstatement to the board	Required	Required	Required
Pay the current renewal fee	\$50	\$50	\$50
Pay the reinstatement fee	\$50	\$50	\$50
Submit verification(s) from every state in which the licensee has practiced since obtaining inactive status	Required	Required	Required
Furnish evidence of completion of approved continuing education hours during the period since the license became inactive OR Furnish evidence of successful completion of the National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork within one year immediately prior to reinstatement	12 hours Successful completion of examination	24 hours Successful completion of examination	36 hours Successful completion of examination
Total fees and continuing education hours required for reinstatement:	\$100 and 12 hours	\$100 and 24 hours	\$100 and 36 hours

645—131.10(272C) Lapsed licenses.

131.10(1) If the renewal fees and continuing education report are received more than 30 days after the license expiration date, the license is lapsed. An application for reinstatement must be filed with the board accompanied by the reinstatement fee, the renewal fee(s) for each biennium the license is lapsed and the late fee for failure to renew before expiration. The licensee may be subject to an audit of the licensee's continuing education report.

131.10(2) Licensees who have not fulfilled the requirements for license renewal or for an exemption in the required time frame will have a lapsed license and shall not engage in the practice of massage therapy. Practicing without a license may be cause for disciplinary action.

131.10(3) To reinstate a lapsed license, licensees shall comply with all requirements for reinstatement as outlined in 645—133.6(152C).

131.10(4) After the reinstatement of a lapsed license, the licensee shall renew at the next scheduled renewal cycle and complete the continuing education required for the biennium.

131.10(5) Verification of license(s) is required from every state in which the licensee has practiced since the Iowa licensed lapsed.

131.10(6) Reinstatement of a lapsed license. The following chart illustrates the requirements for reinstatement based on the length of time a license has lapsed.

An applicant shall satisfy the following requirements:	30 days after expiration date up to 1 renewal	2 renewals	3 renewals	4 or more renewals
Submit written application for reinstatement	Required	Required	Required	Required
Pay the renewal fee(s)	\$50	\$100	\$150	\$200
Pay the late fee	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Pay the reinstatement fee	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Submit verification(s) from every state in which the licensee has practiced since the license lapsed	Required	Required	Required	Required
Furnish evidence of completion of continuing education requirements during the period since the license lapsed OR/AND Furnish evidence of successful completion of the National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork within one year prior to reinstatement	12 hours OR Successful completion of examination	24 hours OR Successful completion of examination	36 hours OR Successful completion of examination	36 hours AND Successful completion of examination required
Total fees and continuing education hours required for reinstatement:	\$150 and 12 hours	\$200 and 24 hours	\$250 and 36 hours	\$300 and 36 hours

645—131.11(17A,147,272C) License denial.

131.11(1) An applicant who has been denied licensure by the board may appeal the denial and request a hearing on the issues related to the licensure denial by serving a notice of appeal and request for hearing upon the board not more than 30 days following the date of mailing of the notification of licensure denial to the applicant. The request for hearing as outlined in these rules shall specifically describe the facts to be contested and determined at the hearing.

131.11(2) If an applicant who has been denied licensure by the board appeals the licensure denial and requests a hearing pursuant to this rule, the hearing and subsequent procedures shall be held pursuant to the process outlined in Iowa Code chapters 17A and 272C.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A, 147, 152C and 272C.

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