

**STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
CONTINUING EDUCATION**

**CE REQUIREMENTS FOR
MASSAGE THERAPY LICENSE**

**SPECIAL NOTICE: ACT 31 OF 2014
CHILD ABUSE RECOGNITION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2015, AND FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT BIENNIAL RENEWAL PERIOD, ALL HEALTH-RELATED LICENSEES SHALL COMPLETE BOARD-APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION IN CHILD ABUSE RECOGNITION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

In order to renew a massage therapist license, a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education must be completed within the biennial renewal period, which runs from February 1 of the odd year through January 31 of the next odd year.

- ✓ Per Act 31 of 2014, the Department of Human Services requires two (2) hours of Board-approved continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting requirements must be completed for renewal or reactivation of a license. Details and a list of Board-approved providers can be found at www.dos.pa.gov. Verification of completion can only be accepted directly from the course provider to the Board office via an electronic data file transfer. It may take 7-10 days for the provider to submit the records to the Board's office.
- ✓ At least sixteen (16) hours must be obtained through contact hours in the presence of an instructor.
- ✓ At least four (4) hours of continuing education shall be completed in ethics. The course provider should identify ethics as the topic in the course title. If ethics content is not specified in the course title, the Board will also accept a statement from the course provider of the amount of course time specific to ethics.
- ✓ Maintain current CPR certification in Adult CPR through an approved provider such as American Red Cross or American Heart Association. Other approved providers are listed on the Board's website at [Approved CPR Providers](#). CPR certification may not be used to meet the biennial continuing education requirements. Online CPR courses are not acceptable.

The Massage Therapy Law does not provide for continuing education exemptions to renew your license for Massage Therapist.

Requests for a waiver of the continuing education requirements shall be requested from the Board at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the license.

- ❖ The Board may grant a hardship waiver of all or a part of the continuing education requirement in cases of serious illness, emergency or hardship provided that the public's safety and welfare will not be jeopardized by the granting of the waiver.
- ❖ A request for waiver must be made in writing, with appropriate documentation, and include a description of circumstances sufficient to show why compliance is impossible.
- ❖ Waiver requests will be evaluated by the Board on a case-by-case basis. The Board will send written notification of its approval or denial of a waiver request.
- ❖ **The waiver request shall be submitted to the Board 60 days prior to the end of the biennial renewal period for which the waiver is being sought.**

APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDERS

- Schools of massage therapy approved by the Board
- The American Massage Therapy Association and its state chapters
- NCBTMP approved providers
- Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals
- A list of individually approved courses submitted to the Board and approved are listed on the Board's website at [Continuing Education Programs Listing \(PDF\)](#)

Additional information, including our Frequently Asked Questions, details regarding the Board's continuing education requirements as well as a link to the Board's law and regulations can be found on our website at www.dos.pa.gov/massagetherapy.

PLEASE NOTE: THE BOARD'S APPROVAL OF CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDERS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE BOARD IS RECOMMENDING OR ENDORSING CE COURSES OFFERED BY THOSE PROVIDERS. LICENSEES' ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT THE CONTINUING EDUCATION IS DESIGNED TO ADVANCE LICENSEES' PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL RELATED TO THE PRACTICE OF MASSAGE THERAPY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 2 OF THE MASSAGE THERAPY LAW.

IT IS THE LICENSEES' RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN/TRACK PERSONAL CE CREDIT HOURS EARNED.

LICENSEES SHALL RETAIN PROOF OF COMPLETION OF CE FOR A MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS AFTER COMPLETION OF THE CE OR AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE BIENNIAL REGISTRATION FOR WHICH THE CE WAS REQUIRED, WHICHEVER IS LATER.