

Massage Therapy Licensing: A Positive Idea for Oklahoma

Oklahoma is one of only 5 states in the US that does not have licensing requirements for massage therapists. The other four states are: Kansas, Wyoming, Minnesota, and Vermont.

The American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) National is assisting the AMTA Oklahoma Chapter in developing language for a statewide bill.



Why License?

Massage therapy has a significant impact on a person's health and well-being. The public has a right to expect that a massage therapist has the qualifications needed to practice effectively and safely. Legal recognition of the practice of massage therapy and clearly-stated requirements to practice are essential to promote the profession and protect the health, safety and welfare of the general public.

Among other things, legal recognition from licensure would:

- **Create standards of minimum competency**
- **Ensure that individuals have met the eligibility requirements**
- **Help consumers** identify the responsibilities and services of a massage therapist through a defined scope of practice.
- **Establish a consistent standard enforceable by a professional code of ethics**



How will Legislation Help Me as a Spa Owner?

Legislation will assist in protecting your business by establishing minimum standards for massage education, certification, liability insurance, and continuing education. As you interview potential members of your team, you will have a baseline from which to choose the elite professionals you wish to represent you. Raising the standard of professionalism will advance massage therapy statewide and that will impact your bottom line.

How will the Legislative Bill be Phrased?

The AMTA Oklahoma Chapter wants to include as many people in this conversation as possible and to solicit your thoughts, concerns, and ideas. You can get involved in three ways:

- Contact Mary Elizabeth LeBlanc, Governmental Chair of the Oklahoma Chapter of the AMTA, to discuss your thoughts and concerns. Phone/text: 405.924.2114; Email: melebla@cox.net
- Contact your legislator to advise that you support massage legislation in Oklahoma
- Sign the on-line petition on the FaceBook page for AMTA Oklahoma



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