

**Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy**  
State of Louisiana

**JOHN BEL EDWARDS**  
GOVERNOR



**CEASE AND DESIST NOTICE**

To: Mouton's International Institute of Reflexology  
1204 General Mouton Ave.  
Lafayette, LA 70501

Certified Mail Delivered

Date: April 10, 2019

Re: Unauthorized Practicing and Advertising Massage Therapy by "Mouton's International Institute of Reflexology"

Dear Sir/Sirs:

The Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy (Board) is charged with licensing and regulating those persons and businesses engaging in the practice of Massage Therapy. The regulations are found in the Louisiana Massage Therapists and Massage Establishments Act, La. R. S. 37: Chapter 57 and in the Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 46, Professional and Occupational Standards, Part XLIV. Massage Therapist.

**Applicable Provisions of Louisiana Revised Statute 37, Chapter 57 are as follows:**

**§3556. Licensure; qualifications**

A. No person shall engage in the practice of massage therapy without a current license issued pursuant to this Chapter unless such person is exempt under the provisions of this Chapter.

**§3552 Definitions**

(10) "Practice of massage therapy" means the manipulation of soft tissue for the purpose of maintaining good health and establishing and maintaining good physical condition. The practice of massage therapy shall include advertising or offering to engage in the practice of massage therapy and holding oneself out or designating oneself to the public as a massage therapist or massage establishment. The practice of massage therapy shall include effleurage (stroking), petrissage (kneading), tapotement (percussion), compression, vibration, friction (active/passive range of motion), stretching activities as they pertain to massage therapy, Shiatsu, acupressure, **reflexology**, and Swedish massage either by hand, forearm, elbow, foot, or with mechanical appliances for the purpose of body

2645 O'Neal Lane, Bldg. C, Ste E ♣ Baton Rouge, LA 70816  
Phone (225) 756-3488 ♣ Fax (225) 756-3493  
email: admin@labmt.org ♣ website: www.labmt.org

massage. Massage therapy may include the use of lubricants such as salts, powders, liquids, creams with the exception of prescriptive or medicinal creams, heat lamps, hot and cold stones, whirlpool, hot and cold packs, salt glow, body wraps, or steam cabinet baths. It shall not include electrotherapy, laser therapy, microwave, colonic therapy, injection therapy, or manipulation of the joints. Equivalent terms for massage therapy are massage, therapeutic massage, massage technology, body work, or any derivation of those terms. As used in this Chapter, the terms "therapy" and "therapeutic" shall not include diagnosis, the treatment of illness or disease, or any service or procedure for which a license to practice medicine, chiropractic, physical therapy, or podiatry is required by law.

"Reflexology" is also referenced the Louisiana Administrative Code in Rules Chapter 53§5301 (A) (18) which states that the following acts shall constitute misconduct in the Practice of Massage Therapy ". . . (18) engaging in the practice of reflexology without a current massage therapy license." Chapter 53§5301 (A) (18) (a) states: "For the purpose of this Rule: reflexology - the manipulation of the superficial tissues of the hands and feet based on the theory that manipulation of body reflex areas or zones can affect other body functions."

#### **§3564. Regulation of advertising**

A. A person or an entity that does not hold a license as a massage therapist, physical therapist, or chiropractor, a certificate to practice athletic training, or a license as a massage establishment shall not use the words "massage", "body work", or any derivative or variation of the word "massage", including specific bodywork or massage modalities, on any sign or other form of advertising. Any advertisement by a massage therapist or a massage establishment shall contain the license number of such therapist or establishment. Building signs with promotional material shall also include the professional or establishment number.

#### **§3565. Penalties**

A. Violation of the provisions of this Chapter shall be considered a misdemeanor and any person, including the owner or operator of a massage establishment, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than one hundred or more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

#### **§3558. Massage establishments**

A. Massage establishments shall be required to be licensed as follows:

(1) Each person engaging in the practice of massage therapy at a massage establishment shall be the holder of a Licensed Massage Therapist Identification Card (LMT-ID Card), which shall identify the therapist as being properly licensed and shall authorize the therapist to provide off-site massage services.

(2) All locations where one or more persons are regularly engaged in the practice of massage therapy shall register with the board as a massage establishment.

Additionally, all locations where more than one person is regularly engaged in the practice of massage therapy shall pay the establishment license fee.

(3) Obtaining a massage establishment license shall be the responsibility of the entity which controls the physical location where the services are provided, which entity may be a sole proprietor, lessee, owner, partnership, corporation, cooperative, association, or other legal entity.

B. A massage establishment shall employ or contract only licensed massage therapists to perform massage therapy.

The Board has received a complaint indicating that Mouton's International Institute of Reflexology and the persons providing services at the business are advertising and/or providing massage therapy services (reflexology) without a Louisiana Massage Therapy license. Since the business does not have a current license, **you are hereby notified to immediately cease and desist advertising and/or performing massage therapy services (reflexology) at the referenced location.** Your failure to immediately comply with this notice shall result in the matter being referred to the appropriate police authorities for a criminal investigation for the violation of the above statutes. The Board may also elect to pursue civil injunctive remedies which could result in imposition of civil penalties and an award of attorney fees.

If you feel that you are currently licensed or otherwise exempt from the license requirements of the statutes, you need to immediately notify the Board office in writing at 2645 O'Neal Lane, Bldg. C, Suite E, Baton Rouge, La. or contact the Board office at 225-756-3488. The Board office can also advise as to the steps required to become properly licensed in the State of Louisiana to engage in the practice of massage therapy as either an individual therapist or an establishment.

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, you may contact the Board Office.

Regards,

Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy.