

STATE OF CALIFORNIA VOLUNTARY MASSAGE THERAPY CERTIFICATION

Senate Bill 731 of 2008, Author: OROPEZA
www.legislature.ca.gov

SB 731 created a **VOLUNTARY** certification program. If you choose to apply you will have to meet the general criteria established by the **CALIFORNIA MASSAGE THERAPY COUNCIL CAMTC** www.camtc.org . For complete details, please log on to the CAMTC web site.

All applicants will be required to be at least 18 years old and submit to fingerprinting and a background check. If you choose not to apply to certification, you may continue to practice under your local requirements.

Please review the following to determine which case applies to you:

I have completed a minimum of 500 hours of Massage education, OR I have passed an exam that may be approved by the CAMTC.

Title: Certified Massage Therapist (CMT)

There are two ways to qualify for State certification as a Massage Therapist:

1. By having completed a minimum of 500 hours of training. Of the 500 hours, at least 250 hours must have been completed at state approved schools. The other 250 hours could be obtained through approved or registered schools or approved continuing education providers.
2. By having passed a massage and bodywork exam approved by the CAMTC which may include The Massage and Bodywork Licensing Exam (MBLEx) offered by the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) and the exams offered by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB).

I have completed 250 - 499 hours of massage training.

Individuals may qualify for Certified Massage Practitioner status through December 31, 2015. After that date, CMP'S may renew their certification without having to obtain additional massage education, but no new CMP certifications will be issued. After December 31, 2015, in order to qualify for certification, all applicants will have to complete 500 hours training or pass an exam approved by the CAMTC. In other words, **only the certified massage therapist tier will be available after December 31, 2015.**

Title: Certified Massage Practitioner (CMP)

The CMP requires successful completion, **at a single State approved or registered school**, of a program that is no less than 250 hours. The program must include at least 100 hours devoted to anatomy and physiology, contraindications, health and hygiene and business and ethics.

I have completed at least 100 hours of documented training but not 250 hours.

Title: Certified Massage Practitioner

Before January 1, 2012, you can qualify as a certified massage practitioner by meeting ONE of the following:

1. You have completed a minimum 100 hour massage course at a state approved or registered school, AND you have a valid local massage permit or license, AND you have been practicing for at least 3 years, AND you document that you have provided a minimum of 1,000 hours of massage to the public for compensation: OR
2. You have completed a minimum 100 hour massage course at a state approved or registered school, AND you have been practicing for at least 3 years, AND you have provided a minimum 1,750 hours of massage to the public for compensation, OR

3. You possess a current valid certificate of authorization as an instructor at an approved massage school. You will be able to provide evidence of practice by providing either W-2 forms or employer's affidavit containing the dates of your employment OR tax returns indicating self-employment as a massage practitioner or massage therapist.

I have completed 100 hours of education but have not practiced long enough professionally to qualify.

If you have completed a 100 hour massage course but have not obtained the 1000 - 1750 hours of practice for compensation, prior to January 1, 2012. You may apply for a conditional certificate. If you apply for a conditional certification you will be required to complete at least 30 hours of additional education per year from an approved or registered school until you have completed at least 250 hours of education.

Once you reach 250 hours of massage education, including the hours you already have completed, the CAMTC will grant you a certificate as a massage practitioner that is not conditional. If you do not comply with the education requirement, your conditional certification will be revoked.

I have completed at least 250 hours of massage education but not at a single approved massage school and/or not including at least 100 hours in required subject areas.

You may apply for a conditional certificate. Once receiving it, you may submit to the CAMTC a listing of additional massage education hours. Once the CAMTC validates these hours, it may replace your conditional certificate with one that is not conditional.

How do I know if my school is approved or registered?

Schools approved by the state, part of the state higher education system, credited by a Department of Education approved accreditation agency or similarly approved by another state would be considered approved schools. The CAMTC will have some flexibility in evaluating whether an applicant's education is sufficient. A Directory of California State approved and registered schools may be found at the Bureau For Private Postsecondary Education's website, (BPPE) at www.dca.ca.gov/bppve.

What will be the cost of a statewide massage certification?

The California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC) currently requires an application fee of \$150.00. For further details log on to their web site at www.camtc.org. Fees for live scan and finger printing vary from city of city. Check for fees and days to apply with your local police department.

Local Licensing

For both tiers, SB 731 provides that those certified are exempted from local licensing. For certified practitioners, who are considered to be sole proprietors and for businesses hiring only certified practitioners or therapists, SB 731 also requires that zoning and building requirements be the same as for other professional and personal service professions.

Steps you can take right now to become prepared:

- Contact your school for a copy of your transcripts
- Gather any certificates or documentation for continuing education courses you have completed.
- If you plan to qualify by demonstrating hours of massage provided for compensation, keep your appointment books and tax records to aid in such demonstration.