



City of Chicago

Business Affairs and Consumer Protection

MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENT INDUSTRY NOTICE

October 20, 2017

Please be advised of recent changes to the Municipal Code of Chicago (MCC) regarding Massage Establishments. Effective October 24th, the Massage Establishment ordinance formerly under MCC 4-92, has been amended under MCC 4-6-320.

Highlights of the amendment include but are not limited to the below sections. Please go to www.cityofchicago.bacp for the full ordinance.

- Prohibits employment of any person who is not at least 18 years of age, with the exception of any licensed massage therapist whose age is regulated by the Illinois Massage Act.
- Requires the sexual or genital areas of all customers to be covered at all times when in the presence of an employee, agent, or independent contractor of a massage establishment; provided, however, that such areas may be uncovered during clinical massage therapy for post-mastectomy scar tissue, including myofascial release therapy, or of therapeutic treatment of breast tissue and muscles for pre- and post-surgical mastectomy, lumpectomy, or breast reconstruction; clinical perineal massage therapy for pregnant women to ease the pain of childbirth; or clinical lower abdominal massage therapy to relieve menstruation-related pain.
- Prohibits any person under the influence of alcohol or drugs from entering or remaining in a massage establishment, or from providing or receiving a massage.
- Prohibits any massage establishment from having an entrance or exit-way providing direct passageway to any residence.
- Requires massage establishments to post a sign identifying the establishment as a massage therapy establishment and stating its trade or business name.
- Requires every massage establishment to provide prospective customers with a written notice stating: *State law prohibits soliciting another for the purpose of a sexual act. Solicitation can be punishable as a Class 4 felony, subjecting an offender to fines and imprisonment, and impoundment of any vehicle used by the offender to commit the offense. We immediately report all offers or requests to buy sexual services to law enforcement.*

- Prohibits massage establishments from employing or contracting with any person as a massage therapist who does not hold a current, valid license issued by the State.
- Requires pre-license inspection of massage establishments, and mandates that massage establishments shall consent to inspections by authorized City employees and police.
- Requires massage establishments to prominently post price rates for all services in a location available to all prospective customers or provide a written price list of all services.
- Provides for an affirmative defense for employees / massage therapists who have been arrested for prostitution but are actually the victims of human trafficking.
- Increases penalties for violations of the ordinance.
- In addition, the ordinance removes the existing requirement for separate dressing, locker, and/or massage room facilities for female and male patrons, allows a massage establishment to provide toilet facilities for customers within the building that includes the massage establishment so long as it complies with occupancy requirements, and exempts foot and chair massage establishments from the requirement to obtain a city license.

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