

PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

Continuing Education Frequently Asked Questions

February 25, 2016

The Massage Therapy Law establishes the requirement that licensees complete 24 hours of massage therapy continuing education before the license can be renewed. The continuing education must be completed in accordance with sections 20.32 and 20.33 of the board regulations.

FAQ

- 1. If this is the first time I am renewing my license, do I need to complete 24 hours of continuing education?**

YES. There is currently NO WAIVER of continuing education hours for the first renewal cycle.

- 2. Will continuing education courses that focus on practices/modalities that are excluded from requiring licensure under section 13 of the Massage Therapy Law¹ be accepted for the 2017 renewal cycle?**

YES. These courses will still be accepted for the upcoming 2017 renewal cycle.

- 3. Will the Board Continue to approve continuing education courses in practices/modalities that are excluded from licensure under section 13 of the Massage Therapy Law?**

No. The Board will no longer be approving these courses to be used toward the 24 required hours to renew one's massage therapy license.

- 4. Can I still take classes in practices/modalities that are excluded from licensure under section 13 of the Massage Therapy Law?**

These courses will NOT count towards the 24 continuing education hours that are required to renew your massage therapy license in 2019 or thereafter.

¹ Section 13. Other professions.

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(4) The practice by an individual while performing reflexology.

(5) The practice of an individual who uses touch, words and directed movement to deepen awareness of existing patterns of movement in the body and to suggest new possibilities of movement, while engaged within the scope of practice of a profession with established standards and ethics.

(6) The practice of an individual who uses touch to affect the energy systems, acupoints, Qi meridians or channels of energy of the human body while engaged within the scope of practice of a profession with established standards and ethics. Such practices include acupressure, Asian bodywork therapy, polarity therapy bodywork, quigon, reiki, shiatsu and tui na.

5. How many hours of continuing education are required in order to renew the biennial renewal?

24 hours of continuing education in the field of massage therapy in the 2 year period immediately preceding the application for license renewal (February 1 of the odd year through January 31 of the next odd year). The 24 hours must include a minimum of 4 hours in professional ethics and a minimum of 16 hours earned through contact hours. All massage therapy licenses expire January 31 of every odd year.

The Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA), in conjunction with the Department of Human Services (DHS), is providing notice to all health-related licensees and funeral directors that are considered “mandatory reporters” under section 6311 of the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) (23 P.S. § 6311), as amended, that EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015, all persons applying for renewal of a license shall be required to complete 2 hours of Board-approved training in child abuse recognition and reporting requirements as a condition of renewal. Please review the Board website for further information on approved CE providers. Child Abuse Continuing Education Providers Information can be found [here](#).

Once you have completed a course, the approved provider will electronically submit your name, date of attendance, etc., to the Board. All child abuse courses must be taken through one of the approved providers.

6. When do I need to take the Child Abuse continuing education?

The Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA), in conjunction with the Department of Human Services (DHS), is providing notice to all health-related licensees and funeral directors that are considered “mandatory reporters” under section 6311 of the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) (23 P.S. § 6311), as amended, that EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015, all persons applying for issuance of an initial license shall be required to complete 3 hours of DHS-approved training in child abuse recognition and reporting requirements as a condition of licensure. Please review the Board website for further information on approved CE providers. [Child Abuse Continuing Education Providers Information can be found here](#). Once you have completed a course, the approved provider will electronically submit your name, date of attendance, etc., to the Board. The child abuse courses must be taken by one of the approved providers.

7. Can I earn CE for my CPR certification?

NO. CPR certification is not counted towards fulfillment of the required credits.