

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is The City proposing these changes to the Massage Bylaw?

To help make the business licensing process for massage practitioners easier, The City is providing four (4) recognized Massage Associations with the ability to self manage their members. The City is demonstrating its support of these associations in their effort towards provincial legislation and self regulation (governance).

This separation between Massage Practitioner and Body Rub Practitioner provides a clear distinction between types of practitioners amongst the industry and assists in focusing compliance efforts where necessary.

The City will continue to licence practitioners that choose not to be part of a registered massage association. However, these practitioners will be subject to enhanced business licence requirements.

2. When will the changes to the Massage Bylaw take place?

Although the bylaw is anticipated to take effect January 2013, you will have until your expiry date in 2013 to comply with the bylaw changes.

3. What will the new requirements of becoming a Massage Practitioner be after the changes?

The Business Licence process and requirements will be streamlined for Massage Practitioners.

Some of the basic differences from the current requirements are:

- Must be a member in good standing with one of the four recognized massage associations
- Proof of completion of a minimum 250 hours of education/training in massage from a recognized school or institute will no longer be required. Associations will determine the education requirements.
- A Massage Practitioner will be issued a Business Licence in a paper format with a one year expiry date. This paper format licence will allow practitioners to renew their licence over the phone and not have to visit the front counter on a yearly basis.
- The Massage Practitioner's licence identification card will now have a five year expiration date.

4. How do I qualify as a Massage Practitioner?

A licensed Massage Practitioner will:

- Be a member in good standing to one of the four (4) recognized Massage Associations.
- Book appointments and work through a licenced massage centre, or
- Carry on their own business of a licenced massage centre and book appointments through the licenced massage centre, or
- Make bookings through their own licenced massage office for outcalls only (no massages can be administered at a location licenced as a massage office).

As a Massage Practitioner, once The City has verified your proof of affiliation with a recognized Massage Association, you will be provided with the ability to renew your licence online or at the bank. You will receive a paper licence as well as a five (5) year identification card. You will no longer be required to renew your licence in person except for once every five (5) years to obtain your identification card.

5. How do I qualify as a Body Rub Practitioner?

A licensed Body Rub Practitioner will:

- Have a minimum of 250 hours of education/training from an approved massage school.
- Not be a member of one of the four (4) recognized Massage Associations.
- Book appointments and work only through a licensed Body Rub Centre, or
- Carry on their own business of a licensed Body Rub Centre and book appointments through the licensed Body Rub Centre, or
- Make bookings through their own licensed grandfathered* Body Rub office for outcalls only (no massages can be administered at a location licensed as a grandfathered* Body Rub office).
- Not be permitted to operate as a home based business (unless grandfathered*)
- Not be permitted to operate as a mobile Body Rub Practitioner (unless employed by a Body Rub Centre or own a Body Rub Office grandfathered*). Unless employed by a Body Rub Centre grandfathered* or own a Body Rub Office grandfathered*, the activity of body rub must take place in a Body Rub Centre.
- Complete an annual police background check.

*Grandfathered: the business licence existed before the new Bylaw. Once the changes go into effect and your licence(s) is either not renewed by the expiry date or closes, a new licence application is required and the new regulations will apply.

Please note: Body Rub Practitioners will be subject to a yearly police check, must renew their licence at the front counter each year to receive their licence card and must bring in proof of employment to a registered Body Rub Centre. Body Rub Practitioners can only be affiliated or work for one Body Rub Centre.

6. What do I need to do now to licence my Massage or Body Rub business?

You must notify The City of Calgary, by December 14, 2012, of the licence category you will be using to licence your centre or office.

Call 3-1-1 or email businesslicence@calgary.ca to advise the City of Calgary of your licence category.

Include:

- a. Your business name;
- b. Business licence number and;
- c. The licence category which applies to your centre.

If no notification is received, your massage centre or office licence will be automatically converted to a Body Rub Centre (grandfathered**) or Body Rub Office (grandfathered**) licence type.

7. How do I renew my licence in 2013?

To apply for either a Massage Practitioner Licence or a Body Rub Practitioner Licence, bring your current licence to the Customer Service Counter located in the Calgary Municipal Building, third floor, 800 Macleod Trail S.E.

- a. To be licensed as a Massage Practitioner, you must provide proof of affiliation to one of the four (4) recognized Massage Associations. Bring this proof of affiliation along with you when you visit the Customer Service Counter.
- b. If you choose not to be affiliated with one of the four (4) recognized Massage Associations, you will then be licensed as a Body Rub Practitioner. All Body Rub Practitioners must work for a licensed Body Rub Centre or Body Rub Centre (grandfathered**) or Body Rub Office (grandfathered**)

8. Which professional associations does The City recognize?

- a. Registered Massage Therapists of Alberta
- b. Massage Therapist Association Of Alberta
- c. Alberta Association of Therapeutic Masseurs
- d. Natural Health Practitioners of Canada

9. How do I contact the professional massage associations?

Remedial Massage Therapists Association (RMTA)

Mailing address: #115, 5304 – 43 Street
Red Deer AB T4N 1C8
Email: info@rmta.ca
Phone: 403.350.7617
Web: www.rmta.ca

Massage Therapist Association Of Alberta (MTAA)

Mailing address: Box 24031 RPO Plaza Centre
Red Deer AB T4N 6X6
Email: info@mtaalberta.com
Phone: 403.340.1913
Web: www.mtaalberta.com

Alberta Association of Therapeutic Masseurs (AATM)

Mailing address: 99 Sun Harbour Cres. S.E.,
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2X 3B3
Email: admin.aatm@shaw.ca
Phone: 587.888.1742
Web: www.albertaatm.com

Natural Health Practitioners of Canada (NHPC)

Mailing address: #600, 10339 - 124 St.
Edmonton, AB, Canada T5N 3W1
Phone: Tel: 780-484-2010
Toll Free: 1-888-711-7701
Web: www.nhpcanada.org

10. What is a Body Rub Practitioner?

PLEASE NOTE THESE ARE NOT LEGAL DEFINITIONS

- A Body Rub Practitioner means any person who administers or offers a massage for a fee who is not a member of one of four (4) recognized Massage Associations.
- A Body Rub Practitioner has a minimum of 250 hours of education/training.
- A Body Rub Practitioner is **NOT** a member of one of the four (4) recognized Massage Associations.

A Body Rub Practitioner must be affiliated with a licensed Body Rub Centre.

11. What will the requirements be for becoming a Body Rub Practitioner?

Body Rub Practitioners will be subject to enhanced licence requirements which include:

- Exclusion from operating as a home based business,
- Exclusion from operating as a mobile Body Rub Practitioner (unless employed by a Body Rub Centre or own a Body Rub Office grandfathered*). Unless employed by a Body Rub Centre grandfathered* or own a Body Rub Office grandfathered*, the activity of body rub must take place in a Body Rub Centre.
- Annual police background check,
- Minimum 250 hour certification from an approved school of massage,
- Enhanced record keeping related to customer and employee lists, and
- Licence conditions that include a mandatory code of conduct provision.

12. What is a Body Rub Centre?

PLEASE NOTE THESE ARE NOT LEGAL DEFINITIONS

Any premises or part there of where a massage is performed or offered to the public for a fee, or where records of a massage business are maintained or where a member of the public may arrange for a massage for a fee, but not including a Massage Centre.

Some of the enhanced licence requirements will include:

- Creating separation distances from another centre or a residence, (300 metres),
- Exclusion from operating as a home-based business or as a mobile Body Rub Centre.

13. I still have questions. Who can I contact for help?

Email businesslicence@calgary.ca

** Grandfathered: the business licence existed before the new Bylaw. Once the changes go into effect and your licence(s) is either not renewed by the expiry date, closes or undergoes a change of ownership, a new licence application is required and the new regulations will apply.

14. Are fees changing for a Massage Practitioner or Body Rub Practitioner license?

There are no specific proposed changes to current Massage/Body Rub licensing fees, however each year fees are subject to change based on the Municipal Price Index for all City permits and licenses.

Please be advised that the above proposed changes the Massage Bylaw have not been approved by City Council. City Council will review the proposed changes to the Massage Bylaw in December 2012 and will make a final decision at that time.