PA LICENSURE RENEWAL AND REACTIVATION

§ 20.31. Expiration, renewal and reactivation of license.

(a) Expiration of license. Licenses expire on January 31 of each odd-numbered year beginning in 2013, regardless of the date of issuance. Licenses are renewable for a 2-year period beginning each October 31 of each even-numbered year beginning in 2012.

(b) Practice prohibited. A licensee may not practice massage therapy in this Commonwealth after the last day of January of the renewal year unless the license has been renewed.

(c) Renewal application. A licensee shall:

(1) Apply for licensure renewal online or on the form provided by the Board.

(2) Pay the biennial renewal fee as set forth in § 20.3 (relating to fees).

(3) Submit proof of current certification in CPR.

(4) Submit verification of completion of at least 24 hours of Board-approved continuing education.

(5) Submit verification that the licensee has read, understood and will comply with the act and this chapter.

(d) Reporting requirements.

(1) Disclosure of licensure or discipline in another jurisdiction. A licensee who becomes licensed to practice massage therapy in another jurisdiction shall report this information on the biennial renewal form or within 90 days of licensure, whichever occurs sooner. Disciplinary action taken in another jurisdiction shall be reported to the Board on the biennial renewal form or within 90 days, whichever is sooner.

(2) Disclosure of the filing of formal criminal charges (information or indictment). A licensee shall report, on the biennial renewal form or within 30 days, whichever occurs sooner, the filing of any criminal charges, the licensee’s sentencing on any criminal charges or the licensee’s admission into an accelerated rehabilitative disposition program.

(e) Licensure documentation. Upon renewing a license, a licensee will receive an updated license and wallet-size card that will show the next expiration date of the license. A licensee who renews online may print a temporary license that may be used until the biennial license is received.

(f) Inactive status. A license may be placed on inactive status by the licensee notifying the Board during the online renewal process or in a notarized statement that the licensee
wishes to have the license marked inactive. The licensee shall immediately return all licensure documents to the Board and may not practice massage therapy in this Commonwealth until the licensee’s license is reactivated and renewed.

(g) Reactivation. The holder of an inactive or expired license to practice massage therapy may reactivate and renew the license within 5 years from the date of its expiration by submitting:

(1) An application to the Board.

(2) Payment of the current biennial renewal fee as set forth in § 20.3.

(3) Certificates of attendance at continuing education courses required under § 20.32 (relating to continuing education hours; maintenance of certificates of completion) for the previous biennial renewal period.

(4) Current CPR certification.

(5) An affidavit of nonpractice within this Commonwealth.

(h) Late fees. A licensee who practiced massage therapy on an inactive or expired license will be subject to late fees as prescribed by the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs Fee Act (63 P. S. §§ 1401-101—1401-501) upon renewal.

(i) Disciplinary action authorized. A licensee who practiced massage therapy on an inactive or expired license may be subject to discipline by the Board under section 9(a)(7) of the act.

(j) Demonstration of competence after 5 years. The holder of an inactive or expired license to practice massage therapy will not be reactivated and renewed if more than 5 years have passed from the date of the license expiration unless the licensee has demonstrated current competence to practice. To demonstrate current competence to practice, a licensee must either prove continuous active practice in another jurisdiction during the past 5 years or achieve a passing score on a licensure examination approved for entry into practice in this Commonwealth.

§ 20.32. Continuing education hours, maintenance of certificates of completion.

(a) Licensees shall complete a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education in the field of massage therapy as set forth in section 4(6) of the act (63 P. S. § 627.4(6)) and § 20.33 (related to continuing education content and providers) in the 2-year period immediately preceding the application for license renewal. To be creditable, continuing education must meet the requirements for Board approval set forth in this section and § 20.33.
(b) Licensees shall complete a minimum of 4 hours of continuing education in professional ethics in each biennial renewal period.

(c) A minimum of 16 hours of continuing education shall be earned through contact hours.

(d) Courses for the renewal of the licensee’s CPR certification shall be earned through contact hours and may not be used to meet the biennial continuing education requirement.

(e) Licensees shall retain the certificates of completion from continuing education courses for a minimum of 5 years.

(f) A licensee who is unable to complete the required continuing education shall request a waiver or extension from the Board at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the license. The request must include details about the licensee’s illness, emergency or hardship, including documentation such as a letter from the licensee’s physician or a copy of the licensee’s military orders. The Board will respond in writing either granting or denying a request for waiver or extension.

(g) Licensees may be audited to ensure their compliance with the continuing education requirements.

Cross References

This section cited in 49 Pa. Code § 20.31 (relating to expiration, renewal and reactivation of license).

§ 20.33. Continuing education content and providers.

(a) Continuing education must be designed to advance the licensee’s professional knowledge and skills related to the practice of massage therapy as defined in section 2 of the act (63 P. S. § 627.2).

(b) The following continuing education providers are approved to offer creditable continuing education provided they comply with subsections (a), (c) and (d):

(1) Schools of massage therapy in this Commonwealth operating under section 5(a)(3) of the act (63 P. S. § 627.5(a)(3)).

(2) Schools of massage therapy approved by the Board or accredited by a National accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.

(3) The American Massage Therapy Association and its state chapters.

(4) NCBTMB-approved providers.
(5) Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals.

(c) Continuing education providers shall provide certificates of completion to massage therapists that include the name of the massage therapist, name of the course provider, title of the course, date of the course, and number of hours.

(d) Continuing education providers shall retain documentation of the participants in their continuing education programs for at least 5 years.

(e) Providers of continuing education who are not listed in subsection (b) may apply to the Board for approval of a continuing education course by submitting an application and paying the application fee under § 20.3 (relating to fees). The Board will approve only courses that are designed to advance the knowledge and skills of licensees relative to massage therapy as defined in section 2 of the act and that are taught by approved faculty. Approved faculty include massage therapists licensed in the state in which they practice if licensure is required in that state, physical therapists, physicians, professional nurses and chiropractors. Other instructors with demonstrated expertise may be approved on a case-by-case basis. Course approval is valid for 2 years from the date the course is first given for credit provided the faculty and learning objectives are unchanged.

(f) An L.M.T. may submit a course offered by a continuing education provider not listed in subsection (b) by filing an application with the Board for approval of a continuing education course and paying the application fee set forth in § 20.3. The Board will approve only courses that are designed to advance the knowledge and skills of licensees relative to massage therapy as defined in section 2 of the act and that are taught by approved faculty, as set forth in subsection (e).

(g) The Board reserves the right to reject a continuing education course submitted by a massage therapist who is audited for compliance if the course is outside the scope of practice of massage therapy as defined in the act. A licensee will be notified of the rejection of a course and will be provided the opportunity to apply additional courses the licensee has taken or to take additional courses to meet the continuing education requirement.

(h) Cross References
This section cited in 49 Pa. Code § 20.32 (relating to continuing education hours, maintenance of certificates of completion).

§ 20.34. Penalty for failure to complete continuing education.

Applicants for license renewal shall provide, on forms provided by the Board, a signed statement verifying whether continuing education requirements have been met. Failure to complete a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education in a biennial period may subject a licensee to discipline under section 9(a)(7) of the act (63 P. S. § 627.9(a)(7)) in accordance with the schedule of civil penalties at § 43b.23 (relating to schedule of civil penalties—massage therapists).