

New Requirements For Massage Businesses



On February 4, 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved new requirements for massage businesses (establishments) to prevent human trafficking and ensure public health protection. Businesses will require to obtain a public health permit and annual inspections. These requirements apply to massage businesses in the unincorporated areas of the County. Incorporated cities will be encouraged to adopt this County ordinance to ensure all massage businesses meet health and safety codes throughout the County.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Who would need the public health permit?

In general, any place of business where a massage is given by a massage technician for compensation (money) would require a public health permit. There are exceptions; please go to <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/business/massage-establishments.htm> for a complete list of exempted businesses.

2. How would I get a public health permit?

You must apply for a public health permit with the Environmental Health Division of the Department of Public Health. The application and instructions will be available on the website.

3. How much is the proposed public health permit fee?

The annual public health permit fee is \$409. A site evaluation is required to determine if a public health permit can be issued, the fee is \$164.

4. If I already have a certification from the California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC), why would I need a public health permit?

The (CAMTC) certifies massage therapists, but it does not regulate the operation and requirements of massage businesses. Public health permits would set up monitoring and assurance of health and safety codes.

5. Why would inspections be needed?

Regular inspections of massage businesses would ensure compliance with state and local health and safety codes and prevent crime, such as human trafficking.

6. When would inspections start?

The massage inspection law was approved on February 4, 2020. The new requirements will be effective March 4, and inspections of massage businesses within the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County will begin thereafter. Existing massage businesses will need to meet the new requirements of the ordinance within 120 days from the effective date of the ordinance. Inspections in the incorporated cities would be dependent upon the city contracting with the County for these services.

For questions or comments, you can call (626) 430-5205 or email permitfees@ph.lacounty.gov

