

**Chapter RL 90**  
**AUTHORITY, INTENT AND DEFINITIONS**

RL 90.01 Authority and intent.

RL 90.02 Definitions.

**RL 90.01 Authority and intent.** The rules in chs. RL 90 to 94 are adopted by the department pursuant to ss. 227.11 (2), Stats., and 440.982, Stats., to govern the registration of massage therapists and bodyworkers.

**Note:** Section 440.982, Stats., was repealed eff. 3-1-03.

**History:** Cr. Register, February, 1999, No. 518, eff. 3-1-99.

**RL 90.02 Definitions.** As used in chs. RL 90 to 94, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Accrediting agency" means any of the following:
  - (a) A regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. department of education.
  - (b) Commission on massage therapy accreditation.
- (2) "Classroom hour" means a period of instruction in an approved course consisting of not less than 50 minutes.
- (3) "Course of instruction" means a series of classroom courses, not including continuing education, which is approved by the department or at a school approved by the educational approval board under s. 45.54, Stats., having a unified purpose which lead to a diploma or degree or to an occupational or vocational objective, meeting the requirements of s. RL 92.01 (5).
- (4) "Department" means the department of regulation and licensing.

(5) "Health care practitioner" means a health care provider as defined in s. 146.81 (1), Stats.

(6) "Manual action" includes holding, positioning, rocking, kneading, compressing, decompressing, gliding or percussing the soft tissue of the human body and applying friction to soft tissue.

(7) "Massage therapist or bodyworker" means a person who engages in massage therapy or bodywork.

(8) "Massage therapy or bodywork" means the science and healing art that uses manual actions to palpate and manipulate the soft tissue of the human body and includes determining whether massage therapy or bodywork is appropriate or contraindicated, or whether referral to another health care practitioner is appropriate. Massage therapy or bodywork does not include making a medical diagnosis or instructing in or prescribing rehabilitative strengthening or conditioning exercises that are within the practice of physical therapy, as defined in s. 448.50 (4), Stats.

(9) "Registrant" means a person who is issued a license of registration as a massage therapist or bodyworker by the department.

**History:** Cr. Register, February, 1999, No. 518, eff. 3-1-99; emerg. cr. (1), (2) and (11), renum. (1) to (8) to be (3) to (10) and am. (4), eff. 9-3-00; cr. (1), renum. (1) to (8) to be (2) to (9) and am. (3), Register, January, 2001, No. 541, eff. 2-1-01; **correction in (3) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats.**