

# REFLEXOLOGY EXEMPTIONS

## California Cities that Exempt Reflexology from the Massage Ordinance

1. **Folsom** – Chapter 5.25 – Massage Establishments and Massage Therapists and Practitioners. 5.25.020 Definitions. “Reflexology means massage of the feet or hands based on the belief that pressure applied to specific points on these extremities benefits other parts of the body. It is a non-invasive complementary modality involving the use of alternating pressure applied to the reflexes within the reflex maps of the body located on the feet, hands, and outer ears.” 5.25.119 Exemptions. “(F) Individuals practicing reflexology whose practices are limited to alternating pressure applied to the reflexes within the reflex maps of the body located on the feet, hands, and outer ears.”

2. **Citrus Heights** – Chapter 22 – Businesses, Article VIII. Massage Establishments. Sec. 22.605. Definitions. Reflexology means a non-invasive complementary modality involving the use of alternating pressure applied to the reflexes within the reflex maps of the body located on the feet, hands, and outer ears. Sec. 22-606. Exemptions. (7) “Reflexologists performing reflexology, however, any reflexologists engaged in massage shall be required to obtain a massage therapist permit, unless he/she has an MTO certificate.”

3. **Riverbank** – Chapter 119: Massage/Bodywork Establishments. 119.17 Exemptions “(C) Practitioners of reflexology who present to the Chief of Police a certificate of proof of successful completion of classroom instruction in reflexology-related subjects dealing with feet, hand or ears; and reflexology practice from a reputable and licensed school of reflexology.

4. **Sierra Madre** – Chapter 5.56.020 Definitions “Massage...Reflexology is not considered massage for purposes of this Chapter.” “Reflexology” means anon-invasive complementary practice involving the use of alternating pressure applied to the reflexes within the reflex maps of the body located on the feet, hands and outer ears.”

5. **Modesto** – Chapter 5 Sanitation and Health Chapter -2. Massage/Bodywork Business. 5-2. 102

Definitions. “(j) Reflexology: is the application of specific pressures to reflex points in the hands and feet is a clothed session with only the removal of shoes and socks allowed.”

6. **Palo Alto** – Chapter 4.54 Massage Establishments. 4.54.020 Definitions. “(7) ‘Reflexology’ Reflexology is the application of specific pressure by the use of the practitioner’s hands, thumb, and fingers to reflex points in the client’s hands, feet, or ears using alternating pressured, and such techniques as thumb walking, finger walking, hook ad back up, and rotation on a reflex.’ 4.54.170 Exemptions. (4) Reflexologists performing reflexology; however any reflexologists engaged in massage shall be required to comply with the provisions of this Chapter.

7. **Dixon** (proposed 7/15/14\*) – Chapter 6.11 Massage and Bodywork Establishments. 6.11.240 Exemptions. “B. Practitioners of reflexology who present to the Chief of Police a certificate of proof of successful completion of classroom instruction in reflexology-related subjects dealing with feet, hands or ears, and reflexology practice a reputable and licensed school of reflexology.”

8. **Claremont** (10/13/15) – Chapter 5.36.030 2015-10 Amend Municipal Code for Massage Establishments. Exemption: 6. Individuals practicing reflexology whose practices are limited to alternating pressure applied to the reflexes within the reflex maps of the body located on the feet, hands, and outer ears.

\* While the Planning Commission Staff Report dated 7/15/2014 states under Analysis, “The proposed ordinance is modeled after similar regulations in Riverbank, Fresno\*\*, Modesto, Thousand Oaks, Tracy and Turlock” you may want to contact David Dowsell, Community Development Department for sources of the references to the cities not listed above but included in his Analysis.

NOTE: RAC is unable to locate exemption in Thousand Oaks, Tracy and Turlock. It is also reported, but not verified, that Bakersfield, Corona and Ridgecrest exempt Reflexology from massage ordinances.

\*\* The City of Fresno under Chapter 9 Massage Business 9-1608. Exemption applies under (b) to Barbers and beauticians...”solely to the massaging of the neck; face and/or scalp, hands or feet of the Clients.

## **REFLEXOLOGY STATE LAWS**

**North Dakota** – 1992 (Licensing law) OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS CHAPTER 43-49- 01.

**Tennessee** – 2001 -(Registration law) Title 63 Professions Of The Healing Arts, Chapter 30 REFLEXOLOGY PRACTITIONERS REGISTRATION ACT of 2001, 63-30- 102.

**New Hampshire** – 2010 (Licensing law) Chapter 328-H REFLEXOLOGISTS, STRUCTURAL INTEGRATORS, AND ASIAN BODYWORK THERAPISTS). Certification by the American Reflexology Certification Board (ARCB) is a prerequisite for licensure.

**Washington** – 2012 (Licensing law) Chapter 18.108 RCW: MASSAGE PRACTITIONERS (18.108.074 REFLEXOLOGY examination). Passing the ARCB written exam approved by Washington Department of Health is a prerequisite for licensure.

## **STATES EXEMPTING REFLEXOLOGY FROM A MASSAGE LAW**

(Exemption meaning one cannot use the term massage therapist or bodyworker unless massage licensed)

Alaska – Arizona – California+ – Colorado – Georgia – Idaho – Illinois – Indiana – Iowa – Kentucky – Maine – Maryland – Massachusetts – Michigan – Minnesota – Missouri – Montana – Nevada – New Hampshire – New Jersey – New Mexico – North Dakota – North Carolina – Oregon – Pennsylvania – Rhode Island – South Dakota – Tennessee – Texas – Utah – Washington – Wisconsin and Washington DC.

No massage laws are on the books for the states of Kansas – Minnesota – Vermont and Wyoming.

+California massage law is voluntary and there is no provision by the California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC) to offer certification to other manual therapies who do not wish to be titled massage.

Note: The information here was accurate at the time of printing . Changes may have occurred since then. Every effort will be taken to continue updating this document as data becomes available. Please email [info@reflexology-ca.org](mailto:info@reflexology-ca.org) if you know of a needed update. Thank you.