

From: Sharlene Gin [<mailto:srgin@verizon.net>]
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2011 1:37 PM
To: Environmental Health
Subject: Massage Therapy Regulation

Department of Human Services
Public Health Division
Arlington, VA

I have been practicing massage therapy in Arlington for several years and was thrilled to receive the notice informing me of the change in Massage Therapy Regulation. Thank you for recognizing the need for change to reflect the true nature of the profession.

Sincerely,
Sharlene Gin
Certified Massage Therapist
Arlington Permit - MT #110423

[\[mailto:echedlund@aol.com\]](mailto:echedlund@aol.com)

Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 8:25 PM

To: Environmental Health

Subject: Massage Regulation

Dear Evelyn Poppell,

Thank you very much for the recent update on the proposed elimination of Arlington Code 11-42.1 on November 19, 2011.

You were kind to give me a waiver for my Arlington County Massage Permit last year. I was in need of a waiver because I was waiting for many months as the FBI completed the second Background Investigation on me. My permit was to expire in June of 2010 and the FBI could not get the information necessary for Arlington County in time for the renewal.

I requested Congressman Connolly to expedite the process if possible. Evidently, Congressional Members are unable to do this for their constituents.

Your waiver allowed me to continue to work legally in Arlington County at Elizabeth Arden Red Door Spas at Pentagon Row. Thank you very much for your help.

I recently left Elizabeth Arden and found myself seeking new employment. I have discovered that each area in Northern Virginia including Fairfax County, the City of Falls Church, the City of Alexandria and the Town of Vienna all have different Massage Therapy Permit requirements.

Even though I have a FBI Background Clearance to work in Arlington County I still am required to have another separate Background Check for Fairfax County and another separate Background Check for the Town of Vienna.

In the City of Alexandria you have to have a Letter of Employment from a business to prove you have a legitimate job in massage therapy. If you are working in people's homes you must register with the Police Department.

In the City of Falls Church you must go to the Detectives and register.

Fairfax County and Arlington County require fingerprints from the Police Department of that county. The Town of Vienna requires a Driver's License, Certificate of Training, and a Good Health Exam. Again, these three counties require separate Background Checks.

All counties discussed require permit registration fees.

In Fairfax County, if you are working as a Massage Therapist in a Nursing Home, Doctor's Office or Hospital, you do not need a permit at all. (Mojgan Esfandiari Fairfax County Government Center Department of Cable and Consumer Services)

I appreciate the progress and the movement to accepting "Massage Therapy" as a "Medically Related Field" since we are licensed by the Department of Health Professionals and the Board of Nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In my practice as a Licensed Massage Therapist, I have worked in a professional relationship for the therapeutic treatment of soft tissue and muscular structures of the human body on many different individuals. My clients have included Ironman Triathletes, Olympic Athletes, Physical Therapists, Physicians, Nurses, Pregnant Women and others seeking to improve their health.

Thank you for your understanding about the need to improve the public opinion of the Licensed Massage Therapist. Understanding the benefits of massage and respecting the work of trained and licensed people striving to help others in Health and Wellness is appreciated.

Best Wishes,

Karen Hedlund, LMT
BON #0019004751