

Regulatory Analysis Form (Completed by Promulgating Agency) (All Comments submitted on this regulation will appear on IRRC's website)		INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION RECEIVED Independent Regulatory Review Commission July 29, 2026	
(1) Agency Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, State Board of Massage Therapy		IRRC Number: 3442	
(2) Agency Number: 16A Identification Number: 722			
(3) PA Code Cite: 49 Pa. Code §§ 20.21, 20.25, 20.26, 20.31, 20.32 and 20.71—20.79			
(4) Short Title: Child Abuse Reporting Requirements			
(5) Agency Contacts (List Telephone Number and Email Address): Primary Contact: Addie A. Abelson, Regulatory Counsel, P.O. Box 69523, Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523; phone (717) 783-7200; adabelson@pa.gov. Secondary Contact: Thomas A. Davis, Board Counsel, State Board of Veterinary Medicine, P.O. Box 69523, Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523; phone (717) 783-7200; tmdavis@pa.gov.			
(6) Type of Rulemaking (check applicable box): ☐ Proposed Regulation ☒ FINAL REGULATION ☐ Final Omitted Regulation		☐ Emergency Certification Regulation; ☐ Certification by the Governor ☐ Certification by the Attorney General	
(7) Briefly explain the regulation in clear and nontechnical language. (100 words or less) This rulemaking is needed to implement relevant provisions of the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) (23 Pa.C.S. §§ 6301-6388), including the requirement imposed by the act of April 15, 2014 (P.L. 411, No. 31) (Act 31) on all health-related boards within the jurisdiction of the Department of State to require training in child abuse recognition and reporting for licensees who are considered “mandated reporters” under the CPSL.			
(8) State the statutory authority for the regulation. Include <u>specific</u> statutory citation. Section 4(2) of the Massage Therapy Law (act) (63 P.S. § 627.4(2)) sets forth the board’s general rulemaking authority. Under 23 Pa.C.S. Chapter 63 (relating to Child Protective Services Law) (CPSL), specifically section 6383(b)(2) of the CPSL (23 Pa.C.S. § 6383(b)(2)), the board is required to promulgate regulations to implement the mandatory reporting requirements for licensees of the board who are			

identified as mandated reporters under the CPSL. Section 6311 of the CPSL (relating to persons required to report suspected child abuse) provides that “a person licensed or certified to practice in any health-related field under the jurisdiction of the Department of State” is a mandated reporter. In addition, section 6383(b)(2) of the CPSL (relating to education and training) requires each licensing board with jurisdiction over professional licensees identified as mandated reporters to require training in child abuse recognition and reporting. Finally, section 3(a) of the act (63 P.S. § 627.3(a)) establishes the State Board of Massage Therapy, an administrative board within the department. “Department” is defined in section 2 of the act (63 P.S. § 627.2) as “The Department of State of the Commonwealth.” Thus, the board has determined that its licensees practice in a health-related field and that the board is a health-related board under the jurisdiction of the Department of State in accordance with section 3(a) of the act and therefore, it is authorized to promulgate this rulemaking.

(9) Is the regulation mandated by any federal or state law or court order, or federal regulation? Are there any relevant state or federal court decisions? If yes, cite the specific law, case or regulation, as well as any deadlines for action.

Yes, as set forth above, section 6383(b)(2) of the CPSL requires the board to promulgate regulations to implement the mandatory reporting requirements for licensees of the board who are identified as mandated reporters under the CPSL. Because the board has determined that licensed massage therapists practice in a health-related field under the jurisdiction of the Department of State, it is obligated to promulgate this rulemaking.

(10) State why the regulation is needed. Explain the compelling public interest that justifies the regulation. Describe who will benefit from the regulation. Quantify the benefits as completely as possible and approximate the number of people who will benefit.

Since 2014, the General Assembly has made numerous amendments to the CPSL, including the requirement imposed by the act of April 15, 2014 (P.L. 411, No. 31) (Act 31) on all health-related boards to require training in child abuse recognition and reporting for licensees who are considered “mandated reporters” under the CPSL. Section 2 of Act 31 provided that these training requirements would apply to all persons applying for a license, or applying for renewal of a license, on or after January 1, 2015, and were implemented as of that date. These amendments are required to update the board’s regulations to incorporate relevant provisions of the CPSL, including the mandatory training requirements required by Act 31, to provide notice to licensees of their responsibilities as mandated reporters under the CPSL.

All applicants and licensees will benefit by receiving mandatory training with regard to their responsibilities under the CPSL, and all Pennsylvania children will benefit from the increased protections provided by the amendments. Licensees will further benefit from regulations that are consistent with the CPSL, as amended, to avoid confusion as to their responsibilities in this area.

(11) Are there any provisions that are more stringent than federal standards? If yes, identify the specific provisions and the compelling Pennsylvania interest that demands stronger regulations.

No. There are no federal standards on this topic.

(12) How does this regulation compare with those of the other states? How will this affect Pennsylvania's ability to compete with other states?

This amended regulation will not adversely affect Pennsylvania's ability to compete with other states. All surrounding states also have regulations on reporting child abuse.

In Connecticut, in accordance with CT Statutes Chapter 319a - Child Welfare, Sec. 17a-101, certain health-related professionals are mandated to report suspected child abuse or neglect to the Department of Children and Families' Child Abuse and Neglect Careline or a law enforcement agency. Massage therapists are not licensed in Connecticut and are not listed in section 17a-101 as mandatory reporters. However, Sec. 17a-103 authorizes any other person having reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child under the age of eighteen is in danger of being abused, or has been abused or neglected, to cause a written, oral or electronic report to be made to the Commissioner of Children and Families or the commissioner's designee or a law enforcement agency.

In Delaware, under Title 16 Del. Code § 903, any person, agency, organization or entity who knows or in good faith suspects child abuse or neglect, including human trafficking or a child, are required to make an immediate report to the Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families. Delaware now accepts electronic reports at the Delaware Division of Family Services Reporter Portal but can also accept oral reports to their telephone hotline. Mandatory reporter training is available through the Office of the Child Advocate. Individuals who fail to report child abuse or neglect may be liable to a civil penalty of not to exceed \$10,000 for a first offense, or not to exceed \$50,000 for subsequent violations.

In Maine, child abuse or neglect reports must be made immediately by telephone to the Department of Health and Human Service, Office of Child and Family Services' hotline. Under Title 22 of the Maine Revised Statutes § 4011-A, mandated reporters include various types of health care practitioners, however, massage therapists are not specifically enumerated. However, any person who has assumed full, intermittent or occasional responsibility for the care of custody of a child, regardless of whether the person received compensation is a mandated reporter. In addition, any person may make a report of that person knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or is likely to be abused or neglected or that there has been a suspicious child death.

In Maryland, under MD Family § 5-701—5-715 (relating to child abuse and neglect) all health care practitioners (which includes any person who is authorized to practice healing under the Health Occupations Article or § 13-516 of the Education Article) are required to report both orally and in writing any suspected child abuse or neglect. Massage therapists are considered health practitioners in that they are authorized to practice healing under the Health Occupations Article at Title 6. In addition, any other person in the state other than a health practitioner, police officer, educator or human service worker who has reason to believe that child has been subjected to abuse or neglect shall notify the local department or the appropriate law enforcement agency. Oral reports must be made immediately, and written reports must be made within 48 hours of contact in which the disclosure of the suspected abuse or neglect was given. All reports of abuse must be made to the local departments of social services and the appropriate law enforcement agency. If a mandated reporter knowingly fails to report suspected abuse of a child, they may be subject to professional sanctions by applicable licensing boards. Under MD Criminal Code § 3-606.2, a mandated reporter having actual knowledge of abuse or neglect who knowingly fails to make a required report commits a misdemeanor and is subject to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 3 years, or both. Anyone making a good faith report is immune from civil liability and criminal penalty. While not required, mandated reporter training is available.

In Massachusetts, under Massachusetts General Law Annotated 119 § 21 (relating to definitions applicable to sections 21 to 51H), various health care practitioners are considered mandated reporters, however, massage therapists are not specifically enumerated. Section 51A(f) provides that any person may file a report of suspected abuse or neglect if that person has reasonable cause to believe that a child is suffering from or has died as a result of abuse or neglect. Under MGLA 119 § 51A, mandated reporters must report to the Department of Children and Families when they suspect that a child is being abused or neglected immediately by telephone to the DCF area office that services the city or town where the child lives or the Child-at-Risk Hotline. As a mandated reporter, one must also mail or fax a written report to the Department within 48 hours of making the oral report. Mandated reporters are required to report any physical or emotional injury resulting from abuse; any indication of neglect, including malnutrition; any instance in which a child is determined to be physically dependent upon an addictive drug at birth; any suspicion of child sexual exploitation or human trafficking; or death as a result of abuse or neglect. Failure to make required reports subjects the mandated reporter to fines up to \$1,000 for a first offense. A mandated reporter that willfully fails to report child abuse or neglect that results in serious bodily injury or death is subject to a fine of up to \$ 5,000 and 2 ½ years in jail and be reported to the person's professional licensing board. All mandated reporters who are professionally licensed are required to complete training to recognize and report child abuse and neglect. DCF has an online training video available for mandated reporters.

In New Hampshire, under N. H. Rev. Stat. § 169-C:29 (relating to persons required to report), various health care practitioners, as well as any other person having reason to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected are considered mandated reporters. Mandated reporters are required to report suspected child abuse or neglect to the Central Intake Unit of the New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families. An oral report shall be made immediately by telephone and followed within 48 hours by a report in writing, if requested. Individuals who make a good faith report have immunity from civil and criminal liability; and privileged communications between a professional and their patient/client is does not apply and does not excuse the failure to report. Failure to report is a misdemeanor. Training on the reporting requirements is not required.

In New Jersey, under N.J.S.A 9:6-8.8—8:6-8.20 (relating to abused child—reports and protective custody) any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse, including sexual abuse, shall report immediately to the State Central Registry's hotline. Individuals making reports of child abuse have immunity from civil or criminal liability. Any person who knowingly fails to report suspected abuse or neglect according to the law or to comply with provisions of the law is a "disorderly person." However, if the failure to report involves sexual abuse it is a crime of the fourth degree. The New Jersey Department of Children and Families offers an online Mandated Reporter Training resource.

In New York, under NY Soc Serv § 413, various health care practitioners are considered mandated reporters, however, massage therapists are not specifically enumerated. Section 414, however, provides that in addition to those persons and officials required to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment, any person may make such a report if such person has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is an abused or maltreated child. Reports of suspected abuse or maltreatment are made to the New York Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment. Reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or maltreatment means that, based on one's observations, professional training and experience, an individual believes the parent or person legally responsible for a child has harmed that child or placed that child in imminent danger or harm. In addition, New York requires individuals, when applying initially for licensure as a health care practitioner, to complete 2 hours of coursework or training in the identification and reporting of child abuse and maltreatment. This is a one-time requirement and once taken does not

need to be completed again. The New York State Education Department, Office of the Professions oversees the training requirements for mandated reporters that hold professional licenses.

In Ohio, under Ohio R. C. § 2151.421 (relating to persons required to report injury or neglect; procedures on receipt of report), all health care professionals and practitioners of a limited branch of medicine are considered mandated reporters. Under Ohio R. C. § 4731.15, the state medical board “shall also regulate the following limited branches of medicine: massage therapy...” Thus, massage therapists are mandated reporters in Ohio. Mandated reporters are required to report if a child under the age of 18 or a mentally retarded, developmentally disabled, or physically impaired person under the age of 21 has been abused or neglected. A licensee making a report shall make it to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services hotline, or to the public children services agency or municipal or county peace officer in the county in which the child resides. The report must be made immediately by telephone or in person and must be followed by a written report if requested. Failure to report is generally a misdemeanor. Additionally, a mandated reporter who fails to make a required report is liable for compensatory and exemplary damages to the child who would have been the subject of the report that was not made. There does not appear to be a mandatory training requirement in Ohio. All other persons are considered permissive reporters and may make a report if they know, or have reasonable cause to suspect, that a child under eighteen years of age or a person under 21 years of age with a developmental disability or physical impairment has suffered or faces a threat of abuse.

In Virginia, under Title 63.2 of the Code of Virginia § 63.2-1509, any person licensed to practice any of the healing arts must report if they have reason to suspect a child is an abused or neglected child immediately to the local department of the county or city where the child resides, where the abuse or neglect is believed to have occurred, or to the Department of Social Service’s toll-free child abuse and neglect hotline. “Healing arts” is defined as the arts and sciences dealing with the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure or alleviation of human physical or mental ailments, conditions, diseases, pain or infirmities.” In Virginia, massage therapists are licensed under the Board of Nursing. However, because the definition of “massage therapy” in Virginia, specifically excludes “the diagnosis or treatment of illness or disease” (VA ST § 54.1-3000), it would not appear that a massage therapist is considered a mandated reporter in Virginia. However, under § 63.2-1510, any person who suspects that a child is abused or neglected may make a complaint concerning such child to the local department of the county or city wherein the child resides or wherein the abuse or neglect is believed to have occurred, or to the Department’s toll-free child abuse and neglect hotline. A person making a good faith report or testifying in any judicial proceeding arising from such report is immune from criminal or civil liability or administrative penalty or sanction. Any person required to file a report who fails to do so, shall be fined not more than \$500 for the first failure and for any subsequent failures not more than \$1,000 and may be charged with a Class 1 misdemeanor. Mandated reporter training on recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect is available on the Virginia Department of Social Services website.

In West Virginia, under W.Va. Code § 49-2-803, any medical, dental or mental health professional is a mandated reporter and is required to report suspected child abuse or neglect. The term “medical professional” is undefined, but the board believes it may include massage therapists because the definition of “massage therapy” is “a health care service which is a scientific and skillful manipulation of soft tissue for therapeutic or remedial purposes, specifically for improving muscle tone, circulation, promoting health and physical well-being. See W.Va. Code § 30-37.2. When a licensee suspects that a child is being abused or neglected, or observes a child being subjected to conditions that are likely to result in abuse or neglect, or believes that a child has suffered serious physical abuse, sexual abuse or sexual assault, a report must be made to the Child Protective Services unit in the county office of the Department of Health and Human Resources where the licensee is located or the State Police or other law enforcement agency that

has jurisdiction to investigate the report. The Department of Health and Human Resources maintains a 24-hour toll free reporting hotline. Reports must be made immediately by phone and followed up within 48 hours by a written report, if requested. Anyone making a good faith report is immune from civil or criminal liability. Failure to file a required report is a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment up to 90 days, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both. There does not appear to be a mandatory training requirement.

Based on these requirements from other states, the board believes that this regulation will not place Pennsylvania at a competitive disadvantage.

(13) Will the regulation affect any other regulations of the promulgating agency or other state agencies? If yes, explain and provide specific citations.

No. The regulation does not affect any other regulations of the agency or other state agencies.

(14) Describe the communications with and solicitation of input from the public, any advisory council/group, small businesses and groups representing small businesses in the development and drafting of the regulation. List the specific persons and/or groups who were involved. (“Small business” is defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012.)

The board began discussions relating to the need to promulgate regulations relating to the mandated reporting of suspected child abuse in 2014 due to comprehensive amendments to the CPSL that occurred at that time which led other boards within the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs to update their existing regulations on the topic. The board first determined that although its licensees are not considered “health care practitioners” under Pennsylvania law, they are practicing in a health-related field under the jurisdiction of the Department of State, and therefore are mandated reporters, necessitating these regulations. The board discusses its regulatory proposals at regularly scheduled public meetings of the board which are routinely attended by representatives of the massage therapy profession such as the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association. The board’s discussions culminated in the board’s meeting on August 5, 2020, at which time the board voted to move forward and promulgate the proposed rulemaking.

Notice of the proposed rulemaking was published at 55 Pa.B. 4022 (June 14, 2025). Publication was followed by a 30-day public comment period during which the board received ten public comments. Neither the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee of the Senate (SCP/PLC) nor the Professional Licensure Committee of the House of Representatives (HPLC) submitted any comments. The Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) issued a letter dated August 13, 2025, indicating that it had “no objections, comments, or recommendations to offer on this regulation” and further that if the board “deliver[s] the final-form regulation without revisions, and the committees do not take any action, it will be deemed approved.”

Of the ten public comments received, all were from individual massage therapists. One commentor was in full support of continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting but asked that it not be in addition to the overall continuing education requirement. In response, § 20.78 provides that the board accepts 2 hours of continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting as part of the 24 hours required for license renewal. Therefore, this training does not increase the overall continuing education requirement.

Three of the commenters questioned the need for amendments to the regulations, stating they are already

mandated reporters and have been taking the required training. The board confirms that all licensees in a health-related field are considered mandated reporters and required to complete mandatory continuing education, including the 3 hours of initial training, and the 2 hours of continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting under the CPSL. These amendments to the regulations are consistent with the CPSL and will help to avoid confusion as to massage therapists' responsibilities in this area. The final-form rulemaking does not add any new training or education requirements above and beyond what the statute already imposes.

Six of the ten commenters opposed the amendments stating that children are rarely clients of massage therapists and seldomly even present in facilities where massage therapy occurs. One exception noted by a commenter was in regard to sports medicine, but the commenter stated that typically the children are accompanied by a parent or another adult in either scenario. Another commentor expressed concern about the local availability of required training. The board acknowledges these concerns but notes that there are numerous low-cost and free options available for completing the required training. Moreover, the CPSL requires all health-related boards to require training in child abuse recognition and reporting for licensees who are considered mandated reporters under the CPSL. Massage therapists are considered mandated reporters under the CPSL, and therefore, must abide by the various requirements set forth in the statute and in the board's regulations, which are being amended herein to conform to the statute. The CPSL makes no distinction between individual places of business where children may or may not be clients, nor does it distinguish between individual businesses where children may or may not be likely to be present. The board does not have the authority to incorporate exceptions into its regulations to address the commenters' assertions that providing massage therapy services to clients who are children is not a common practice. Nor can the board make any allowances for businesses based on whether or not children are likely to be present in massage therapy facilities.

For these reasons, the board has made no changes from the proposed rulemaking to the final-form rulemaking.

(15) Identify the types and number of persons, businesses, small businesses (as defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012) and organizations which will be affected by the regulation. How are they affected?

All licensees of the board will be affected by the regulation, including those that are or work for small businesses. At the present time, there are approximately 8,937 massage therapists licensed by the board. In addition, all applicants for licensure would be affected by the mandatory training requirements set forth in the regulation as required under section 6383(b)(3)(i) of the CPSL. The board currently processes an average of approximately 850 initial licensure applications per year.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, the majority of massage therapists are either self-employed (35.32%), work in offices of other health practitioners (23.15%), or work in other amusement and recreation industries (3.25%). A small percentage work in the travel industry, for insurance carriers, outpatient care centers, home health care services and general medical and surgical hospitals.

According to the Small Business Administration (SBA), there are approximately 1,169,008 small businesses in Pennsylvania, which is 99.6% of all Pennsylvania businesses. Of the 1,169,008 small businesses, 230,244 are small employers (those with fewer than 500 employees) and the remaining 938,764 are non-employers. Thus, the vast majority of businesses in Pennsylvania are considered small

businesses.

Small businesses are defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, (71 P.S. § 745.3) which provides that a small business is defined by the SBA's Small Business Size Regulations under 13 CFR Ch. 1 Part 121. These size standards have been established for types of businesses under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). In applying the 2023 NAICS standards to the types of businesses where licensees may work, offices of all other miscellaneous health practitioners (NAICS Code 621399) would be considered small businesses if they have less than \$10 million in average annual receipts. Businesses classified as "All other amusement and recreation industries" (NAICS Code 713990) are small businesses if they have less than \$9 million in average annual receipts. Outpatient care centers (NAICS Code 621498) are considered small businesses if they have less than \$25.5 million in average annual receipts, and the threshold for home health care services (NAICS Code 621610) is \$19 million. General Medical and Surgical Hospitals (NAICS Code 622110) are considered small businesses if they have less than \$47 million in average annual receipts. Those who are self-employed would be considered "other personal care services" (NAICS Code 812199) and would be considered a small business if average annual receipts are less than \$9 million.

Based upon this information, the board believes that most massage therapists in Pennsylvania either are small businesses or are employed in small businesses. However, the board does not collect information on the size of the businesses where its licensees are employed. For purposes of determining the economic impact on small businesses, the board assumes that a large number of its licensees either are or work for small businesses as that term is defined by the SBA and Pennsylvania's Regulatory Review Act. Those licensees that are self-employed are likely small businesses that would be impacted by the costs associated with this rulemaking. For those licensees who are employees of small businesses, whether these small businesses will be impacted by the regulations depends on whether the businesses would pay costs associated with obtaining the initial and continuing education relating to child abuse recognition and reporting for employees. Because these costs are associated with individuals applying for initial licensure or licensure renewal, any business (small or otherwise) could avoid these costs by requiring employees to bear the costs associated with compliance.

(16) List the persons, groups or entities, including small businesses, that will be required to comply with the regulation. Approximate the number that will be required to comply.

All licensees of the board will be required to comply with the amended regulation, including those that are or work for small businesses. At the present time, there are approximately 8,937 massage therapists licensed by the board. In addition, all applicants for a license issued by the board would be required to comply with the mandatory training requirements set forth in the amended regulation as required under section 6383(b)(3)(i) of the CPSL. The board currently processes an average of approximately 850 initial licensure applications a year.

(17) Identify the financial, economic and social impact of the regulation on individuals, small businesses, businesses and labor communities and other public and private organizations. Evaluate the benefits expected as a result of the regulation.

The board does not anticipate significant fiscal impact or paperwork requirements relating to the rulemaking. Because licensees of the board are already required to complete mandatory continuing education, and the 2 hours of continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting are incorporated in the existing requirement, there would be no increased burden. Only applicants for

licensure would incur an additional requirement, and because there are many low-cost and free options available to complete the training, the board anticipates this impact to also be minimal, ranging in cost from \$0 to \$100 per course. Because all approved Act 31 training providers are required to report attendance or participation electronically, there are no additional paperwork requirements imposed on licensees or applicants. In addition, the implementation of an electronic reporting system for mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse under the CPSL by the Department of Human Services has decreased the paperwork requirements related to the mandatory reporting requirements. The amended regulation benefits all licensees, by providing clarity regarding the reporting obligations; and benefits all Pennsylvania children by the increased protections provided.

(18) Explain how the benefits of the regulation outweigh any cost and adverse effects.

Because any costs or adverse effects are minimal, the benefits to the regulated community of clarity regarding their reporting obligations and the increased protections to Pennsylvania children far outweigh the costs. Licensees and applicants can minimize or eliminate the costs associated with the mandated training by choosing to complete one of the free or low-cost options.

(19) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to the **regulated community** associated with compliance, including any legal, accounting or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.

There should be no additional cost to most existing licensees to comply with the updated regulations to complete the 2 hours of continuing education, as these are not additional requirements, but are incorporated as part of their existing continuing education already required as a condition of biennial renewal. In fact, the new electronic reporting system will reduce any paperwork requirements. The only individuals who would incur additional costs are applicants for licensure, who need to complete 3 hours of approved training in child abuse recognition and reporting as a condition of licensure. However, because there are numerous low-cost and free options available, this cost to the individual is minimal. Additionally, as more and more schools are submitting their courses for approval, more and more applicants will have completed the required training as part of their professional education and will incur no additional costs. At the present time, the cost for the required training ranges from free to \$100 per course.

For purposes of this rulemaking, the board is assuming that most applicants would choose a free or low-cost option and estimates a cost of no more than \$25 each on average. At an average of 850 applications per year, the cost to applicants is estimated at \$21,250 annually. However, these costs could be eliminated by choosing to complete one of the free options.

(20) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to the **local governments** associated with compliance, including any legal, accounting or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.

There are no costs or savings to local governments associated with compliance with the rulemaking.

(21) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to the **state government** associated with the implementation of the regulation, including any legal, accounting, or consulting procedures which may

be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.

The costs to state government associated with implementation of the amended regulation include the costs associated with the electronic reporting system by which approved providers submit attendance/participation records to the bureau and the administrative costs of assuring applicants have complied with the training requirements. The costs associated with the electronic reporting system included an initial system upgrade of \$35,000 incurred in fiscal year 2014-2015. Ongoing annual operating costs of approximately \$90,000 include the costs associated with reviewing application records to determine compliance, sending discrepancy letters, responding to inquiries, working with the IT consultant, managing the child abuse education resource account, approving new courses, etc. These costs are allocated to the 16 boards that are impacted by the training requirements based on licensee population.

(22) For each of the groups and entities identified in items (19)-(21) above, submit a statement of legal, accounting or consulting procedures and additional reporting, recordkeeping or other paperwork, including copies of forms or reports, which will be required for implementation of the regulation and an explanation of measures which have been taken to minimize these requirements.

There are no additional legal, accounting or consulting procedures or additional reporting, recordkeeping or other paperwork requirements required of the regulated community. The bureau/board has additional recordkeeping responsibilities in receiving, retaining, and retrieving electronic records of completed child abuse training for applicants and licensees.

(22a) Are forms required for implementation of the regulation?

No forms are required for implementation of this amended regulation, as completion of the required child abuse training is being reported electronically to the bureau by the course provider.

(22b) If forms are required for implementation of the regulation, **attach copies of the forms here**. If your agency uses electronic forms, provide links to each form or a detailed description of the information required to be reported. **Failure to attach forms, provide links, or provide a detailed description of the information to be reported will constitute a faulty delivery of the regulation.**

N/A

(23) In the table below, provide an estimate of the fiscal savings and costs associated with implementation and compliance for the regulated community, local government, and state government for the current year and five subsequent years.

	Current FY 2026-27	FY +1 2027-28	FY +2 2028-29	FY +3 2029-30	FY +4 2030-31	FY +5 2031-32
SAVINGS:						
Regulated Community	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Government	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Total Savings	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
COSTS:						
Regulated Community	\$21,250	\$21,250	\$21,250	\$21,250	\$21,250	\$21,250
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Government	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000
Total Costs	\$111,250	\$111,250	\$111,250	\$111,250	\$111,250	\$111,250
REVENUE LOSSES:						
Regulated Community	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Government	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue Losses	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(23a) Provide the past three-year expenditure history for programs affected by the regulation.

Program	FY –3 2023-24 (actual)	FY –2 2024-25 (actual)	FY –1 2025-26 (anticipated)	Current FY 2026-27 (anticipated)
State Board of Massage Therapy	\$745,287	\$1,125,464	\$1,172,000	\$1,100,000

(24) For any regulation that may have an adverse impact on small businesses (as defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012), provide an economic impact statement that includes the following:

- (a) An identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation.
- (b) The projected reporting, recordkeeping and other administrative costs required for compliance with the proposed regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparation of the report or record.
- (c) A statement of probable effect on impacted small businesses.
- (d) A description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the proposed regulation.

Responses:

- (a) Assuming most licensees of the board either are, or work for, small businesses, up to 8,937 small businesses may be subject to the amended regulation.
- (b) The new streamlined electronic system for making reports of suspected child abuse has decreased the paperwork requirement related to mandatory reporting. In addition, as the approved course provider is required to report participation/attendance in the required

training/continuing education electronically to the bureau, licensees and applicants have no additional reporting requirements. No professional skills are necessary to the preparation of any report or record under this final-form regulation.

- (c) The amended regulation should have minimal adverse impact on small businesses. The costs associated with the final-form regulation fall primarily on individual applicants and licensees, and not on their employers. Although licensees who operate or are employees of small businesses now have to complete mandatory training in child abuse recognition and reporting, the law and regulations provide that this requirement is incorporated in the existing continuing education requirements, so there is no increased burden. Therefore, only applicants for licensure would have a new requirement to complete training in child abuse recognition and reporting. Many approved courses are free or low cost. Most small businesses that employ licensees of the board could avoid any impact by requiring their employees to pay for their own licensure-related costs, including the costs associated with continuing education.
- (d) As noted, many approved courses are free or low cost. Small businesses can avoid any impact by requiring their employees to pay for their own licensure-related costs, including the costs associated with continuing education. Also, the costs associated with completing the mandatory training in child abuse recognition and reporting could be avoided by selecting one of the free options for completing this training. The board could discern no less costly alternative methods of achieving the purposes of the amended regulation or the CPSL.

(25) List any special provisions which have been developed to meet the particular needs of affected groups or persons including, but not limited to, minorities, the elderly, small businesses, and farmers.

The board has identified no special groups that needed special provisions. The CPSL applies equally to all mandated reporters.

(26) Include a description of any alternative regulatory provisions which have been considered and rejected and a statement that the least burdensome acceptable alternative has been selected.

No alternative regulatory provisions have been considered. The board believes that these amended regulations provide the least burdensome means of complying with the CPSL.

(27) In conducting a regulatory flexibility analysis, explain whether regulatory methods were considered that will minimize any adverse impact on small businesses (as defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012), including:

- a) The establishment of less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
- b) The establishment of less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
- c) The consolidation or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
- d) The establishment of performing standards for small businesses to replace design or operational standards required in the regulation; and

- e) The exemption of small businesses from all or any part of the requirements contained in the regulation.

Responses:

- a) No less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses would be consistent with the goals of the CPSL.
- b) No less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance for small businesses would be consistent with the goals of the CPSL.
- c) The new electronic reporting process established by the Department of Human Services simplifies the reporting process for all businesses, including small businesses.
- d) There are no design or operational standards in the amended regulation.
- e) Exempting small businesses or employees of small businesses from any of the requirements contained in the amended regulation would not be consistent with the intent of the CPSL.

(28) If data is the basis for this regulation, please provide a description of the data, explain in detail how the data was obtained, and how it meets the acceptability standard for empirical, replicable and testable data that is supported by documentation, statistics, reports, studies or research. Please submit data or supporting materials with the regulatory package. If the material exceeds 50 pages, please provide it in a searchable electronic format or provide a list of citations and internet links that, where possible, can be accessed in a searchable format in lieu of the actual material. If other data was considered but not used, please explain why that data was determined not to be acceptable.

No data is the basis for this amended regulation.

(29) Include a schedule for review of the regulation including:

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. The length of the public comment period: | 30 days |
| B. The date or dates on which any public meetings or hearings will be held: | The board considers its regulatory proposals at regularly scheduled public meetings, a schedule of which is included in item (30) below. |
| C. The expected date of delivery of the final-form regulation: | Summer 2026 |
| D. The expected effective date of the final-form regulation: | Upon notice or publication of the final-form rulemaking in the <i>Pennsylvania Bulletin</i> . |
| E. The expected date by which compliance with the final-form regulation will be required: | Upon notice or publication of the final-form rulemaking in the <i>Pennsylvania</i> |

Bulletin.

F. The expected date by which required permits, licenses or other approvals must be obtained:

N/A

(30) Describe the plan developed for evaluating the continuing effectiveness of the regulations after its implementation.

The board continually reviews the efficacy of its regulations, as part of its annual review process under Executive Order 1996-1. The board reviews its regulatory proposals at regularly scheduled public meetings. For the remainder of 2026, the board is scheduled to meet on: June 16; August 11; September 22 and December 1, 2026. More information can be found on the board's website.

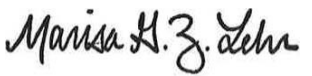
**FACE SHEET
FOR FILING DOCUMENTS
WITH THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

(Pursuant to Commonwealth Documents Law)

RECEIVED

Independent Regulatory
Review Commission
July 29, 2026

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Copy below is hereby approved as to form and legality. Attorney General BY: _____ (DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL) _____ DATE OF APPROVAL ☐ Check if applicable Copy not approved. Objections attached.	Copy below is hereby certified to be a true and correct copy of a document issued, prescribed or promulgated by: _____ State Board of Massage Therapy (AGENCY) DOCUMENT/FISCAL NOTE NO. <u>16A-722</u> DATE OF ADOPTION: _____  BY: _____ Bryan A. Strawser TITLE <u>Board Chair</u> (EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY)	Copy below is hereby approved as to form and legality. Executive or Independent Agencies.  BY: _____ (Deputy General Counsel, Chief Counsel, Independent Agency) (Strike inapplicable title) <u>7/14/26</u> DATE OF APPROVAL ☐ Check if applicable. No Attorney General approval or objection within 30 days after submission.
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FINAL RULEMAKING

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY**

TITLE 49 PA CODE CHAPTER 20

§§ 20.21, 20.25, 20.26, 20.31, 20.32 and 20.71—20.79

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The State Board of Massage Therapy (board) amends §§ 20.21, 20.25, 20.26, 20.31 and 20.32 and adds §§ 20.71—20.79 (relating to child abuse reporting requirements) to read as set forth in Annex A.

Effective Date

This rulemaking will be effective upon publication of the final-form rulemaking in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Statutory Authority

Section 4(2) of the Massage Therapy Law (act) (63 P.S. § 627.4(2)) sets forth the board’s general rulemaking authority. Under 23 Pa.C.S. Chapter 63 (relating to Child Protective Services Law) (CPSL), specifically 23 Pa.C.S. § 6383(b)(2) (relating to education and training), the board is required to promulgate regulations to implement the mandatory reporting requirements for licensees of the board who are identified as mandated reporters under the CPSL. Section 6311 of 23 Pa.C.S. (relating to persons required to report suspected child abuse) provides that “[a] person licensed or certified to practice in any health-related field under the jurisdiction of the Department of State” is a mandated reporter. In addition, 23 Pa.C.S. § 6383(b)(2) requires each licensing board with jurisdiction over professional licensees identified as mandated reporters to require training in child abuse recognition and reporting. Finally, section 3(a) of the act (63 P.S. § 627.3(a)) establishes the board, an administrative board within the Department of State. “Department” is defined in section 2 of the act (63 P.S. § 627.2) as “[t]he Department of State of the Commonwealth.” Thus, the board has determined that its licensees practice in a health-related field and that the board is a health-related board under the jurisdiction of the Department of State in accordance with section 3(a) of the act and therefore, it is authorized to promulgate this

rulemaking.

Background and Purpose

When the board promulgated its initial rulemaking package in 2011 (published at 41 Pa.B. 16 (January 1, 2011)), the requirements for mandatory reporters under the CPSL were not included. The need to regulate in this area did not occur to the board until other boards in the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (bureau) began to amend their existing regulations on the topic of the mandatory child abuse reporting requirements as a result of numerous amendments that were made to the CPSL beginning in 2014 and continuing through 2019, including the requirement imposed by the act of April 15, 2014 (P.L. 411, No. 31) (Act 31 of 2014) on all health-related boards to require training in child abuse recognition and reporting for licensees and certificate holders who are considered "mandated reporters" under the CPSL. Section 2 of Act 31 of 2014 provided that these training requirements would apply to all persons applying for a health-related license or applying for renewal of a health-related license on or after January 1, 2015, and were implemented bureau-wide as of that date. This rulemaking is necessary to incorporate the mandatory reporting requirements under the CPSL in Chapter 20 (relating to State Board of Massage Therapy), including the mandatory training requirements required by Act 31 of 2014, to provide notice to licensees of their responsibilities as mandated reporters under the CPSL.

Summary of comments / Description of any amendments made from proposed stage

Notice of the proposed rulemaking was published at 55 Pa.B. 4022 (June 14, 2025). Publication was followed by a 30-day public comment period during which the board received ten public comments. Neither the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee of the Senate (SCP/PLC) nor the Professional Licensure Committee of the House of Representatives

(HPLC) submitted any comments. The Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) issued a letter dated August 13, 2025, indicating that it had “no objections, comments, or recommendations to offer on this regulation” and further that if the board “deliver[s] the final-form regulation without revisions, and the committees do not take any action, it will be deemed approved.”

Of the ten public comments received, all were from individual massage therapists. One commentor was in full support of continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting but asked that it not be in addition to the overall continuing education requirement. In response, § 20.78 provides that the board accepts 2 hours of continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting as part of the 24 hours required for license renewal. Therefore, this training does not increase the overall continuing education requirement.

Three of the commenters questioned the need for amendments to the regulations, stating they are already mandated reporters and have been taking the required training. The board confirms that all licensees in a health-related field are considered mandated reporters and required to complete mandatory continuing education, including the 3 hours of initial training and the 2 hours of continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting under the CPSL. These amendments to the regulations are consistent with the CPSL and will help to avoid confusion as to massage therapists’ responsibilities in this area. The final-form rulemaking does not add any new training or education requirements above and beyond what the statute already imposes.

Six of the ten commenters opposed the amendments stating that children are rarely clients of massage therapists and seldomly even present in facilities where massage therapy occurs. One exception noted by a commenter was in regard to sports medicine, but the commenter stated that

typically the children are accompanied by a parent or another adult in either scenario. Another commentor expressed concern about the local availability of required training. The board acknowledges these concerns but notes that there are numerous low-cost and free options available for completing the required training. Moreover, the CPSL requires all health-related boards to require training in child abuse recognition and reporting for licensees who are considered mandated reporters under the CPSL. Massage therapists are considered mandated reporters under the CPSL, and therefore, must abide by the various requirements set forth in the statute and in the board's regulations, which are being amended herein to conform to the statute. The CPSL makes no distinction between individual places of business where children may or may not be clients, nor does it distinguish between individual businesses where children may or may not be likely to be present. The board does not have the authority to incorporate exceptions into its regulations to address the commenters' assertions that providing massage therapy services to clients who are children is not a common practice. Nor can the board make any allowances for businesses based on whether or not children are likely to be present in massage therapy facilities.

For these reasons, the board has made no changes from the proposed rulemaking to the final-form rulemaking.

Fiscal Impact and Paperwork Requirements

The board does not anticipate any significant fiscal impact or paperwork requirements relating to this rulemaking. Because licensees are already required to complete mandatory continuing education, and the initial training and continuing education hours in child abuse recognition and reporting are incorporated in the existing requirement, there would be no increased burden. Only applicants for licensure as a massage therapist would incur an additional requirement,

and as there are many low-cost and free options available to complete the training, the board anticipates this impact to also be minimal. Because all approved training providers of the mandatory training in child abuse recognition and reporting are required to report attendance/participation electronically, there are no additional paperwork requirements imposed on licensees or certificate holders. In addition, the implementation of an electronic reporting system for mandated reporters of child abuse under the CPSL by the Department of Human Services has decreased the paperwork requirements related to the mandatory reporting requirements.

Sunset Date

The board continuously monitors the effectiveness of its regulations on a fiscal year and biennial basis. Therefore, no sunset date has been assigned.

Regulatory Review

Under Section 5(a) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5(a)), on May 27, 2025, the board submitted a copy of the notice of proposed rulemaking, published at 55 Pa.B. 4022 (June 14, 2025) and a copy of a Regulatory Analysis form to IRRC and the chairpersons of the SCP/PLC and HPLC for review and comment. A copy of this material is available to the public upon request.

Under section 5(c) of the Regulatory Review Act, IRRC, SCP/PLC and HPLC were provided with copies of the comments received on the regulation, as well as other documents when requested. In preparing this final-form rulemaking, the board made no revisions based upon the comments received from the public. There were no comments from IRRC, the SCP/PLC or the HPLC.

Under section 5.1(a) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5a(a)), on Wednesday,

July 29, 2026, the board delivered this final-form rulemaking to IRRC, the SCP/PLC and the HPLC. Under section 5.1(j.2) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5a(j.2)), the final-form rulemaking was deemed approved by the SCP/PLC and the HPLC on _____, 2026. Under section 5.1(e) of the Regulatory Review Act, IRRC met on _____, 2026, and approved the final-form rulemaking.

Additional Information

Additional information may be obtained by writing to Regulatory Counsel, State Board of Massage Therapy, P.O. Box 69523, Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523, or RA-STRegulatoryCounsel@pa.gov. Please reference “16A-722 (Child Abuse Reporting Requirements).”

Findings

The board finds that:

- (1) Public notice of proposed rulemaking was given under sections 201 and 202 of the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L. 769, No. 240) (45 P.S. §§ 1201 and 1202), known as the Commonwealth Documents Law and the regulations promulgated thereunder, 1 Pa. Code §§ 7.1 and 7.2 (relating to notice of proposed rulemaking required; and adoption of regulations).
- (2) A public comment period was provided as required by law, and all comments received were considered in drafting this final-form rulemaking.
- (3) No amendments were made in this final-form rulemaking; therefore, the final-form rulemaking does not enlarge the original purpose of the proposed rulemaking published

at 55 Pa.B. 4022.

- (4) This final-form rulemaking is necessary and appropriate for the administration of the relevant provisions of the Child Protective Services Law (23 Pa.C.S. §§ 6301–6388).

Order

The board, therefore, orders that:

- (a) The regulations of the board at 49 Pa. Code Chapter 20 are amended by amending §§ 20.21, 20.25, 20.26, 20.31 and 20.32, and adding §§ 20.71—20.79 to read as set forth in Annex A.
- (b) The board shall submit the final-form regulation to the Office of Attorney General and the Office of General Counsel for approval as required by law.
- (c) The board shall submit the final-form regulation to IRRC, the SCP/PLC and HPLC as required by law.
- (d) The board shall certify the final-form regulation and deposit it with the Legislative Reference Bureau as required by law.
- (e) This final-form regulation shall take effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

BRYAN A. STRAWSER, L.M.T.,
Chairperson

16A-722 Public Commenters on Proposed Rulemaking

#	Name	Company	Email	Requested Final-Form ¹
1	Julie Ackerman		julie@flowtherapies.com	
2	Remona Mansilla-Perry LMT		monamonamonamona@aol.com	
3	Astrid Anderson LMT		astrida.massage@gmail.com	
4	Marcia A Sorchik, LMT		msorch49@gmail.com	
5	Lisa Elder; LMT, BCTMB		angel81869@hotmail.com	
6	Lauren K Carty		lksseth@yahoo.com	
7	Cynthia Greenwood		greenwood.c@gmail.com	
8	Brandy Thomas LMT		blt4t@verizon.net	
9	Luci Zirpoli		lucizirp@hotmail.com	
10	L. Shaw		cofcinfo@gmail.com	

¹ Pursuant to 1 Pa. Code § 307.2, no commentators requested additional information on the final-form regulation.

Annex A

TITLE 49. PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL STANDARDS

PART I. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Subpart A. PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

CHAPTER 20. STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

LICENSURE

§ 20.21. Application for temporary practice permit, initial licensure and licensure by reciprocity.

(a) Application forms may be obtained from the Board and are posted on the Board's [web site] website.

(b) An applicant for licensure shall submit, or cause to be submitted, to the Board a completed and signed application form, the application fee as set forth in § 20.3 (relating to fees) and the following documents:

* * * * *

(4) Proof of graduation from high school or the equivalent.

(5) Verification of completion of at least 3 hours of mandatory training in child abuse recognition and reporting in accordance with § 20.78 (relating to child abuse recognition and reporting—mandatory training requirement).

(c) An applicant shall request that the applicant's massage therapy school send directly to the Board the applicant's official transcript showing successful completion of a massage therapy program in the subject matter and hours required by the act and this chapter. If a school is no longer in operation, the Board may accept a copy of the official transcript from the school's record

depository.

* * * * *

§ 20.25. Additional application requirements for applicants for licensure by reciprocity.

(a) An applicant for licensure by reciprocity shall submit an application form provided by the Board and information required under § 20.21(b)(1)—(3) **and (5)** and (c) (relating to application for temporary practice permit, initial licensure and licensure by reciprocity), and shall be subject to the provisions of § 20.21(d) and (e).

* * * * *

§ 20.26. Application requirements for temporary practice permits.

(a) An applicant for a temporary practice permit shall submit an application form provided by the Board.

(b) In addition to the completed application form, an applicant for a temporary practice permit shall comply with the application procedures under § 20.21(b)(1)—(3) **and (5)** and (c) (relating to application for temporary practice permit, initial licensure and licensure by reciprocity), and shall be subject to the provisions of § 20.21(d) and (e).

* * * * *

LICENSURE RENEWAL AND REACTIVATION

§ 20.31. Expiration, renewal and reactivation of license.

* * * * *

(c) *Renewal application.* A licensee shall:

- (1) Apply for licensure renewal online or on a 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, **or cause to be submitted,** verification of completion of at least 24 hours of Board-approved continuing education, **including at least 2 hours of mandatory training in child abuse recognition and reporting in accordance with § 20.78 (relating to child abuse recognition and reporting—mandatory training requirement).**
- (5) Submit verification that the licensee has read, understood and will comply with the act and this chapter.

* * * * *

(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 **including at least 2 hours of mandatory training in child abuse recognition and reporting in accordance with § 20.78.**
- (4) Current CPR certification.
- (5) An affidavit of nonpractice within this Commonwealth.

* * * * *

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

(a) [Licensees] **Except as provided in subsection (d), 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 (relating 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.

(c.1) Of the 24 hours of continuing education required for renewal, licensees shall complete at least 2 hours of mandatory training in child abuse recognition and reporting during each biennial renewal period in accordance with § 20.78 (relating to child abuse recognition and reporting—mandatory training requirement). The Board will accept courses approved as provided in § 20.79 (relating to child abuse recognition and reporting course approval process) without regard to whether the course otherwise complies with § 20.33.

(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.

* * * * *

(Editor’s Note: Sections 20.71—20.79 are to be added and are printed in regular type to enhance readability.)

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

§ 20.71. Definitions relating to child abuse reporting requirements.

The following words and terms, when used in this section and §§ 20.72—20.79, have the

following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

Bodily injury—Impairment of physical condition or substantial pain.

Bureau—The Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs within the Department of State of the Commonwealth.

Child—An individual under 18 years of age.

Child abuse—Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly doing any of the following:

- (i) Causing bodily injury to a child through any recent act or failure to act.
- (ii) Fabricating, feigning or intentionally exaggerating or inducing a medical symptom or disease which results in a potentially harmful medical evaluation or treatment to the child through any recent act.
- (iii) Causing or substantially contributing to serious mental injury to a child through any act or failure to act or a series of such acts or failures to act.
- (iv) Causing sexual abuse or exploitation of a child through any act or failure to act.
- (v) Creating a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to a child through any recent act or failure to act.
- (vi) Creating a likelihood of sexual abuse or exploitation of a child through any recent act or failure to act.
- (vii) Causing serious physical neglect of a child.
- (viii) Engaging in any of the following recent acts:
 - (A) Kicking, biting, throwing, burning, stabbing or cutting a child in a manner that endangers the child.
 - (B) Unreasonably restraining or confining a child, based on consideration of the

method, location or the duration of the restraint or confinement.

- (C) Forcefully shaking a child under 1 year of age.
- (D) Forcefully slapping or otherwise striking a child under 1 year of age.
- (E) Interfering with the breathing of a child.
- (F) Causing a child to be present at a location while a violation of 18 Pa.C.S. § 7508.2 (relating to operation of methamphetamine laboratory) is occurring, provided that the violation is being investigated by law enforcement.
- (G) Leaving a child unsupervised with an individual, other than the child's parent, who the actor knows or reasonably should have known:
 - (I) Is required to register as a Tier II or Tier III sexual offender under 42 Pa.C.S. Chapter 97, Subchapter H (relating to registration of sexual offenders) when the victim of the sexual offense was under 18 years of age when the crime was committed.
 - (II) Has been determined to be a sexually violent predator under 42 Pa.C.S. § 9799.24 (relating to assessments) or any of its predecessors.
 - (III) Has been determined to be a sexually violent delinquent child as defined in 42 Pa.C.S. § 9799.12 (relating to definitions).
 - (IV) Has been determined to be a sexually violent predator under 42 Pa.C.S. § 9799.58 (relating to assessments) or has to register for life under 42 Pa.C.S. § 9799.55(b) (relating to registration).
- (ix) Causing the death of the child through any act or failure to act.
- (x) Engaging a child in a severe form of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking, as those

terms are defined under section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (Division A of Pub.L. No. 106-386).

ChildLine—An organizational unit of the Department of Human Services, which operates a 24-hour a day Statewide toll-free telephone system for receiving reports of suspected child abuse, referring reports for investigation and maintaining the reports in the appropriate file.

Mandated reporter—A person who is required under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6311 (relating to persons required to report suspected child abuse) to make a report of suspected child abuse. For purposes of this chapter, the term includes licensed massage therapists.

Parent—A biological parent, adoptive parent or legal guardian.

Perpetrator—A person who has committed child abuse as defined in this section.

- (i) This term includes only the following:
 - (A) A parent of the child.
 - (B) A spouse or former spouse of the child's parent.
 - (C) A paramour or former paramour of the child's parent.
 - (D) An individual 14 years of age or older who is a person responsible for the child's welfare or who has direct contact with children as an employee of child-care services, a school or through a program, activity or service.
 - (E) An individual 14 years of age or older who resides in the same home as the child.
 - (F) An individual 18 years of age or older who does not reside in the same home as the child but is related, within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity by birth or adoption, to the child.

- (G) An individual 18 years of age or older who engages a child in severe forms of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking, as those terms are defined under section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.
- (ii) Only the following may be considered a perpetrator for failing to act, as provided in this section:
 - (A) A parent of the child.
 - (B) A spouse or former spouse of the child's parent.
 - (C) A paramour or former paramour of the child's parent.
 - (D) A person responsible for the child's welfare who is 18 years of age or older.
 - (E) A person 18 years of age or older who resides in the same home as the child.

Person responsible for the child's welfare—A person who provides permanent or temporary care, supervision, mental health diagnosis or treatment, training or control of a child in lieu of parental care, supervision and control.

Program, activity or service—Any of the following in which children participate and which is sponsored by a school or a public or private organization:

- (i) A youth camp or program.
- (ii) A recreational camp or program.
- (iii) A sports or athletic program.
- (iv) A community or social outreach program.
- (v) An enrichment or educational program.
- (vi) A troop, club or similar organization.

Recent act or failure to act—An act or failure to act committed within 2 years of the date of

the report to the Department of Human Services or county agency.

Serious mental injury—A psychological condition, as diagnosed by a physician or licensed psychologist, including the refusal of appropriate treatment, that does one or more of the following:

- (i) Renders a child chronically and severely anxious, agitated, depressed, socially withdrawn, psychotic or in reasonable fear that the child's life or safety is threatened.
- (ii) Seriously interferes with a child's ability to accomplish age-appropriate developmental and social tasks.

Serious physical neglect—Any of the following when committed by a perpetrator that endangers a child's life or health, threatens a child's well-being, causes bodily injury or impairs a child's health, development or functioning:

- (i) A repeated, prolonged or egregious failure to supervise a child in a manner that is appropriate considering the child's developmental age and abilities.
- (ii) The failure to provide a child with adequate essentials of life, including food, shelter or medical care.

Sexual abuse or exploitation—Any of the following:

- (i) The employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement or coercion of a child to engage in or assist another individual to engage in sexually explicit conduct, which includes the following:
 - (A) Looking at sexual or other intimate parts of a child or another individual for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire in any individual.
 - (B) Participating in sexually explicit conversation either in person, by telephone, by computer or by a computer-aided device for the purpose of sexual

stimulation or gratification of any individual.

(C) Actual or simulated sexual activity or nudity for the purpose of sexual stimulation or gratification of any individual.

(D) Actual or simulated sexual activity for the purpose of producing visual depiction, including photographing, videotaping, computer depicting or filming.

(ii) Any of the following offenses committed against a child:

(A) Rape as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 3121 (relating to rape).

(B) Statutory sexual assault as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 3122.1 (relating to statutory sexual assault).

(C) Involuntary deviate sexual intercourse as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 3123 (relating to involuntary deviate sexual intercourse).

(D) Sexual assault as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 3124.1 (relating to sexual assault).

(E) Institutional sexual assault as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 3124.2 (relating to institutional sexual assault).

(F) Aggravated indecent assault as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 3125 (relating to aggravated indecent assault).

(G) Indecent assault as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 3126 (relating to indecent assault).

(H) Indecent exposure as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 3127 (relating to indecent exposure).

(I) Incest as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 4302 (relating to incest).

(J) Prostitution as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 5902 (relating to prostitution and

related offenses).

(K) Sexual abuse as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 6312 (relating to sexual abuse of children).

(L) Unlawful contact with a minor as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 6318 (relating to unlawful contact with minor).

(M) Sexual exploitation as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 6320 (relating to sexual exploitation of children).

(iii) For the purposes of subparagraph (i), the term does not include consensual activities between a child who is 14 years of age or older and another person who is 14 years of age or older and whose age is within 4 years of the child's age.

§ 20.72. Suspected child abuse—mandated reporting requirements.

(a) *General rule.*

(1) Under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6311 (relating to persons required to report suspected child abuse), licensed massage therapists are considered mandated reporters. A mandated reporter shall make a report of suspected child abuse in accordance with this section if the mandated reporter has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse under any of the following circumstances:

- (i) The mandated reporter comes into contact with the child in the course of employment, occupation and practice of the profession or through a regularly scheduled program, activity or service.
- (ii) The mandated reporter is directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance or training of the child, or is affiliated with an agency, institution,

organization, school, regularly established church or religious organization or other entity that is directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance or training of the child.

(iii) A person makes a specific disclosure to the mandated reporter that an identifiable child is the victim of child abuse.

(iv) An individual 14 years of age or older makes a specific disclosure to the mandated reporter that the individual has committed child abuse.

(2) Nothing in this subsection requires a child to come before the mandated reporter in order for the mandated reporter to make a report of suspected child abuse.

(3) Nothing in this subsection requires the mandated reporter to take steps to identify the person responsible for the child abuse, if unknown, for the mandated reporter to make a report of suspected child abuse.

(b) *Staff members of public or private agencies, institutions and facilities.* Whenever a mandated reporter is required to make a report under subsection (a) in the capacity as a member of the staff of a medical or other public or private institution, school, facility or agency, that mandated reporter shall report immediately in accordance with subsection (c) and shall immediately thereafter notify the person in charge of the institution, school, facility or agency or the designated agent of the person in charge.

(c) *Reporting procedure.* A mandated reporter shall immediately make a report of suspected child abuse to the Department of Human Services by one of the following:

(1) Making an oral report of suspected child abuse by telephone to ChildLine at (800) 932-0313, followed by a written report within 48 hours to the Department of Human Services

or the county agency assigned to the case in a manner and format prescribed by the Department of Human Services. The written report submitted under this paragraph may be submitted electronically.

(2) Making an electronic report of suspected child abuse in accordance with 23 Pa.C.S. § 6305 (relating to electronic reporting) through the Department of Human Service's Child Welfare Information Solution self-service portal at www.compass.dhs.pa.gov/cwis. A confirmation by the Department of Human Services of the receipt of a report of suspected child abuse submitted electronically relieves the mandated reporter of the duty to make an additional oral or written report.

(d) *Written or electronic reports.* A written or electronic report of suspected child abuse shall include the following information, if known:

(1) The names and addresses of the child, the child's parents and any other person responsible for the child's welfare.

(2) Where the suspected child abuse occurred.

(3) The age and sex of each subject of the report.

(4) The nature and extent of the suspected child abuse, including any evidence of prior abuse to the child or any sibling of the child.

(5) The name and relationship of each individual responsible for causing the suspected abuse and any evidence of prior abuse by each individual.

(6) Family composition.

(7) The source of the report.

(8) The name, telephone number and email address of the person making the report.

(9) The actions taken by the person making the report, including actions taken under 23 Pa.C.S. §§ 6314—6317.

(10) Other information required by Federal law or regulation.

(11) Other information which the Department of Human Services may require by regulation.

§ 20.73. Photographs, medical tests and X-rays of child subject to report.

(a) A mandated reporter may take or cause to be taken photographs of the child who is subject to a report and, if clinically indicated, cause to be performed a radiological examination and other medical tests on the child.

(b) Medical summaries or reports of the photographs, X-rays and relevant medical tests taken shall be sent to the county children and youth social service agency at the time the written report is sent, or within 48 hours after an electronic report is made under § 20.72(c)(2) (relating to suspected child abuse—mandated reporting requirements), or as soon thereafter as possible.

(c) The county children and youth social service agency shall have access to actual photographs or duplicates and X-rays and may obtain them or duplicates of them upon request.

(d) Medical summaries or reports of the photographs, X-rays and relevant medical tests shall be made available to law enforcement officials in the course of investigating cases under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6340(a)(9) or (10) (relating to release of information in confidential reports).

§ 20.74. Suspected death as a result of child abuse—mandated reporting requirement.

A mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child died as a result of child abuse shall report that suspicion to the coroner or medical examiner of the county where death occurred or, in the case where the child is transported to another county for medical treatment, to

the coroner or medical examiner of the county where the injuries were sustained.

§ 20.75. Immunity from liability.

(a) Under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6318 (relating to immunity from liability), a mandated reporter who participates in good faith in the making of a report of suspected child abuse, making a referral for general protective services, cooperating or consulting with an investigation including providing information to a child fatality or near fatality review team, testifying in a proceeding arising out of an instance of suspected child abuse or general protective services or engaging in any action authorized under 23 Pa.C.S. §§ 6314—6317, shall have immunity from civil and criminal liability that might otherwise result by reason of the mandated reporter's actions. For the purpose of any civil or criminal proceeding, the good faith of the mandated reporter shall be presumed.

(b) The board will uphold the same good faith presumption in any disciplinary proceeding that might result by reason of a mandated reporter's actions under §§ 20.72—20.74 (relating to suspected child abuse—mandated reporting requirements; photographs, medical tests and X-rays of child subject to report; and suspected death as a result of child abuse—mandated reporting requirement).

§ 20.76. Confidentiality—waived.

To protect children from abuse, the reporting requirements of §§ 20.72—20.74 (relating to suspected child abuse—mandated reporting requirements; photographs, medical tests and X-rays of child subject to report; and suspected death as a result of child abuse—mandated reporting requirement) take precedence over the provisions of any client confidentiality, ethical principle or professional standard that might otherwise apply.

§ 20.77. Noncompliance.

(a) *Disciplinary action.* A mandated reporter who willfully fails to comply with the reporting requirements in §§ 20.72—20.74 (relating to suspected child abuse—mandated reporting requirements; photographs, medical tests and X-rays of child subject to report; and suspected death as a result of child abuse—mandated reporting requirement) will be subject to disciplinary action under section 9(a) of the act (63 P.S. § 627.9(a)).

(b) *Criminal penalties.* Under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6319 (relating to penalties), a mandated reporter who is required to report a case of suspected child abuse or to make a referral to the appropriate authorities, and who willfully fails to do so, commits a criminal offense, as follows:

(1) An offense not otherwise specified in paragraph (2), (3) or (4) is a misdemeanor of the second degree.

(2) An offense is a felony of the third degree if all of the following apply:

(i) The mandated reporter willfully fails to report.

(ii) The child abuse constitutes a felony of the first degree or higher.

(iii) The mandated reporter has direct knowledge of the nature of the abuse.

(3) If the willful failure to report an individual suspected of child abuse continues while the mandated reporter knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is being subjected to child abuse by the same individual or while the mandated reporter knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that the same individual continues to have direct contact with children through the individual's employment, program, activity or service, the mandated reporter commits a felony of the third degree, except that if the child abuse constitutes a felony of the first degree or higher, the mandated reporter commits a felony of the second degree.

(4) A mandated reporter who, at the time of sentencing for an offense under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6319, has been convicted of a prior offense under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6319, commits a felony of the third degree, except that if the child abuse constitutes a felony of the first degree or higher, the penalty for the second or subsequent offense is a felony of the second degree.

§ 20.78. Child abuse recognition and reporting—mandatory training requirement.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (c), individuals applying to the board for an initial license shall complete at least 3 hours of training in child abuse recognition and reporting requirements which has been approved by the Department of Human Services and the bureau, as set forth in § 20.79 (relating to child abuse recognition and reporting course approval process). The applicant shall certify on the application that the applicant has either completed the training or has been granted an exemption under subsection (c). The board will not issue a license unless the bureau has received an electronic report from an approved course provider documenting the attendance or participation by the applicant or the applicant has obtained an exemption under subsection (c).

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c), licensees seeking renewal of a license issued by the board shall complete, as a condition of biennial renewal of the license, at least 2 hours of approved continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting. These 2 hours of continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting will be accepted as a portion of the 24 hours of continuing education required under § 20.32 (relating to continuing education hours, maintenance of certificates of completion) without regard as to whether the approved course otherwise meets the requirements of § 20.33 (relating to continuing education content and providers). For credit to be granted, the continuing education course or program must be approved

by the bureau, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, as set forth in § 20.79. The board will not renew a license unless the bureau has received an electronic report from an approved course provider documenting attendance or participation by the licensee in an approved course within the applicable biennial renewal period or the licensee has obtained an exemption under subsection (c). If a licensee also holds a license issued by another licensing board within the bureau that requires mandatory training in child abuse recognition and reporting, credit for completion of an approved course will be applied to both licenses.

(c) An applicant or licensee may apply in writing for an exemption from the training/continuing education requirements set forth in subsections (a) and (b) provided the applicant or license holder meets one of the following:

- (1) The applicant or licensee submits documentation demonstrating that:
 - (i) The applicant or licensee has already completed child abuse recognition training as required by section 1205.6 of the Public School Code of 1949 (24 P.S. § 12-1205.6).
 - (ii) The training was approved by the Department of Education in consultation with the Department of Human Services.
 - (iii) The amount of training received equals or exceeds the amount of training or continuing education required under subsection (a) or (b), as applicable.
 - (iv) For purposes of licensure renewal, the training must have been completed during the relevant biennial renewal period.
- (2) The applicant or licensee submits documentation demonstrating that:
 - (i) The applicant or licensee has already completed child abuse recognition

training required by 23 Pa.C.S. § 6383(c) (relating to education and training).

- (ii) The training was approved by the Department of Human Services.
- (iii) The amount of training received equals or exceeds the amount of training or continuing education required under subsection (a) or (b), as applicable.
- (iv) For purposes of licensure renewal, the training must have been completed during the relevant biennial renewal period.

(3) The applicant or licensee submits documentation demonstrating why the applicant or licensee should not be subject to the training or continuing education requirement. The board will not grant an exemption based solely upon proof that children are not a part of the applicant's or licensee's practice. Each request for an exemption under this paragraph will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The board may grant the exemption if it finds that completion of the training or continuing education requirement is duplicative or unnecessary under the circumstances.

(d) Exemptions granted under subsection (c) are applicable only for the biennial renewal period for which the exemption is requested. If an exemption is granted, the board will issue or renew the license. If an exemption is denied, the board will email the applicant or licensee a discrepancy notice notifying them of the need to either complete an approved course or, if warranted, to submit additional documentation in support of their request for an exemption.

§ 20.79. Child abuse recognition and reporting course approval process.

(a) An individual, entity or organization may apply for approval to provide mandated reporter training as required under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6383(b) (relating to education and training) by

submitting the course materials set forth in subsection (b) simultaneously to the Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families, and to the bureau at the following addresses:

(1) Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families, Health and Welfare Building, 625 Forster Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120, RA-PWOCYFCPSL@pa.gov.

(2) Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, 2525 North Seventh Street, P.O. Box 2649, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649, RA-stcpsl_course_app@pa.gov.

(b) Submissions shall include all of the following:

(1) Contact information (mailing address, email address and telephone number) for the agency/course administrator.

(2) General description of the training and course delivery method.

(3) Title of the course.

(4) Timed agenda and estimated hours of training.

(5) Learning objectives.

(6) Intended audience.

(7) Course-related materials including, as applicable:

(i) Handouts.

(ii) Narrated script or talking points.

(iii) Interactive activities or exercises.

(iv) Videos and audio/visual content.

(v) Knowledge checks, quizzes or other means of assessing participants'

understanding of the material.

(vi) For online courses, a transcript or recording of audio training.

(8) Citation of sources, including written permission to use copyrighted material, if applicable.

(9) Anticipated credentials or experience of the presenter, or biography of presenter, if known.

(10) Printed materials used to market the training.

(11) Evaluation used to assess participants' satisfaction with the training.

(12) Sample certificate of attendance/participation, which shall include:

(i) Name of participant.

(ii) Title of training.

(iii) Date of training.

(iv) Length of training (2 hours or 3 hours).

(v) Name and signature of the authorized representative of the provider. The signature may be an electronic signature.

(vi) Statement affirming the participant attended the entire course.

(13) Verification of ability to report participation or attendance electronically to the bureau in a format prescribed by the bureau.

(c) The bureau will notify the applicant in writing upon approval of the course and will post a list of approved courses on the bureau's website and the board's website.



Pennsylvania
Department of State

July 29, 2026

The Honorable George D. Bedwick, Chairman
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION
Forum Place
555 Walnut Street, Suite 804
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: Final Rulemaking
State Board of Massage Therapy
16A-722: Child Abuse Reporting Requirements

Dear Chairman Bedwick:

Enclosed is a copy of a final rulemaking package of the State Board of Massage Therapy pertaining to 16A-722: Child Abuse Reporting Requirements.

The Board will be pleased to provide whatever information the Commission may require during the course of its review of the rulemaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bryan A. Strawser".

Bryan A. Strawser, Chairperson
State Board of Massage Therapy

BS/AA/ms
Enclosures

cc: Arion Claggett, Acting Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs
K. Kalonji Johnson, Deputy Secretary for Regulatory Programs
Robert Beecher, Policy Director, Department of State
Andrew LaFratte, Deputy Policy Director, Department of State
Miguel Ruiz, Assistant Deputy Secretary of Policy and Planning
Jason C. Giurintano, Deputy Chief Counsel, Department of State
Jacqueline A. Wolfgang, Senior Regulatory Counsel, Department of State
Addie A. Abelson, Regulatory Counsel, Department of State
Thomas A. Davis, Board Counsel, State Board of Massage Therapy
State Board of Massage Therapy



Outlook

RE: DELIVERY NOTICE OF: REGULATION #16A-722 (Child Abuse Reporting Requirements)

From Vazquez, Enid <enid.vazquez@pasenate.com>

Date Wed 7/29/2026 2:51 PM

To Sheehe, Melanie <msheehe@pa.gov>; Monoski, Jesse <Jesse.Monoski@pasenate.com>; Dimm, Ian <Ian.Dimm@pasenate.com>; Kelly, Joseph <Joseph.Kelly@pasenate.com>

Good afternoon,

This has been received.

Thank you,

Enid Vazquez

State Senator Lisa M. Boscola

One E. Broad Street - Suite 120

Bethlehem, PA 18018

O: 610-868-8667

F: 610-861-2184

[https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.senatorboscola.com%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cmsheehe%40pa.gov%7Cc1fcc671c44a591a608deeda26812%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C639209478941957250%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljo1TWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=u87SX3EydV1AwY8vjxQ6QF8BzdqGUqalwfTPAfA7B4%3D&reserved=0)

[url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.senatorboscola.com%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cmsheehe%40pa.gov%7Cc1fcc671c44a591a608deeda26812%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C639209478941957250%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljo1TWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=u87SX3EydV1AwY8vjxQ6QF8BzdqGUqalwfTPAfA7B4%3D&reserved=0](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.senatorboscola.com%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cmsheehe%40pa.gov%7Cc1fcc671c44a591a608deeda26812%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C639209478941957250%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljo1TWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=u87SX3EydV1AwY8vjxQ6QF8BzdqGUqalwfTPAfA7B4%3D&reserved=0)

Independent Regulatory
Review Commission

July 29, 2026

-----Original Message-----

From: Sheehe, Melanie <msheehe@pa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 2:47 PM

To: Monoski, Jesse <jesse.monoski@pasenate.com>; Dimm, Ian <ian.dimm@pasenate.com>; Kelly, Joseph <joseph.kelly@pasenate.com>; Vazquez, Enid <enid.vazquez@pasenate.com>

Subject: Fw: DELIVERY NOTICE OF: REGULATION #16A-722 (Child Abuse Reporting Requirements)

■ EXTERNAL EMAIL ■

Hello,

Please confirm receipt of the below-referenced final rulemaking.

Thank you,

[Pennsylvania Icon which has the letters PA surrounded by the state border.] Melanie A. Sheehe

Legal Assistant II - Department of State

Governor's Office of General Counsel

2400 Thea Drive, Suite 201 | Harrisburg, PA 17110

Mailing address: P.O. BOX 69523 | Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523

Phone 717.710.2749 | Fax: 717.787.0251

msheehe@pa.gov | [https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dos.pa.gov%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cmsheehe%40pa.gov%7Cc4f1fcce671c44a591a608deeda26812%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C639209478941983971%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiJlZGU0aVU0QyJCI6IjE5OTk0MjA0IiwiaXNjaWkiOiJFbXB0eU1hcGkiLCJ0eXciOiJ1b250cm9udCJ9&reserved=0)

[url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dos.pa.gov%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cmsheehe%40pa.gov%7Cc4f1fcce671c44a591a608deeda26812%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C639209478941983971%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiJlZGU0aVU0QyJCI6IjE5OTk0MjA0IiwiaXNjaWkiOiJFbXB0eU1hcGkiLCJ0eXciOiJ1b250cm9udCJ9&reserved=0](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dos.pa.gov%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cmsheehe%40pa.gov%7Cc4f1fcce671c44a591a608deeda26812%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C639209478941983971%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiJlZGU0aVU0QyJCI6IjE5OTk0MjA0IiwiaXNjaWkiOiJFbXB0eU1hcGkiLCJ0eXciOiJ1b250cm9udCJ9&reserved=0)

Preferred Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

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From: Sheehe, Melanie <msheehe@pa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 9:48 AM

To: jesse.monoski@pasenate.com <jesse.monoski@pasenate.com>; ian.dimm@pasenate.com <ian.dimm@pasenate.com>; joseph.kelly@pasenate.com <joseph.kelly@pasenate.com>; enid.vazquez@pasenate.com <enid.vazquez@pasenate.com>

Cc: Roland, Joel <joeroland@pa.gov>; Worthington, Amber <agontz@pa.gov>

Subject: DELIVERY NOTICE OF: REGULATION #16A-722 (Child Abuse Reporting Requirements)

Please be advised that the State Board of Massage Therapy (Board) is electronically delivering the below-identified final rulemaking today, Wednesday, July 29, 2026.

*

16A-722 (Child Abuse Reporting Requirements) This rulemaking is needed to implement relevant provisions of the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) (23 Pa.C.S. §§ 6301-6388), including the

requirement imposed by the act of April 15, 2014 (P.L. 411, No. 31) (Act 31) on all health-related boards within the jurisdiction of the Department of State to require training in child abuse recognition and reporting for licensees who are considered "mandated reporters" under the CPSL.

The Board is requesting a written (email) confirmation of receipt of this delivery from the designated contact person(s) from your office for the Majority or Minority Chair of your office's effectuating the electronic delivery.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

[Pennsylvania Icon which has the letters PA surrounded by the state border.] Melanie A. Sheehee

Legal Assistant II - Department of State

Governor's Office of General Counsel

2400 Thea Drive, Suite 201 | Harrisburg, PA 17110

Mailing address: P.O. BOX 69523 | Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523

Phone 717.710.2749 | Fax: 717.787.0251

mseehe@pa.gov | <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dos.pa.gov%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cmsseehe%40pa.gov%7Cc4f1fcce671c44a591a608deeda26812%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C639209478942002529%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFpbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=C73idSKjVeMB77PlmN1JKuQR92w5WMUBqCv0n3Pwbuc%3D&reserved=0>

Preferred Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

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Independent Regulatory
Review Commission

July 29, 2026

RE: DELIVERY NOTICE OF: REGULATION #16A-722 (Child Abuse Reporting Requirements)

From Orchard, Kari L. <KOrchard@pahouse.net>**Date** Wed 7/29/2026 10:14 AM**To** Sheehe, Melanie <msheehe@pa.gov>; Barton, Jamie <JBarton@pahouse.net>; Brett, Joseph D. <JBrett@pahouse.net>**Cc** Roland, Joel <joeroland@pa.gov>; Worthington, Amber <agontz@pa.gov>

Received. Thank you.

Kari Orchard

Executive Director (D) | House Professional Licensure Committee

Chairman Frank Burns, 72nd Legislative District

-----Original Message-----

From: Sheehe, Melanie <msheehe@pa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 9:49 AM

To: Orchard, Kari L. <KOrchard@pahouse.net>; Barton, Jamie <JBarton@pahouse.net>; Brett, Joseph D. <JBrett@pahouse.net>

Cc: Roland, Joel <joeroland@pa.gov>; Worthington, Amber <agontz@pa.gov>

Subject: DELIVERY NOTICE OF: REGULATION #16A-722 (Child Abuse Reporting Requirements)

Importance: High

Please be advised that the State Board of Massage Therapy (Board) is electronically delivering the below-identified final rulemaking today, Wednesday, July 29, 2026.

*

16A-722 (Child Abuse Reporting Requirements) This rulemaking is needed to implement relevant provisions of the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) (23 Pa.C.S. §§ 6301-6388), including the requirement imposed by the act of April 15, 2014 (P.L. 411, No. 31) (Act 31) on all health-related boards within the jurisdiction of the Department of State to require training in child abuse recognition and reporting for licensees who are considered "mandated reporters" under the CPSL.

The Board is requesting a written (email) confirmation of receipt of this delivery from the designated contact person(s) from your office for the Majority or Minority Chair of your office's effectuating the electronic delivery.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

[Pennsylvania Icon which has the letters PA surrounded by the state border.] Melanie A. Sheehe

Legal Assistant II - Department of State

Governor's Office of General Counsel

2400 Thea Drive, Suite 201 | Harrisburg, PA 17110

Mailing address: P.O. BOX 69523 | Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523

Phone 717.710.2749 | Fax: 717.787.0251

msheehe@pa.gov | [https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2Fhttp%3A%2F%2Fwww.dos.pa.gov%3B%21DXfqj9IE!Ktl-YcKJSHaGU9C3dKn7XSOAQewe9aX9vc9f6aFHhKAwpJGZmlrop07OQA_L2IGLMx-7Y2HQ9jTI7-f%24&data=05%7C02%7Cmsheehe%40pa.gov%7C8bfa2979426e49e8865508deed7bb0fb%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C639209312673237588%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFrpbGlzldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GbgzifCeyqTYbYsNfeEmx%2FkYoK0VfuXc8hU4x3jRv1A%3D&reserved=0)

[url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2Fhttp%3A%2F%2Fwww.dos.pa.gov%3B%21DXfqj9IE!Ktl-YcKJSHaGU9C3dKn7XSOAQewe9aX9vc9f6aFHhKAwpJGZmlrop07OQA_L2IGLMx-7Y2HQ9jTI7-f%24&data=05%7C02%7Cmsheehe%40pa.gov%7C8bfa2979426e49e8865508deed7bb0fb%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C639209312673237588%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFrpbGlzldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GbgzifCeyqTYbYsNfeEmx%2FkYoK0VfuXc8hU4x3jRv1A%3D&reserved=0](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2Fhttp%3A%2F%2Fwww.dos.pa.gov%3B%21DXfqj9IE!Ktl-YcKJSHaGU9C3dKn7XSOAQewe9aX9vc9f6aFHhKAwpJGZmlrop07OQA_L2IGLMx-7Y2HQ9jTI7-f%24&data=05%7C02%7Cmsheehe%40pa.gov%7C8bfa2979426e49e8865508deed7bb0fb%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C639209312673237588%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFrpbGlzldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GbgzifCeyqTYbYsNfeEmx%2FkYoK0VfuXc8hU4x3jRv1A%3D&reserved=0)

Preferred Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

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Outlook

Independent Regulatory
Review Commission

July 29, 2026

RE: [EXTERNAL]: Fw: DELIVERY NOTICE OF: REGULATION #16A-722 (Child Abuse Reporting Requirements)

From Emily Hackman <Ehackman@pahousegop.com>**Date** Wed 7/29/2026 3:48 PM**To** Sheehe, Melanie <msheehe@pa.gov>**Cc** Cindy Sauder <Csauder@pahousegop.com>; Nicole Sidle <Nsidle@pahousegop.com>

Receipt confirmed. Thank you!

Emily Epler Hackman | Executive Director
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Aging and Older Adult Services Committee (R)
141 Ryan Office Building
Phone: (717) 260-6351

-----Original Message-----

From: Sheehe, Melanie <msheehe@pa.gov>**Sent:** Wednesday, July 29, 2026 3:04 PM**To:** Emily Hackman <Ehackman@pahousegop.com>**Cc:** Cindy Sauder <Csauder@pahousegop.com>; Nicole Sidle <Nsidle@pahousegop.com>**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: Fw: DELIVERY NOTICE OF: REGULATION #16A-722 (Child Abuse Reporting Requirements)

Good afternoon Emily,

Apologies - I was not the one who sent out the notice email, and I see now that you were delegated to confirm receipt of the attached final rulemaking. Could you please confirm receipt of delivery?

Thank you,

[Pennsylvania Icon which has the letters PA surrounded by the state border.] Melanie A. Sheehe

Legal Assistant II - Department of State

Governor's Office of General Counsel

2400 Thea Drive, Suite 201 | Harrisburg, PA 17110

Mailing address: P.O. BOX 69523 | Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523

Phone 717.710.2749 | Fax: 717.787.0251

msheehe@pa.gov | <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dos.pa.gov%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cmsheehe%40pa.gov%7C8506d3cbfd0c4be6483108deedaa587a%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C639209513047918981%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=3G7Nlpoz5P17zFRh3Rd7t2K4DpfvddiHR4zS1NdDVE%3D&reserved=0>

Preferred Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

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From: Sheehee, Melanie <msheehe@pa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 2:45 PM

To: Sidle, Nicole <nsidle@pahousegop.com>; csauder@pahousegop.com <csauder@pahousegop.com>

Subject: Fw: DELIVERY NOTICE OF: REGULATION #16A-722 (Child Abuse Reporting Requirements)

Hello,

Please confirm receipt of the below-referenced final rulemaking.

Thank you,

[Pennsylvania Icon which has the letters PA surrounded by the state border.] Melanie A. Sheehee

Legal Assistant II - Department of State

Governor's Office of General Counsel

2400 Thea Drive, Suite 201 | Harrisburg, PA 17110

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[url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dos.pa.gov%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cmsheehe%40pa.gov%7C8506d3cbfd0c4be6483108deedaa587a%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C639209513047951720%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5pxnCXPaEcP%2BxKWN1W8xAMdtig%2Ftj235il6uw9ugPs8%3D&reserved=0](http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dos.pa.gov%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cmsheehe%40pa.gov%7C8506d3cbfd0c4be6483108deedaa587a%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C639209513047951720%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5pxnCXPaEcP%2BxKWN1W8xAMdtig%2Ftj235il6uw9ugPs8%3D&reserved=0)

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From: Sheehe, Melanie <msheehe@pa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 9:48 AM

To: Sidle, Nicole <nsidle@pahousegop.com>; csauder@pahousegop.com <csauder@pahousegop.com>

Cc: Roland, Joel <joeroland@pa.gov>; Worthington, Amber <agontz@pa.gov>

Subject: DELIVERY NOTICE OF: REGULATION #16A-722 (Child Abuse Reporting Requirements)

Please be advised that the State Board of Massage Therapy (Board) is electronically delivering the below-identified final rulemaking today, Wednesday, July 29, 2026.

*

16A-722 (Child Abuse Reporting Requirements) This rulemaking is needed to implement relevant provisions of the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) (23 Pa.C.S. §§ 6301-6388), including the requirement imposed by the act of April 15, 2014 (P.L. 411, No. 31) (Act 31) on all health-related boards within the jurisdiction of the Department of State to require training in child abuse recognition and reporting for licensees who are considered "mandated reporters" under the CPSL.

The Board is requesting a written (email) confirmation of receipt of this delivery from the designated contact person(s) from your office for the Majority or Minority Chair of your office's effectuating the electronic delivery.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

[Pennsylvania Icon which has the letters PA surrounded by the state border.] Melanie A. Sheehe

Legal Assistant II - Department of State

Governor's Office of General Counsel

2400 Thea Drive, Suite 201 | Harrisburg, PA 17110

Mailing address: P.O. BOX 69523 | Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523

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Independent Regulatory
Review Commission

July 29, 2026

RE: DELIVERY NOTICE OF: REGULATION #16A-722 (Child Abuse Reporting Requirements)

From Smeltz, Jennifer <jmsmeltz@pasen.gov>**Date** Wed 7/29/2026 10:00 AM**To** Sheehe, Melanie <msheehe@pa.gov>

Received.

*Jen Smeltz, Executive Director
Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee
Office of Senator Pat Stefano
Phone: (717) 787-7175*

From: Sheehe, Melanie <msheehe@pa.gov>**Sent:** Wednesday, July 29, 2026 9:49 AM**To:** Smeltz, Jennifer <jmsmeltz@pasen.gov>**Cc:** Roland, Joel <joeroland@pa.gov>; Worthington, Amber <agontz@pa.gov>**Subject:** DELIVERY NOTICE OF: REGULATION #16A-722 (Child Abuse Reporting Requirements)**Importance:** High

● CAUTION : External Email ●

This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside your organization.

Please be advised that the State Board of Massage Therapy (Board) is electronically delivering the below-identified final rulemaking today, Wednesday, July 29, 2026.

*

16A-722 (Child Abuse Reporting Requirements)

This rulemaking is needed to implement relevant provisions of the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) (23 Pa.C.S. §§ 6301-6388), including the requirement imposed by the act of April 15, 2014 (P.L. 411, No. 31) (Act 31) on all health-related boards within the jurisdiction of the Department of State to require training in child abuse recognition and reporting for licensees who are considered "mandated reporters" under the CPSL.

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Legal Assistant II – Department of State

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msheehe@pa.gov |

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