

**Massage Establishments Act
(CHAPTER 173)**

Table of Contents

Long Title

1 Short title

2 Interpretation

3 Appointment of officers

4 Licensing of persons to carry on establishments for massage

5 Restriction

6 Security

7 Refusal and revocation of licence

8 Power to enter and inspect premises

9 Offences

10 Saving for certain premises

11 Exemption

12 Establishment for massage deemed to be public place

13 Rules

Legislative History

MESSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS ACT

(CHAPTER 173)

(Original Enactment: Ordinance 61 of 1959)

REVISED EDITION 2013

(31st October 2013)

An Act for the licensing and control of establishments for massage or special treatment.

[23rd September 1959]

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Massage Establishments Act.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“advertise” means advertising by means of boards, circulars and all forms of printed or written matter;

“establishment for massage” means any premises used or represented as being or intended to be used for the reception or treatment of persons requiring massage, manicure, chiropody, light, electric, vapour or other baths or other similar treatment;

“licence” means a licence issued under this Act;

“licensee” means any person to whom a licence is issued under this Act;

“Licensing Officer” means the officer appointed by the Minister under section 3 and includes an Assistant Licensing Officer;

“massage or special treatment” means massage, manicure, chiropody, light, electric, vapour or other baths or other similar treatment.

Appointment of officers

3. The Minister may by notification in the *Gazette* appoint an officer to be the Licensing Officer for the purpose of this Act and may similarly appoint such number of Assistant Licensing Officers as may be necessary.

Licensing of persons to carry on establishments for massage

4.—(1) No person shall carry on an establishment for massage without a licence from the Licensing Officer authorising him to do so.

(2) An application for a licence shall be made in writing to the Licensing Officer.

(3) On receipt of an application for a licence, the Licensing Officer may require the applicant to furnish him with such additional information as he may require.

(4) After the receipt of an application for a licence and of any additional information that he may require, the Licensing Officer may issue a licence to the applicant to carry on an establishment for massage of the description and in the name and at the address specified in the application and may attach such conditions thereto as he may consider necessary for securing the due notification to him of any change in the name or private address of the licensee or in the treatment afforded or the nature of the business carried on at the establishment and generally for securing the proper conduct of the establishment.

(5) A licence shall not be renewable as of right and an application to renew a licence shall be treated as an application for a licence.

Restriction

5. No licence shall be issued —

- (a) to any person under the age of 21 years;
- (b) to any person who is in the opinion of the Licensing Officer unsuitable to hold a licence;
- (c) in respect of premises which are in the opinion of the Licensing Officer unsuitable for the purpose of an establishment for massage or in which the accommodation or provision for massage or special treatment is not reasonably adequate or suitable;
- (d) in respect of any establishment for massage in which any curative massage or other curative treatment is or may be administered by any person who does not possess such technical qualification as may be necessary; or
- (e) in respect of any establishment for massage which is being or is likely to be carried on in contravention of this Act or any rules made thereunder.

Security

6.—(1) The Licensing Officer may, before issuing a licence, require the applicant to give security, either in the form of a cash deposit or by entering into a bond, that the provisions of this Act and of the conditions of the licence shall be duly observed.

(2) Where an applicant is required to enter into a bond, the Licensing Officer may