

Massage Therapy License Exemption Worksheet For Related Touch Therapies

The Legislature has defined massage therapy as “the application of structured touch, pressure, positioning or holding to soft tissues of the body” § 37-33-403(4), MCA. The Legislature has also determined that in certain cases individuals may be exempt from licensure as a massage therapist. The Board is providing this worksheet to assist individuals in determining whether they may be exempt from licensure under MCA 37-33-404(5).

Practitioners using this worksheet may still be subject to unlicensed practice complaints. Use of this worksheet does not constitute a Board decision that a person is exempt from licensure. The Board will evaluate each complaint on a case-by-case basis.

Begin with the questions below.

1. Do you perform touch, words, and directed movement to deepen awareness of existing patterns of movement in the body, as well as to suggest new possibilities of movement? Yes / No
Examples include but are not limited to the Feldenkrais method of somatic education, the Trager approach to movement education, and body-mind centering.
2. Do you perform touch to affect the human energy systems, energy meridians, or energy fields? Yes / No
Examples include but are not limited to polarity bodywork therapy, Asian bodywork therapy, acupressure, jin shin do, qigong, reiki, shiatsu, tui na, and craniosacral therapy.
3. Do you perform touch to effect change on the integration of the structure of the physical body? Yes / No
Examples include but are not limited to the Rolf method of structural integration, Rolfing, and Hellerwork.
4. Do you perform touch to affect the reflex areas located in the hands, feet, and outer ears? Yes / No
Examples include but are not limited to reflexology.

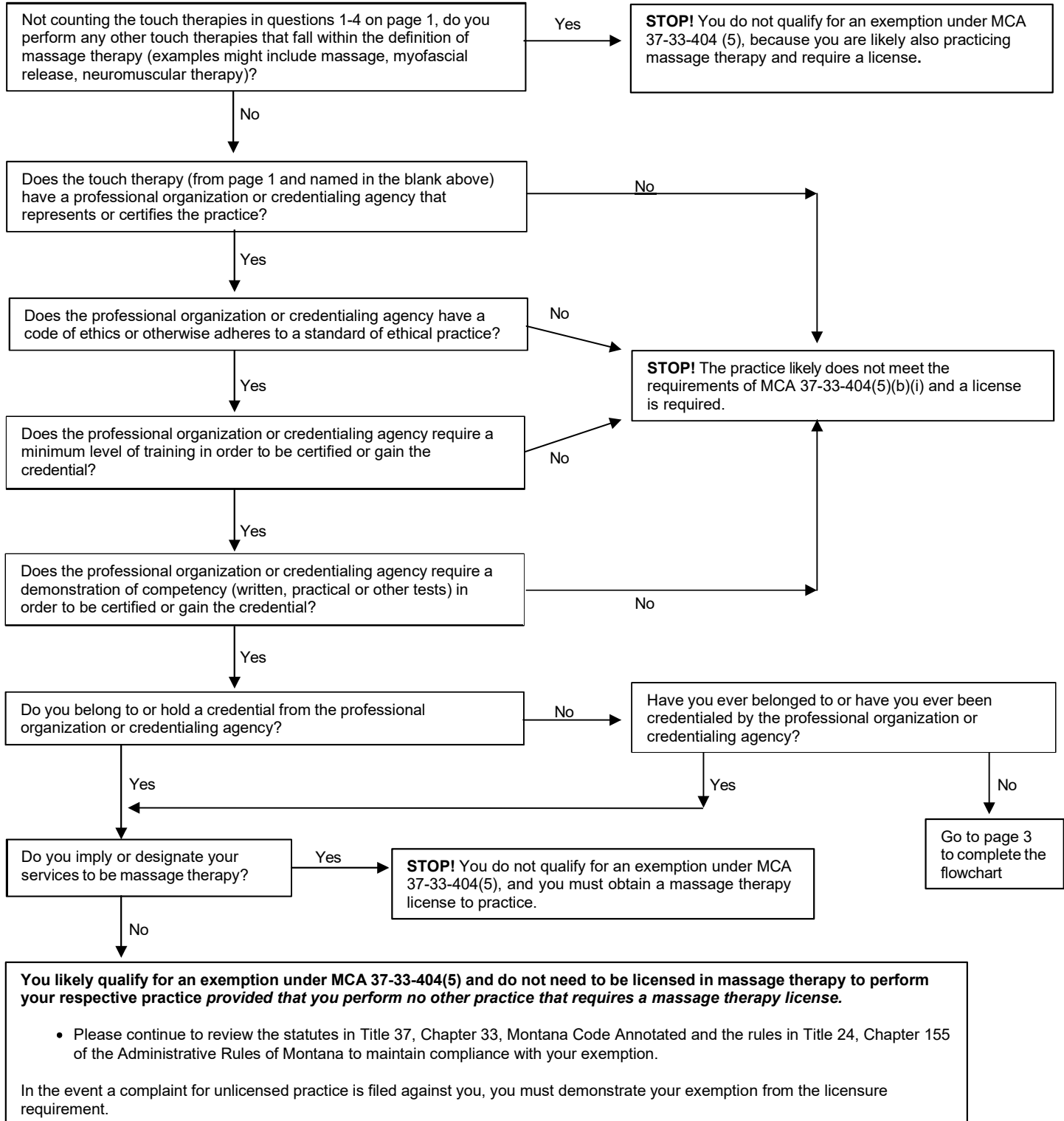
If you answered NO to ALL of the above, STOP! **You likely do not qualify for an exemption under MCA 37-33- 404(5), and you must obtain a massage therapy license to practice.**

If you answered Yes to AT LEAST ONE of the above, please read the information below before continuing to the flowchart:

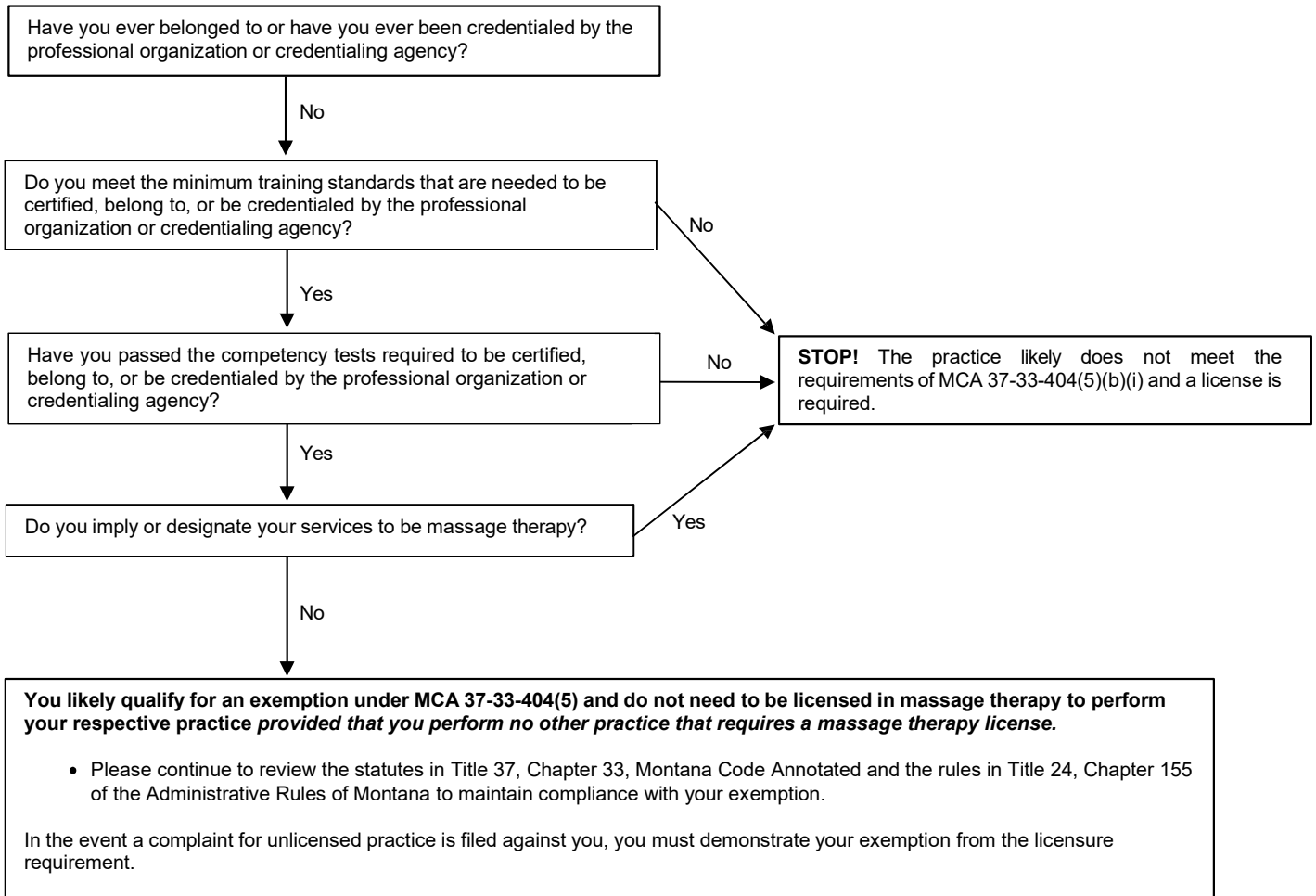
If you perform more than one touch therapy that might qualify for an exemption, you are strongly encouraged to fill out a worksheet for each one. Qualifying for an exemption for one touch therapy only allows practice of that therapy.

If you do not qualify for an exemption for any one of your touch therapies, you must obtain a massage therapy license to perform that therapy.

Touch Therapy Name: _____



This page is only for those who answered "No" to the question:



Am I exempt from licensure?

An exemption means that a license is not required to practice.

There are three general categories of persons who may qualify to practice massage therapy without obtaining a massage therapy license:

1. Persons holding a Montana license in a different profession
2. Persons practicing a touch therapy not usually considered massage therapy by the individuals practicing these modalities.
3. Other

Persons holding a Montana license in a different profession whose scope includes massage are allowed to perform massage therapy only while performing the duties of their licensed profession: a nurse performing nursing duties, a chiropractor while practicing chiropractic, etc.

Persons practicing a touch therapy not usually considered massage therapy by the individuals practicing these modalities.

The Legislature has defined [massage therapy](#) as “the application of structured touch, pressure, positioning or holding to soft tissues of the body” § 37-33-403(4), MCA. The Legislature has also determined that in certain cases, individuals may be [exempt from licensure as a massage therapist](#). See A worksheet has been developed to help an individual determine if they qualify for an exemption under this provision. [Download the worksheet here](#). [There would be a link to the worksheet.]

Other categories of persons who are exempt:

1. A massage therapy continuing education instructor while instructing in Montana.
2. Massage therapy students when participating in a supervised, school-sanctioned activity.
3. Native American traditional healers or faith healers.