

RESOLUTION G2026-15

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING MASSAGE PARLOR REGULATIONS
AND ORDERING NOTICE**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio, finds that, in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare, it is necessary to regulate Massage Establishments within the unincorporated areas of the township, and to establish a system of permits and licenses for such establishments and their employees, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code sections 503.40 to 503.50; and

WHEREAS, as required by law, at least two public hearings on the proposed regulations were held pursuant to notice at regular sessions of the Board on February 3, 2026, and on March 3, 2026, at which interested persons were given an opportunity to state their views on the proposed regulation of Massage Establishments and their employees.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Symmes Township Board of Trustees, Hamilton County, Ohio, that the following regulations governing Massage Establishments or Massage parlors, and their employees within the unincorporated areas of Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio, are hereby adopted:

(A) Definitions. As used in these regulations:

(1) "Massage" means any method of external pressure on, stroking, kneading, rubbing, tapping, pounding, vibrating, or stimulating the external soft tissue of the body with the hands, or with the aid of any mechanical or electrical apparatus or appliance.

(2) "Massage Establishment" means any fixed place of business, including but not limited to, a Massage parlor, where a person offers Massages, either in exchange for anything of value, or in connection with providing another legitimate service, except as provided in (B) (2), below.

(3) "License" means a license to act as a Masseur or Masseur at a Massage Establishment, issued pursuant to these regulations.

(4) "Masseur" or "Masseur" means any person who performs Massages at a Massage Establishment.

(5) "Permit" means a permit to operate a Massage Establishment, or a permit to operate an adult cabaret, issued pursuant to these regulations.

(B) Scope of Regulations

(1) These regulations govern Massage Establishments within the unincorporated area of Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio, and the owners, operators, persons in charge, and employees of such establishments.

(2) The regulations regarding Massage Establishments do not apply to the practice of any limited branch of medicine or surgery by persons certified to practice under Ohio Revised Code section 4731.15, including the practice of Massage therapy, and to the extent specified in Ohio Revised Code section 4731.151 of the Revised Code, naprapathy and mechanotherapy, or the practice of providing therapeutic Massage by a licensed physician, a licensed chiropractor, a licensed podiatrist, a licensed nurse, or any other licensed health professional licensed, certified, or registered to practice in the State of Ohio.

(C) Permit or License Required

(1) No person shall engage in, conduct or carry on, or permit to be engaged in, conducted or carried on the operation of a Massage Establishment in a premises owned or controlled by him or her within the unincorporated area of Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio, without first registering with the Board and obtaining a valid, current permit issued pursuant to these regulations. A separate permit is required for each location at which a Massage Establishment is operated.

(2) No individual shall act as a masseur or masseuse for a Massage Establishment located in the unincorporated areas of Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio, without first having obtained a valid, current license from the Symmes Township Board of Township Trustees issued pursuant to these regulations.

(D) Application for Permit or License

(1) An application for an original or renewal permit or an original license or renewal shall be made in writing, addressed to the Board of Trustees of Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio.

(2) An application for a renewal permit or license shall be filed not later than thirty days prior to expiration of the permit or license to be renewed.

(3) All applications shall be filed with the Fiscal Officer.

(4) A non-refundable filing fee shall be paid at the time of filing the application, as follows:

- (a) \$250.00 for an initial permit to operate a Massage Establishment;
- (b) \$125.00 for a renewal permit to operate a Massage Establishment;
- (c) \$100.00 for an initial license as masseur or masseuse;
- (d) \$50.00 for a renewal license as masseur or masseuse.

(5) A written and signed application for an initial or renewal permit to operate a Massage Establishment shall contain the following:

(a) The address where the Massage Establishment is operated, or is to be operated, including a legal description of the premises and a plat of the such property showing the property lines, building locations, parking areas, entry ways, and lighting systems.

(b) The status of the applicant as an individual, partnership or limited partnership, domestic or foreign corporation, or other entity;

(c) The full name, residence address, date of birth, and social security number of the applicant or the person applying on behalf of a partnership, corporation, or other entity;

(d) If the applicant is a partnership or limited partnership, the name of the partnership; the status of the partnership as a general or limited partnership; the state or other jurisdiction under which it is organized; the address of its principal office; the address of its principal office in Ohio; its federal employer identification number; the name and address of its statutory agent in Ohio; the full name, residence address, date of birth, and social security number of each partner or any other person holding any financial interest in the Massage Establishment, and the status of each individual as a general partner, limited partner or having a financial interest in the Massage Establishment;

(e) If the applicant is a corporation, the name of the corporation; the state or other jurisdiction under which it is organized; the address of its principal office; the address of its principal office in Ohio; its federal identification number; the name and address of its statutory agent in Ohio; and the full name, residence address, date of birth, and social security number of each shareholder holding more than two per cent of the applicant's stock. If any shareholder is a corporation or a general or limited partnership, the same information shall be included for such shareholder as is required for an applicant that is a corporation or general or limited partnership;

(f) The full name, residence address, date of birth, and social security number of each person employed by the Massage Establishment or whose employment is contemplated by the Massage Establishment, and the capacity in which such person is or is to be employed; A statement that the applicant and, to the applicant's knowledge, the persons named in the application have never been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any offense other than a misdemeanor traffic offense, or a statement listing the offenses other than misdemeanor traffic offenses of which the applicant or any person named in the application has been convicted, including the offense, date of conviction, and the name and location of the court;

(g) The establishment will be inspected by the appropriate state or local authorities acting pursuant to an agreement with the Board. A written health and safety report of the inspection shall be presented to the Board within thirty days of the application to ensure compliance with local health and safety codes;

(h) Authorization for an investigation into the criminal record and/or other background of the applicant and any person or entity named in the application, including authorization to conduct subsequent investigations to supplement or update the information; and

(i) The applicant's agreement to abide by these regulations and the laws of Ohio, and any amendments, additions, or reenactment thereof.

(6) An application for a license or renewal license as a Masseur or Masseuse shall contain all of the following:

(a) The full name, residence address, date of birth, and social security number of the applicant;

(b) A statement of the applicant's training, experience, and other qualifications as a Masseur or Masseuse;

(c) A dated, signed, written report of the results of a physical examination of the applicant by a licensed physician a physician assistant, a clinical nurse specialist, a certified nurse practitioner, or a certified nurse-midwife within thirty days of the application certifying that the applicant is free from communicable diseases;

(d) The results of an investigation by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office or other appropriate police agency into the criminal record of the applicant, including two clear color photographs of the applicant taken no later than thirty days prior to the application, fingerprints, and background investigation. The applicant shall provide written authorization for an investigation into the background and any criminal record of the applicant, including authorization for subsequent investigations to supplement or update the information.

(e) The applicant's agreement to abide by these regulations and the laws of Ohio, and any amendments, additions, or reenactment thereof.

(E) Inspection and Investigation

(1) Upon receipt of an application for a permit or renewal permit to operate a Massage Establishment, the Fiscal Officer shall notify local or State of Ohio authorities designated by the Board to conduct health and safety inspections of the specified premises, and to determine compliance or noncompliance with applicable health and safety codes. Written reports of any such inspection shall be prepared by the persons conducting such inspections and shall be filed with the Fiscal Officer, which inspection reports shall become part of the application for a permit and/or a renewal permit.

(2) Upon receipt of an application for a permit or renewal permit to operate a Massage Establishment, or an application for a license or renewal license as a Masseur or Masseuse, the Fiscal Officer shall refer the applicant to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office to be fingerprinted, and shall notify the Hamilton County Sheriff to conduct an investigation into the background of the applicant and, in the case of a permit, into the background of other persons or entities named in the application. A written report of the results of the investigation shall be prepared by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and filed with the Fiscal Officer and shall become part of the application for a license or permit.

(F) Action on Application for Any Permit

(1) The Board shall consider an application for any permit within 30 days of the Fiscal Officer receiving an application. The Board may issue an order denying or revoking a permit to

operate a Massage Establishment without holding a hearing. The Board shall maintain a complete record of each proceeding and shall notify the applicant in writing of its order approving, denying, or revoking any permit.

(2) The Board shall deny an application for any permit to operate a Massage Establishment or revoke a previously issued permit, for any of the following reasons:

(a) Applicant's falsification of any of the information required for the application or failure to fully complete the application;

(b) The failure of the applicant to cooperate with any required health or safety inspection;

(c) Any one of the persons named on the application is under the age of eighteen;

(d) Any one of the persons named on the application has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any violation of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 2907 or of any municipal ordinance that is substantially equivalent to any offense contained in Chapter Ohio Revised Code Chapter 2907, within five years preceding the application;

(e) Any Masseur or Masseuse employed at the licensed Massage Establishment has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of Ohio Revised Code section 503.42(D);

(f) The operation of the Massage Establishment would violate any existing zoning restrictions;

(g) The report of the applicable health and safety inspections conducted pursuant to this Resolution reveal any unsanitary, unsafe, or hazardous condition on the premises subject to the permit or renewal permit or any violation of applicable health or safety codes;

(h) The applicant has violated these regulations, or aided and abetted any violation of these regulations.

(3) If any application for a permit is denied, the Fiscal Officer shall promptly notify the applicant in writing of the order denying the application. If the Board approves any application, the Fiscal Officer shall promptly issue to the applicant a permit or license, as the case may be. In accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 2506, any person adversely affected by an order of the Board denying or revoking a permit may appeal from the order of the Board to the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas.

(4) Any permit to operate a Massage Establishment shall contain the address of the permit premises, the name and address of the permit holder, and the date of issuance and date of expiration of the permit. Any permit issued under this Resolution shall expire one year after the date of issuance, except that no Massage Establishment shall be required to discontinue business because of the failure of the Board to act on a renewal application filed in a timely manner and pending before the Board on the expiration date of the Massage Establishment's permit.

(5) The permit to operate a Massage Establishment shall be prominently displayed in an area of the premises open to the public.

(G) Action on Application for Any License

(1) The Board shall consider an application for any license within 30 days of the Fiscal Officer receiving an application. The Board may issue an order approving, denying or revoking a license to work as a Masseur or Masseuse without holding a hearing. The Board shall maintain a complete record of each proceeding and shall notify the applicant in writing of its order approving, denying, or revoking any license.

(2) The Board shall deny an application for any license or revoke a previously issued permit, for any of the following reasons:

(a) The applicant has falsified any of the information required for the application or failure to fully complete the application;

(b) The applicant is under the age of twenty-one;

(c) The applicant has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any violation of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 2907 or of any municipal ordinance that is substantially equivalent to any offense contained in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 2907 within the five years preceding the application;

(d) The applicant has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of Ohio Revised Code section 503.42(D);

(e) The applicant for a license or renewal license has failed to cooperate with any required background investigation;

(f) Any report of the physical examination filed with the application license or renewal license as Masseur or Masseuse reveals that the applicant suffers from a communicable disease;

(g) The applicant has violated these regulations, or aided and abetted any violation of these regulations.

(3) If any application for a license is denied, the Fiscal Officer shall promptly notify the applicant in writing of the order denying the application. If the Board approves any application, the Fiscal Officer shall promptly issue to the applicant a license. In accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 2506, any person adversely affected by an order of the Board denying or revoking a license may appeal from the order of the Board to the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas.

(4) A license or renewal license issued to Masseur or Masseuse shall contain the name, address, date of birth, physical description, and a clear, color photograph of the licensee, and the date of issuance and date of expiration of the license. Any license issued under this Resolution shall expire one year after the date of issuance, except that no Masseur or Masseuse shall be required to discontinue business because of the failure of the Board to act on a renewal application filed in a timely manner and pending before the Board on the expiration date of the Masseur or Masseuse license.

(5) The license of a Masseur or Masseuse shall be prominently displayed in the area where the licensee provides Massages.

(H) Transfer of Permit or License Prohibited

A permittee or licensee shall not transfer the permit or license to a location other than the premises designated in the application. A permittee or licensee shall not transfer the permit or license to any other person or entity.

(I) Inspections, Investigations, And Physical Examinations

(1) Health and safety inspections of the premises of a permitted Massage Establishment shall be conducted at intervals of 3, 6, 9 and 12 months after issuance or renewal of the permit, to ensure continued compliance with health and safety codes.

(2) In addition, the Board may order health and safety inspections at any time the Board has reasonable cause to believe that an unsanitary, unsafe, or hazardous condition exists on the premises.

(3) When it becomes necessary to undertake any inspection set forth in (1) or (2) above, the Fiscal Officer shall notify appropriate authorities, agencies and/or if necessary, law enforcement officials (including without limitation the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office) to make such inspections at the designated times. Written reports of inspections shall be filed with the Fiscal Officer. The costs of the health and safety inspections shall be paid by permittee.

(4) Township personnel, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and/or other designated law enforcement personnel may at all reasonable times inspect the permitted premises to ensure continued compliance with the laws of Ohio and these regulations.

(5) At any time, there is reasonable cause to do so, the Board may order a background investigation, including the criminal record, if any, of any permittee, person named in the application for a permit, employee of a permittee, or a licensee. Written reports of any such investigation shall be filed with the Fiscal Officer.

(6) Every 3rd, 6th, 9th and 12th month after issuance of any license as Masseur or Masseuse, the licensee shall undergo a physical examination by a licensed physician, physician assistant, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse practitioner, or a certified nurse-midwife to determine that the licensee remains free of communicable diseases. Such person conducting the exam shall issue a dated, signed, written report of the results of a physical examination of the licensee.

(7) The Board may order a licensee to undergo a physical examination by a licensed physician, physician assistant, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse practitioner, or a certified nurse-midwife at any time there is reasonable cause to believe the licensee has a communicable disease. The Fiscal Officer shall notify the licensee when an examination is so ordered. The licensee is responsible for obtaining any such examination who shall also pay the costs of such physical examination. The licensed physician, physician assistant, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse practitioner, or a certified nurse-midwife conducting the exam shall issue a dated, signed, written report of the results of a physical examination of the licensee.

(J) Rules Governing Operation of Massage Establishments

(1) No permittee or operator of a Massage Establishment shall knowingly allow, permit and/or encourage a licensed Masseuse, Masseur and/or any other person to do any of the following acts:

(a) Place his or her hand upon, touch with any part of his or her body, fondle in any manner and/or Massage the sexual area, breast of any female, genitalia, pubic area, rectal area, and/or perineum of any other person.

(b) Perform, offer, or agree to perform any act which would require the touching and/or fondling of the sexual area, breast of any female, genitalia, pubic area, rectal area, and/or perineum of any other person.

(c) Touch, offer, or agree to touch the sexual area, breast of any female, genitalia, pubic area, rectal area, and/or perineum of any other person with any mechanical or electrical apparatus or appliance.

(d) Go unclothed, or wear clothing which is transparent or translucent, or wear clothing in such a way as to reveal or display the sexual, pubic, genital areas, buttocks or, if the person is a female, the breast, of the Masseur or Masseuse.

(e) Wear unclean clothing, or fail to wash the hands or bathe when reasonably necessary, or otherwise fail to observe reasonable standards of personal cleanliness and hygiene.

(f) At any time, uncover or allow the breasts of a female and/or the sexual, pubic or genital areas or buttocks of a client and/or other person be uncovered and/or exposed while providing Massages or any other time.

(g) Engage, offer, and/or agree to engage, in sexual conduct or sexual contact as those terms are defined in Ohio Revised Code section 2907.01, whether such sexual conduct or sexual contact is with any part of the employee's body and/or with a mechanical or electrical apparatus or appliance.

(h) Commit, offer, or agree to commit any offense set forth in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 2907 titled "Sex Offenses".

(2) The permittee or person in charge of a Massage Establishment shall exercise adequate supervision to ensure that the employees comply at all times with these regulations and the laws of the State of Ohio.

(3) No permittee or operator of a Massage Establishment shall employ a Masseur or Masseuse who does not have a valid, current license issued pursuant to these regulations.

(4) The permittee or person in charge of a Massage Establishment shall allow state or local authorities, including without limitation the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement personnel as appropriate, to make any health or safety inspection pursuant to these regulations or other law, cooperate in any background investigation, and allow them at any time to check licenses of any masseurs or masseuse, or the permit of any such Massage Establishment.

(5) No permittee or operator of a Massage Establishment shall employ or contract with any person under the age of eighteen in any capacity, whether full-time or part-time, and with or without remuneration or compensation in any form.

(6) No person under age eighteen shall be permitted entry into the Massage Establishment during business hours without being accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

(7) Massage Establishments shall close not later than 11 :00 PM and shall not reopen earlier than 12:00 Noon.

(8) The permittee or person in charge of a Massage Establishment shall file a list of employees with the Fiscal Officer and shall file an amended list at any time there is a change in personnel. The list shall state the name, address, date of birth, and position of each employee and have attached thereto a copy of the license of any Masseuse or Masseur working at the Massage Establishment.

(9) All off street parking areas and premises entries of the Massage Establishment business shall be illuminated from dusk to closing hours of operation with a lighting system which provides an average maintained horizontal illumination of one (1.0) foot candle of light on the parking surface.

(10) The permittee or person in charge of a Massage Establishment shall not allow any portion of the interior premises of the Massage Establishment to be visible from outside such premises.

(11) The permittee or person in charge of a Massage Establishment shall not allow or permit any person to sleep for any length of time at the Massage Establishment and/or otherwise use the Massage Establishment premises as his or her residence.

(K) Rules Governing Conduct of Massage Establishment Employees

(1) No person employed in a Massage Establishment located within the unincorporated area of Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio shall knowingly in the performance of his or her duties do any of the following:

(a) Place his or her hand upon, touch with any part of his or her body, fondle in any manner and/or Massage the sexual area, breast of any female, genitalia, pubic area, rectal area, and/or perineum of any other person.

(b) Perform, offer, or agree to perform any act which would require the touching and/or fondling of the sexual area, breast of any female, genitalia, pubic area, rectal area, and/or perineum of any other person.

(c) Touch, offer, or agree to touch the sexual area, breast of any female, genitalia, pubic area, rectal area, and/or perineum of any other person with any mechanical or electrical apparatus or appliance.

(d) Go unclothed, or wear clothing which is transparent or translucent, or wear clothing in such a way as to reveal or display the sexual, pubic, genital areas, buttocks or, if the person is a female, the breast, of the masseur or masseuse.

(e) Wear unclean clothing, or fail to wash the hands or bathe when reasonably necessary, or otherwise fail to observe reasonable standards of personal cleanliness and hygiene.

(f) At any time, uncover or allow the breasts of a female and/or the sexual, pubic or genital areas or buttocks of a client and/or other person be uncovered and/or exposed while providing Massages or any other time.

(g) Engage, offer, and/or agree to engage, in sexual conduct or sexual contact as those terms are defined in Ohio Revised Code section 2907.01, whether such sexual conduct or sexual contact is with any part of the employee's body and/or with a mechanical or electrical apparatus or appliance.

(h) Commit, offer, or agree to commit any offense set forth in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 2907 titled "Sex Offenses".

(2) No licensed Masseur or Masseuse person shall accept or continue employment at a Massage Establishment that does not have a current, valid license issued by the Symmes Township Board of Trustees pursuant to this Resolution.

(3) Any Masseur, Masseuse and/or other employee of a Massage Establishment shall cooperate with any background investigation and/or health or safety inspection conducted by state or local authorities, including the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, and other law enforcement personnel, making any health or safety inspection or background investigation pursuant to these regulations or any other law.

(4) A Masseur or Masseuse shall obtain a physical examination whenever required to do so under this Resolution and/or any pertinent State, Local or Federal law.

(5) No licensed Masseur or Masseuse shall sleep for any length of time at the Massage Establishment.

(6) No licensed masseur or masseuse shall use the Massage Establishment premises as his or her residence.

(L) Records

The Fiscal Officer shall keep a complete record of all documents and proceedings under these regulations, including without limitation applications, reports, copies of permits and licenses issued, notices, correspondence, permittee employee lists, Board proceedings, resolutions and orders, and petitions. All documents shall be endorsed by the Fiscal Officer with the date of filing.

(M) Deposit and Use of Fees

All fees collected by the township for permits and licenses under this Resolution shall be deposited in the township General Fund and first applied to the cost of administering and enforcing this Resolution and the regulations contained herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fiscal Officer is hereby directed to keep the regulations available for public inspection and copying at the offices of the Board;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fiscal Officer is further directed to cause the following notice to be published on the official Symmes Township website and social media page, within ten days after the date of this resolution:

“On March 3, 2026, the Board of Trustees of Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio, found that, in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare, it was necessary to regulate Massage Establishments within the unincorporated areas of the township, and to establish a system of permits and licenses for such establishments and their employees, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code sections 503.40 to 503.50.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio has adopted regulations governing Massage Establishments and their employees.

Such regulations are available to the public for inspection and copying at the Symmes Township Offices located at 9323 Union Cemetery Road, Symmes Township, OH 45140;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the regulations set forth herein take effect thirty days after the date of this Resolution unless a sufficient petition is timely filed requesting the Board to submit the same to the electors for approval or rejection, as provided by Ohio Revised Code Section 503.41.

ADOPTED MARCH 3, 2026 – RESOLUTION G2026-15

Vote Record: MR. BRYANT ____ MS. LEIS ____ MR. BECK ____

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Kenneth N. Bryant, President

Jodie L. Leis, Vice-President

Philip J. Beck, Trustee

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Joseph C. Grossi, Fiscal Officer

Jeff Forbes, Law Director