

The Learning Company

Communications and Ethics

RMT Designation

Introduction

The use of any title or designation is an effective method of quickly imparting considerable information to others, especially in the case of professional designations. Some titles such as “Massage Therapist” are protected by legislation and their use is only granted through registration with the regulatory body for the profession.

Background

- The principle purpose for protection of title is to prevent confusion or misrepresentation to the public.
- One of the central elements of the *Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA), 1991 and the Massage Therapy Act, 1991* is the protection of title. In Ontario, the title “Massage Therapist ” or “M.T.” or any variation or abbreviation of them, is reserved for individuals registered with the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario (the College).
- Title protection allows the public to readily identify those individuals who are registered with the College and are consequently accountable for the delivery of massage therapy service that meets the established standards of the profession.
- There has been ongoing confusion about the appropriate designation that distinguishes a Massage Therapist who is registered with the College. Many members of the public are unaware of protected titles and believe that the designation for registered members of the College is RMT and that members using the MT designation are not trained to the same standard or registered with the College.

Position

Massage therapists should represent themselves in a clear, open, and straightforward manner. In order to achieve transparency and to avoid misrepresentation or confusion for the public, it is essential that therapists use a consistent designation.

The Council of the College has determined that, in the interest of transparency, RMT should be the only designation used by members of the College.

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

Introduction

Wall certificates are issued by Robertson College to all College graduates to provide them with proof of their graduation as a Massage Therapist.

- Massage therapists are responsible for taking the wall certificate with them upon leaving their place of primary employment

The Learning Company

Communications and Ethics

Ethical Requirements

Candidates are expected to read, understand and comply with all requirements of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, Massage Therapy Act, 1991*, Regulations, Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics, Policies and Guidelines of MTAM.

In a regulated Province like Ontario the following applies...

CMTO - The College of Massage Therapists of Ontario (the College)

"The College of Massage Therapists of Ontario is dedicated to excellence in protecting the public, serving its members, and promoting the highest possible quality of the practice of massage therapy in a safe and ethical manner."

The College of Massage Therapists of Ontario (the College) protects the public by ensuring the competency and quality of care provided by massage therapists. While acting in the public interest, the College also guides the profession.

The College deals with questions and concern about the following:

- Policy and guidelines for the profession.
As a self regulating profession under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, the College sets policy and guidelines for massage therapists
- Certification examinations
The College administers the certification examinations. As a result, if you have questions concerning dates or guidelines for the certification examinations please contact the College.
- Information on becoming a Massage Therapist
Individuals may call the College for information on becoming a massage therapist in Ontario.
- Public Register of all Massage Therapists
Anyone may call the College to confirm whether someone is registered. They can also report anyone who is not registered but is referring to themselves as a massage therapist.
- Quality Assurance Programme
The College prescribes and evaluates a continuous quality improvement programme for members. The College publishes a list of courses that may be used as continuing education units (CEUs) for this programme in The College Standard and on its website.
- Public Education
The College educates the public about the profession and the services the College offers through the use of printed material, speaking engagements and media relations.
- Media Relations
Like the OMTA the College also responds to media inquiries, corrects misleading information and submits articles to a variety of publications.

The Learning Company Communications and Ethics

- Professional Education
Through its various publications and workshops the College educates the profession on legislative matters and professional obligations.
- Publications
The College produces a wide variety of publications that keep the public and members up-to-date on College activities, Council business, new legislation, and events.
- Complaints and Discipline Matters
The College investigates complaints and conducts discipline hearings.

In Manitoba, the **Massage Therapy Association of Manitoba (MTAM)** acts as a self-regulating entity for Massage Therapists practicing in this province. MTAM fulfills many of the roles mentioned above that the CMTO is responsible for.

POLICIES AND POSITION STATEMENTS

Introduction

The following documents have been prepared to assist members in understanding their professional responsibilities under the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991,(the "RHPA"), the Massage Therapy Act, 1991,(the "MTA"), and its Regulations.

Legislative Hierarchy

There is a hierarchy of authority governing the practice and conduct of health professionals in Manitoba. Health professionals, like all citizens, are expected to comply with federal and provincial laws.

Federal legislation has the most authority, followed by provincial legislation. Examples of federal legislation that may be relevant to Massage Therapists are the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Criminal Code. Examples of provincial legislation relevant to the practice of massage therapy are the Health Care Consent Act (the "HCCA"), the RHPA, the MTA.

The RHPA gives each College (regulating body) the authority to make Regulations. There is a formal process for the drafting and approval of Regulations and once approved by the College Council and government, members are required to comply with these rules. Regulations, like legislation, are written in a legal format.

The Colleges have developed policy statements, position statements, and guidelines to assist members in understanding their professional responsibilities, by clarifying Regulations and providing the College's position on a variety of topics that may not be covered in the legislation or Regulations.

The Learning Company

Communications and Ethics

Policy Statements

Policy statements articulate the Council's opinion on specific issues relating to the practice of massage therapy. These statements provide members with a broader explanation of practice issues than can be found in the legalized format of the corresponding Regulation. Members who violate College policy may be deemed to have violated a Regulation and therefore to have committed professional misconduct.

Position Statements

A position statement provides the collective opinion of the College's Council relating to practice issues, which may not be covered by a Regulation or policy statement. Position statements are often developed in response to members' questions and provide a framework within which practice decisions can be made. Members whose practice is not consistent with the position outlined by the College, may be required to justify their conduct or actions.

Guidelines

Guidelines provide a more detailed description of the way in which a policy or position is translated into practice. They are intended to provide guidance to members.