

Important Information about Massage Therapy Schools in California

What Happened

The Board has recently learned that between June 30, 2007 and January 1, 2010 there was no state oversight of California private post secondary schools. California's Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education became inoperative on June 30, 2007. A new approval body became operative on January 1, 2010. However between June 30, 2007 and January 1, 2010, schools were urged to meet state standards that were in place before June 30, 2007, but were not required to do so.

Why You Should Care

If you attended a California massage therapy school between June 30, 2007 and January 1, 2010, you may not meet the qualifications for licensure established in A.R.S. § 32-4222 and A.A.C. R4-15-204.

The Basis for This Determination

Board statute and rule require that an applicant attend a board-approved school. In order to be a board-approved school, the massage therapy school must be approved by an agency similar to Arizona's Board for Private Postsecondary Education (ABPPE). The ABPPE has established mandatory requirements in Arizona for private postsecondary schools and maintains strict oversight over them. Between June 30, 2007 and January 1, 2010, California did not have an agency that required mandatory adherence to its standards. Except as stated in the next paragraph, the Board is not able to approve a California school that operated between June 30, 2007 and January 1, 2010 because the schools are not approved by an agency similar to the ABPPE.

Attendance at a School Accredited by an Agency Recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department of Education

If a school is accredited by an agency recognized by the secretary of the United States Department of Education, it is considered a board-approved school.

Effective Date of Determination
March 3, 2010