

## **Chapter 78 – LICENSES, PERMITS AND BUSINESSES**

### **ARTICLE I. – IN GENERAL**

Section 78-1 of the Official Code of Cobb County, Georgia, is amended to read as follows:

#### **Sec. 78-1.- Definitions.**

Gross receipts shall not include the following:

- a. Sales, use or excise tax.
- b. Sales returns, allowances and discounts.
- c. Interorganizational sales or transfers between or among the units of a parent-subsiary controlled group of corporations as defined by 26 USC 1563(a)(1), or between or among the units of a brother-sister controlled group of corporations as defined by 26 USC 1563(a)(2), or between or among wholly owned partnerships or other wholly owned entities.
- d. Payments made to a subcontractor or an independent agent for services which contributed to the gross receipts in issue.
- e. Governmental and foundation grants, charitable contributions or the interest income derived from such funds received by a nonprofit organization which employs salaried practitioners otherwise covered by this chapter, if such funds constitute 80 percent or more of the organization's receipts.
- f. ~~The first \$25,000.00 annually of gross receipts from the rental of real property which is owned by an entity, a natural person, his spouse, and his minor children collectively.~~

g.f. Receipts from the rental of detached single-family residential real property.

h.g. Proceeds from sales of goods or services which are delivered to or received by customers who are outside the state at the time of delivery or receipt.

## **ARTICLE II. – BUSINESS LICENSE AND OCCUPATION TAX**

Section 78-43 of the Official Code of Cobb County, Georgia, is amended to read as follows:

### **Sec. 78-43.- Change of location or ownership of business.**

...

(b) A new business registration certificate will be issued upon payment of a change of location fee, if the new location conforms to the county's zoning regulations. The amount of this fee shall be available as part of the schedule of fees in the business license office. When a change of ownership occurs, the new owners shall notify the business license office and pay an occupation tax and pay a change of ownership fee, as established in the schedule of fees.

(c). When a change of ownership occurs, the new owners shall notify the business license office and pay a change of ownership fee, as established in the schedule of fees. apply for and obtain a business registration certificate.

## **ARTICLE III. – SPECIAL LICENSES AND REGULATORY FEES**

### **DIVISION 7. – HEALTH SPAS**

#### **SUBDIVISION I.—IN GENERAL**

Section 78-273 of the Official Code of Cobb County, Georgia, is amended to read as follows:

### **Sec. 78-273.- List of employees to be filed with county.**

It shall be the duty of all licensees under this division to file with the county, through its business license office division and/or police department, the names of all employees required to have a work permit and designated managers, their home addresses, home telephone numbers, places of employment, date of birth, their duties and services performed, a copy of their Georgia State Massage Therapy License (when applicable), and any other descriptive information that the business license division or police department may require in its investigation of the establishment and its employees, within 72 hours of employment. All changes in information shall be filed in writing, via email or via online portal within 72 hours of the change.

Section 78-275 of the Official Code of Cobb County, Georgia, is amended to read as follows:

### **Sec. 78-275.- Hours and places of operation.**

The owner of the health spa shall provide in writing to the Cobb County Business License Division the hours of operation of the health spa. No licensee under this division shall operate a health spa except during the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. The licensee or a designated manager shall be on the premises at all hours that the establishment is engaged in or open for business. No employee shall remain in the establishment between the hours of midnight and 5:00 a.m.

## **SUBDIVISION II.—LICENSE**

Section 78-292 of the Official Code of Cobb County, Georgia, is amended to read as follows:

### **Sec. 78-292.- Qualifications and investigation of applicant(s), licensee, and employees.**

- (a) The applicant and licensee must be a U.S. citizen or a legal resident alien prior to making application.
- (b) The licensee is required to be a resident of the State of Georgia and a Georgia State Licensed Massage Therapist.
- (c) Where the applicant for a license under this chapter is a corporation, any license for the operation of a health spa shall be applied for by and shall be issued to the corporation and either the majority shareholder thereof, or a person deemed the licensee by the corporation.
- (d) Where the applicant for a license under this chapter is a partnership, any license for the operation of a health spa shall be applied for by and shall be issued to the partnership and either the managing general partner thereof, or a person deemed the licensee by the partnership.
- (e) Where the applicant for a license under this chapter is a sole proprietor, license for the operation of a health spa shall be applied for by and shall be issued to the sole proprietor if he is working full-time in a managing capacity on the premises, and if not, then the sole proprietor and a person deemed the licensee by the sole proprietor.
- (f) The county police department shall investigate the background of both the applicant(s) and the licensee, and their spouses, and employees and independent contractors, except for Georgia state licensed massage therapists, of the establishment and report its recommendation to the business license division manager for a health spa license.
- (g)

Section 78-293 of the Official Code of Cobb County, Georgia, is amended to read as follows:

### **Sec. 78-293.- Location and premises requirements.**

- (a) An applicant for a health spa license under this subdivision, prior to making application for a license, must have a location in unincorporated Cobb County where the health spa is a permitted use in the underlying zoning district.
- (b) The establishment shall be subject to inspection at any time during business hours by the business license division manager or his or her designee and/or by the police department to ensure compliance with this article.
- (c) All employees and other persons on the premises, with the exception of customers receiving a massage from a state licensed massage therapist, shall be completely clothed at all times when administering a massage. For the purposes of this article, the term "completely clothed" means having on the upper portion of the body appropriate undergarments and either blouse or shirt which shall cover all the upper body save the arms and neck, and shall mean having on the lower body appropriate undergarments plus either pants or skirt, and said pants or skirt must cover from the waist down to a point at least two inches above the knee. All clothes worn in compliance with this article shall be entirely non-transparent.
- (d) Ordinary beds or mattresses shall not be permitted in any health spa establishment.

- (e) No licensee under this division shall operate a health spa except during the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- (f) The licensee or a designated manager shall be on the premises at all hours that the establishment is engaged in or open for business.
- (g) A sign or lettering shall be posted at the main entrance identifying the business as a health spa. Said sign shall have lettering a minimum of 5 inches in height and shall identify the premises as a health spa business. The sign and the front of the business shall not be illuminated by strobe or flashing lights.
- (h) The hours of operation must be posted on the front door or window, clearly visible from the outside. Any massage or services begun before 10:00 PM must conclude at or before 10:00 PM. Patrons of the health spa may not be permitted to remain on the premises outside these hours of operation.
- (i) A list of services available and the cost of such services font size 12 or larger letters shall be posted in a conspicuous public place within the premises. Only those services listed may be performed. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude the Operator from posting additional signs in other languages as long as at least one sign in English is posted pursuant to this subsection.
- (j) No person shall enter, be in or remain in any part of the health spa while in possession of, consuming, using, or under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or controlled substance. The Operator(s) and on-duty manager shall be responsible to ensure that no such person shall enter or remain upon the premises.
- (k) All front, reception, hallway or front exterior doors (except back or exterior doors used solely for employee entrance to and exit from the massage business) shall be unlocked during business hours. No massage may be given within any cubicle, room, booth or any area within a massage business which is fitted with a lock of any kind (such as a locking door knob, padlock, dead bolt, sliding bar or similar device), unless the only door is an exterior door. Entry doors to any room shall not be obstructed by any means.

Section 78-294 of the Official Code of Cobb County, Georgia, is amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 78-294.- Grounds for denial, suspension or revocation.**

In addition to the causes for denial, suspension or revocation of a license specified in section 78-45(c), due cause for denial, suspension or revocation of a license for a massage practitioner or health spa shall include the following:

- (1) The applicant or licensee is or has been guilty of fraud.
- (2) The applicant or licensee is or has been engaged in business under a false or assumed name, or is impersonating another person of a like or different name.
- (3) The applicant or licensee is addicted to the habitual use of intoxicating liquors, narcotics or stimulants to such an extent as to incapacitate such person to the extent that he is unable to perform his professional duties.
- (4) ~~The applicant, licensee, shareholder, partner, agent, employee or independent contractor has violated or is guilty of~~ No license for a health spa shall be issued to any person where any individual having an interest either as owner, partner, principal shareholder, or licensee, directly or indirectly, beneficial or absolute, shall have been convicted within ten years immediately

prior to the consideration of a health spa license of criminal attempt or conspiracy to violate any laws relating to racketeer-influenced and corrupt organizations as defined in the Georgia RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) Act (O.C.G.A. § 16-14-1 et seq.), crimes against the person as defined in O.C.G.A. tit. 16, ch. 5 (O.C.G.A. § 16-5-1 et seq.), sexual offenses as defined in O.C.G.A. tit. 16, ch. 6 (O.C.G.A. § 16-6-1 et seq.), gambling offenses as defined in O.C.G.A. tit. 16, ch. 12, art. 2 (O.C.G.A. § 16-12-20 et seq.), obscenity and related offenses as defined in O.C.G.A. tit. 16, ch. 12, art. 3 (O.C.G.A. § 16-12-80 et seq.), or contributing to the delinquency of a minor, all as defined by state law as it presently exists or may be hereafter amended, or has been convicted of any felony under the laws of this state or any other state or of the federal government.

- (5) Failure of the applicant or licensee to have or maintain initial qualifications for obtaining the license.
- (6) The applicant, licensee, shareholder, partner, agent, employee or independent contractor has employed any person who is not a licensed massage practitioner and allowing or permitting such person to administer massage in an establishment except as may be allowed by state law.
- (7) The premises in which the business is located are in violation of any of the federal, state, county or municipal laws designed for the health, protection and safety of the occupants.
- (8) Failure of the applicant or licensee to actively supervise and monitor the conduct of the employees, customers and others on the premises in order to protect the health, safety and well-being of the general public and the customers.
- (9) The violation of any laws or ordinances regulating such businesses or for the violation of any state or federal law.
- (10) Any change in the area where such business is located, which does not conform with the zoning existing at the new location.
- (11) Any reason which would authorize the board of commissioners to refuse the issuance of a license.
- (12) Any violation of this chapter.

The Official Code of Cobb County, Georgia, is amended by adding Section 78-298, to read as follows:

**Section 78-298. – Employment of persons with prior convictions.**

- (a) No licensee shall employ, for compensation or otherwise, in any health spa, any employee requiring a work permit as defined in section 78-299 who meet any of the following:
  - Any person who is not a citizen of the United States; is not an alien admitted for permanent residence, or does not otherwise possess employment authorization from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services;
  - Any person who has been convicted within five years immediately prior to the application for employment of the following:
    - Criminal attempt or conspiracy to violate any laws relating to racketeer-influenced and corrupt organizations as defined in the Georgia RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) Act (O.C.G.A. § 16-14-1 et seq.), crimes against the person as defined in

O.C.G.A. tit. 16, ch. 5 (O.C.G.A. § 16-5-1 et seq.), sexual offenses as defined in O.C.G.A. tit. 16, ch. 6 (O.C.G.A. § 16-6-1 et seq.), gambling offenses as defined in O.C.G.A. tit. 16, ch. 12, art. 2 (O.C.G.A. § 16-12-20 et seq.), obscenity and related offenses as defined in O.C.G.A. tit. 16, ch. 12, art. 3 (O.C.G.A. § 16-12-80 et seq.), or contributing to the delinquency of a minor, all as defined by state law as it presently exists or may be hereafter amended;

- Any felony; or
  - Performs any immoral or indecent act to or in the presence of a person with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of either the employee or another person on the premises.
  - Any person on parole, probation, or convicted and released from incarceration, for any sexually related crimes, including but not limited to child molestation, aggravated child molestation, or child sexual abuse, as defined in O.C.G.A. 16-6-4 or individuals required to register as a sex offender pursuant to O.C.G.A. 42-1-12.
- (b) The omission or falsification of any material information in an application for a health spa work permit shall be a violation of this chapter and grounds for the denial, suspension or revocation of any such work permit; however, any employees excluded from employment under the terms of the section shall have the right to appeal such exclusion to the license review board.

The Official Code of Cobb County, Georgia, is amended by adding Section 78-299, to read as follows:

**Section 78-299. – Work permits.**

- (a) *For whom required.* It is the responsibility of the licensee and designee to ensure that the employees required under this Code section obtain and possess the required work permit issued by Cobb County Police Department Regulatory Services Unit prior to working. Employees for the purpose of this section shall include independent contractors. Failure of an employee to possess a work permit as required by this section, shall be unlawful and will subject the employee and licensee to prosecution as provided in this chapter and shall be grounds for suspension or revocation of the license. A permit to work in any of the following establishments shall be required of the following:
- (1) All employees of the health spa who are not State of Georgia Licensed Massage Therapists ;
  - (2) All independent contractors of the health spa who do not hold a State License.
- (b) *Permit term.* Any work permit issued under this section shall expire 12 months from the date of issuance unless suspended or revoked as provided in this section.
- (c) *Possession of permit by employees.* Employees holding permits issued pursuant to this section shall at all times during their working hours have the permits available for inspection.

The Official Code of Cobb County, Georgia, is amended by adding Section 78-300, to read as follows:

**Section 78-300. – Violations of this chapter.**

The violation of any of the provisions of this chapter by the holder of a license under this chapter or the licensee's agents or employees, whether compensated or not, shall subject the holder of such license to revocation, suspension or probation of the license.

The Official Code of Cobb County, Georgia, is amended by adding Section 78-301, to read as follows:

**Section 78-301. – Hearings and appeals.**

**(a) Hearing**

- (1) *Due cause hearing.* The license review board shall hear evidence of the circumstances of the possible due cause and after said hearing may recommend that the health spa license to be suspended for a maximum of 12 months or revoked. The license review board, and the board of commissioners, if applicable, may consider mitigating and aggravating circumstances in considering sanctions, including but not limited to, implementation and components of written policies, that employees have or do not have health spa work permits, components of a training program, number of violations of business, number of violations of licensee, number of stores, length of time in business, compliance check was due to a complaint, identification was not checked, and any other facts deemed relative by the fact finder.
- (2) *Affirmation by board of commissioners.* If the license review board recommends suspension or revocation and the owner of the health spa license, the licensee or both should fail to appeal such suspension or revocation recommendation, then the suspension or revocation shall become effective upon affirmation by the board of commissioners of such suspension or revocation recommendation and the owner of the health spa license and the licensee shall be deemed to have acquiesced to such suspension or revocation. The board of commissioners shall, within 60 days of the license review board action, review a summary of the hearing before the license review board wherein the health spa license was considered for suspension or revocation (the summary shall be prepared by the business license division manager) and the board of commissioners after such review may place the matter down for a hearing or affirm or alter the decision of the license review board. Should the board of commissioners place the matter down for hearing, the board of commissioners may suspend, for a maximum of 12 months, or revoke the health spa license.

**(b) Appeal.**

- (1) In the event the license review board recommends that the health spa license be suspended or revoked, the owner of the health spa license, the licensee or both may file an appeal with the business license division manager of such recommendation within ten days to the board of commissioners. The board of commissioners shall conduct a de novo review and any additional evidence may be presented at the appeal hearing.
- (2) If a hearing occurred before the board of commissioners, such decision is final unless appeal is made to the superior court of the county. Any aggrieved party may appeal a decision of the board of commissioners by filing a petition for writ of certiorari to the superior court within 30 days of the decision of the board of commissioners.
- (3) In all hearings held pursuant to this section, the proceedings shall be as informal as compatible with justice, the hearing shall be expedited and normally shall not exceed 30 minutes in length, and the following procedures shall prevail:

  - (a) The charges and specifications against the licensee and the response as filed by the licensee shall be read.
  - (b) The county representative shall present evidence, and then the licensee shall present his evidence, with opportunity for each party to present rebuttal evidence, examination and cross examination of witnesses, and interrogation by the board of commissioners. No evidence shall be presented which is not relevant to the charges.