



## **Gender Neutral Draping Language**

This is a summary of Massage Therapy regulatory language concerning draping and the use of gender to identify specific structures of the body that are required to be draped. The concern is that those that identify as gender neutral or their gender identity is different from their gender at birth may face issues with the more detailed requirements of some of these rules. Specifically draping of breast tissue for “females” and a lack of breast tissue draping for “males”. The purpose of this information is to determine how to communicate the need for appropriate draping without using gender specific language.

The following are regulations that indicate required draping using gender neutral language.

### **Arizona Rule §32-4203 (A) (6)**

e. Provide draping that ensures the safety, comfort, and privacy of the client;

### **Arkansas Rule Article 10 Draping & Guidelines**

1. Draping and treatment must be provided in a way that ensures the safety, comfort, and privacy of the client and therapist.
2. Draping must take place during the massage, and the therapist shall comply with the client's request to remain partially or fully clothed under the drape.
3. Clients receiving a massage must be draped to assure that the pubic area and genitals are not exposed.

### **District of Columbia Rule 7514 Standards of Conduct**

(o) Use appropriate draping to protect the client's physical and emotional privacy;

### **Georgia Rule 345-6-.01 Professional and Unprofessional Conduct**

(g) Provide draping and treatment consistent with client safety, comfort, and privacy in compliance with recognized professional standards of massage therapy practice.

### **Idaho Board of Massage Therapy Code of Ethics – Appendix A**

Preamble: This Code of Ethics is a summary statement of the standards of conduct that define ethical practice of massage therapy. All licensees are responsible for maintaining and promoting ethical practice. A licensee shall:

9. Provide draping and treatment in a way that ensures the safety, comfort, and privacy of the client.

### **Idaho Board of Massage Therapy Standards of Practice – Appendix B.**



Standard I: Professionalism

In his/her professional role the licensee shall:

8. Use appropriate draping to protect the client's physical and emotional privacy. When clients remain dressed for seated massage or sports massage, draping is not required.

**Kentucky Rule 201 KAR 42:010 Goals for massage therapy sessions.**

Section 1. (2) In order to reach these objectives, the massage therapist shall:

(e) Provide draping and treatment in a way that ensures the safety, comfort, and privacy of the client

**Mississippi Statute Section 73-67-31(1)(j)**

(1) All licensed massage therapists shall:

(j) Provide and use draping to cover all genitalia;

**New Jersey Rule 13:37A-3.5 Sexual misconduct**

f) A licensee shall provide privacy and therapy conditions which prevent the exposure of the unclothed body of the client. Appropriate draping measures shall be employed to protect client privacy.

**New Mexico Rule 16.7.2.8 (C)(2)**

C. Client welfare: Each licensee, instructor and applicant shall:

(2) obtain prior informed consent of the client regarding draping and treatment to ensure the safety, comfort and privacy of the client;

**North Dakota Rule 49-03-01-01 (4) Sanitation, location, and conditions.**

4. A therapist must provide draping and treatment in a way that ensures the personal safety, comfort, and privacy of the client.

**Oklahoma Rule 175:20-9-4 (a)– Client draping and privacy**

(a) A licensee shall use appropriate draping to protect the client's physical and emotional privacy. When a client remains dressed for a seated massage or sports massage, draping is not required.

**Washington Rule WAC 246-830-560 Coverage and draping**

(1) A massage therapist must:



(a) Allow a client or patient privacy to dress or undress except as may be necessary in emergencies or custodial situations; and

(b) Always provide the client or patient a gown or draping except as may be necessary in emergencies.

(2) Massage therapists must use safe and functional coverage and draping practices during the practice of massage when the client or patient is disrobed. The drape(s) must be sufficient to ensure the genitals and the gluteal cleft distal to the coccyx, anus and rectum are not exposed, and the breast area is not exposed except as allowed in subsections (3) and (4) of this section. Safe and functional coverage and draping means:

(a) The massage therapist explains, maintains and respects coverage and draping boundaries; and

(b) Massage or movement of the body does not expose genitals or gluteal cleft distal to the coccyx, anus and rectum, or does not expose the breast area except as allowed in subsections (3) and (4) of this section.

(3) With prior written, verbal, and signed informed consent of the client or patient, the gluteal and breast drapes may be temporarily moved in order to perform therapeutic treatment of the area. In addition, with informed and written consent, a client or patient may choose to have their upper torso undraped during the entire massage.

(4) If variations to this coverage and draping rule occur, a massage therapist must:

(a) Maintain evidence of education and training in specific modalities that require variations in coverage and draping;

(b) Receive voluntary and informed consent of the client or patient prior to any variation of coverage or draping; and

(c) Document in the client's or patient's record the rationale for any variation of coverage or draping.

(5) Any written consent required by this section may be included within an overall general consent to massage document, if clearly delineated and either specifically initialed or signed.

**West Virginia Rule §194-1-4 Standards Relating to the Practice of Massage Therapy;**

4.1.g. Before proceeding with the massage of a client, explain expected draping techniques and provide the client a clean drape or drapes for the purpose of covering the body in accordance with generally-accepted standards of practice;