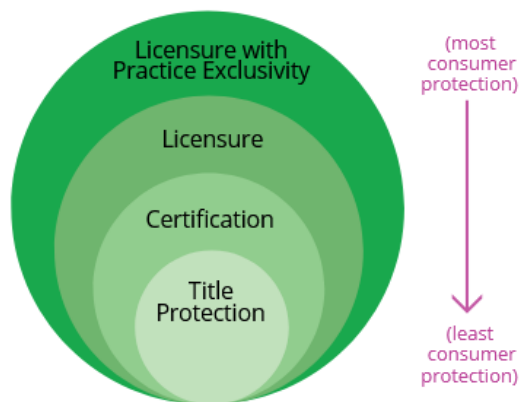


## Title Protection

Title protection is the least protective form of state regulation and permits anyone to practice the profession, but only individuals with specified qualifications or credentials (such as the LMT credential) may hold themselves out as licensed massage therapists, registered practitioners, or use other titles as specified in the title protection statute. However, there are no established standards of practice or ethics established or regulated by the state.

The following is from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

### State Regulation of Food, Nutrition and Health



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A state agency issues a license to individuals who meet specified qualifications to practice a particular profession. Licensing statutes *usually* include a **title protection provision**, which is designed to prevent unlicensed individuals from **holding themselves out** to the public as licensed massage therapists, or using other titles as specified in the statute. (“Hold oneself out” means to knowingly or recklessly take or use a title, name, symbol, word or description that indicates or could be reasonably understood to indicate the person is a licensed massage therapist, or the person is authorized or qualified to practice massage therapy.) Most states that license the practice of massage therapy *also* include a **practice exclusivity clause**, which limits the ability of unlicensed individuals to provide services within the defined scope of practice for the regulated profession.

### Example: Massage Therapy Model Practice Act

#### SECTION 106. TITLE PROTECTION AND PROTECTED TERMS

(A) No person or entity shall use the words Massage Therapy, bodywork therapy, or massage-bodywork therapist, Massage Therapist, bodywork therapist, or massage, or Licensed Massage Therapist or the acronym “LMT” or any other words, abbreviations or insignia indicating or implying, directly or indirectly, that Massage Therapy is provided, or supplied, unless such persons are licensed pursuant to this Act.

### Notes from the MPA:

*The State Legislature grants scope of practice privileges and imposes certain restrictions on the use of titles and terms for public protection. The use of the title “Massage Therapist” connotes*

*education and training in a unique body of knowledge and skill exclusive to Massage Therapists. Title protection encompasses the titles, acronyms and abbreviations that are associated with Massage Therapy licensure. Section 106(A) addresses all such titles, acronyms and abbreviations applicable to Massage Therapy licensure. Title protection as outlined in this Act prevents misuse of the title in order to avoid unethical, untrained, unlicensed and non-competent practice.*

*“LMT” is the protected professional regulatory title to be used by Massage Therapists in the United States under this Act. For public protection, this Act requires the Licensee to use the title when a Licensee interacts with Clients or advertises the availability of Massage Therapy. This Act does not prohibit additional advanced practice titles to also be recognized.*