

Position Statement 5

Use of titles and credentials

An Act Respecting the Practice of Massage Therapy, 2005 provides members with protection of title. Title protection of a regulated profession helps the public readily identify individuals registered with the College. It is a privilege extended to massage therapists who have met the entry to practice requirements and who maintain their accountability to a regulatory body.

The use of titles, designations or credentials that are inappropriate, unclear or inconsistent may undermine the purpose of the protected title by making it difficult for the public to determine whether a person is a member of the profession.

Position

Massage therapists who have been issued a certificate of registration by the College are entitled to use the protected titles that indicate their registration with the College. The College recommends the use of the protected title as the member's primary means of indicating his or her professional status in Ontario in conjunction with their practice of the profession.

The College recommends that academic degrees or certificates from recognized universities, colleges and/or private vocational schools be used after and in conjunction with the member's protected title. The order of using protected titles and academic credentials should be consistent with the position of the member. If a member is working as a massage therapist, the College recommends that protected titles be used before academic credentials. If the member is working in an educational or other setting it may be more appropriate for them to use their academic credentials first.

The use of any other title, term or designation that indicates or implies the member is a specialist in any aspect of massage therapy is not permitted. Members may take courses focused on a specific modality that is not recognized as a specialty or as being in compliance with the Standard of Practice. Reference to these courses, or the title conferred by the completion of them, should not be used by the member. The public may misinterpret these other titles as specialized fields of knowledge with established professional standards of practice and licensing regulations.

People who are not registered with the College cannot use the protected titles. Section 9 (3) of the *Massage Therapy Act, 2005* forbids anyone who is not a member of the College from using the title "massage therapist" or an abbreviation or variation of that title.