

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

IN RE: Emergency Suspension of the License of
Raoul Atkinson, L.M.T.
License Number: MA 98356
Case Number: 2025-65300

ORDER OF EMERGENCY SUSPENSION OF LICENSE

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD, State Surgeon General, ORDERS the emergency suspension of the license of Raoul Atkinson, L.M.T., (Mr. Atkinson) to practice as a massage therapist in the State of Florida. Mr. Atkinson holds license number MA 98356. Mr. Atkinson's address of record is 4170 Regata Way, Apartment 208, Fort Myers, Florida 33916. The following findings of fact and conclusions of law support the emergency suspension of Mr. Atkinson's license to practice as a massage therapist in the State of Florida.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Department of Health (Department) is the state agency charged with regulating massage therapists in the State of Florida, pursuant to chapters 20, 456, and 480, Florida Statutes. Section 456.074(7), Florida Statutes, authorizes the State Surgeon General to summarily suspend Mr. Atkinson's license to practice as a massage therapist in the State of Florida.

2. At all times material to this Order, Mr. Atkinson was licensed to practice massage therapy in the State of Florida, pursuant to chapter 480.

3. At all times material to this Order, Mr. Atkinson practiced as a massage therapist at Praha Spa and Salt in Naples, Florida.

4. On or about November 29, 2025, Patient I.G. presented to Praha Spa and Salt for a 90-minute massage by Mr. Atkinson.

5. During the massage, Mr. Atkinson placed a towel over Patient I.G.'s eyes.

6. While massaging Patient I.G.'s legs, Mr. Atkinson reached his hand up towards Patient I.G.'s vaginal area and one or more of Mr. Atkinson's fingers briefly penetrated Patient I.G.'s vagina.

7. Patient I.G. initially thought that Mr. Atkinson's hand may have accidentally slipped due to the massage oil.

8. However, Mr. Atkinson then digitally penetrated Patient I.G.'s vagina a second time, demonstrating that his conduct was intentional.

9. Patient I.G. was in shock.

10. Mr. Atkinson withdrew his fingers from Patient I.G.'s vagina and Patient I.G. believed that he was going to stop; however, Patient I.G. then felt Mr. Atkinson place his tongue and/or mouth on her vagina.

11. Patient I.G. said "no, stop," and removed the towel covering her eyes.
12. Mr. Atkinson stopped, backed away, and apologized to Patient I.G.
13. Mr. Atkinson then left the room. On his way out, Mr. Atkinson told Patient I.G. to take as much time as she needed.
14. Patient I.G. checked the time on her phone and realized that it was approximately 20 minutes past when the 90-minute massage should have ended.
15. Patient I.G. got dressed, exited the room, and went to the front desk to pay.
16. Patient I.G. was still in shock over what had occurred, so she did not report the incident to the front desk staff; however, shortly thereafter, Patient I.G. presented to a Collier County Sheriff's Office substation and reported the events to a deputy.
17. The massage therapist-patient relationship is founded on mutual trust. The practice of massage therapy places patients in isolated, vulnerable settings where they can be subject to abuse by their massage therapists. Due to the potential for abuse that is inherent under these circumstances, massage therapists must possess good judgment and good moral character in order to practice massage therapy professionally and within the boundaries of the generally accepted examination or treatment of a patient. Massage therapists must also

refrain from engaging in conduct that harms the patient or places the patient in a situation that violates their safety and welfare.

18. Mr. Atkinson willfully abused his position as a massage therapist to sexually violate a patient who trusted them to act professionally and within the boundaries of the generally accepted practice of massage therapy. Mr. Atkinson's deviant and predatory actions indicate that Mr. Atkinson lacks the good judgment and good moral character necessary to safely practice massage therapy. Therefore, Mr. Atkinson's continued practice as a massage therapist constitutes an immediate, serious danger to the health, safety, or welfare to the public.

19. Mr. Atkinson's lack of good judgment and good moral character, his disregard for his patient's physical and emotional well-being, his failure to recognize that his actions were causing his patient distress, and his apparent comfort in behaving outside the bounds of massage therapy demonstrate a significant disregard for the laws and rules that govern massage therapists and indicate that there is a significant likelihood that Mr. Atkinson's conduct will continue.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the State Surgeon General concludes as follows:

1. The State Surgeon General has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to section 20.43, Florida Statutes, and chapters 456 and 480 as set forth above.
2. Section 480.046(1)(p), Florida Statutes, subjects a massage therapist to discipline, including suspension, for violating any provision of chapters 480 or 456 or any rules adopted pursuant thereto.
3. Section 480.0485, Florida Statutes, prohibits sexual misconduct in the practice of massage therapy and defines sexual misconduct, in pertinent part, as a:

[V]iolation of the massage therapist-patient relationship through which the massage therapist uses that relationship to induce or attempt to induce the patient to engage, or to engage or attempt to engage the patient, in sexual activity outside the scope of practice or the scope of generally accepted examination or treatment of the patient.
4. Rule 64B7-23.005, Florida Administrative Code, provides in pertinent part:
 - (1) "Sexual Activity" means any direct or indirect contact by any person, or between persons, with the intent to abuse, humiliate, harass, degrade, or arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person, or which is likely to cause such humiliation, harassment, degradation, arousal or sexual gratification:
 - (a) With or without the consent of either person or persons;
 - (b) With or without verbal or non-verbal communication that the sexual activity is undesired;
 - (c) With or without the use of any device or object;

(d) With or without the occurrence of penetration, orgasm or ejaculation;
(e) Including, but not limited to intentional contact with the genitalia, groin, femoral triangle, anus, buttocks, gluteal cleft, breast or nipples, mouth, or tongue; and,
(f) Including, but not limited to the intentional removal of any drape without written specific informed consent of the patient.

(2) Sexual activity by any massage therapist in the context of massage therapy practice or in a massage therapy establishment is prohibited.

(3) A licensed massage therapist must not use the therapist-client relationship to induce or attempt to induce or engage or attempt to engage in sexual activity with any client. Such attempts or engagements constitute sexual misconduct in the practice of massage therapy.

5. Mr. Atkinson violated section 480.046(1)(p) through a violation of section 480.0485 and/or Rule 64B7-23.005 by using the massage therapist-patient relationship to engage, or attempt to engage, Patient I.G. in sexual activity outside the scope of practice or generally accepted examination and treatment in one or more of the following ways:

- a. By digitally penetrating Patient I.G.'s vagina; and/or
- b. By placing his mouth and/or tongue on Patient I.G.'s vagina.

6. Section 456.074(7), Florida Statutes, mandates the Department issue an emergency order suspending the license of any licensee upon a finding of the State Surgeon General that probable cause exists to believe that the licensee has committed sexual misconduct as defined and prohibited in section 456.063(1),

Florida Statutes, or the applicable practice act, and that such action constitutes an immediate serious danger to the public.

7. Mr. Atkinson's continued practice of massage therapy constitutes an immediate danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the public.

8. Therefore, the Department is mandated to summarily suspend Mr. Atkinson's license to practice as a massage therapist in accordance with section 456.074(7).

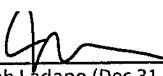
WHEREFORE, in accordance with sections 456.074(7) it is **ORDERED** **THAT:**

1. The license of Raoul Atkinson, L.M.T., license number MA 98356, is hereby immediately suspended.

2. A proceeding seeking formal discipline of the license of Mr. Atkinson to practice as a massage therapist will be promptly instituted and acted upon in compliance with section 120.569, Florida Statutes.

Dec 31, 2025

DONE and ORDERED this _____.



Joseph Ladapo (Dec 31, 2025 12:40:19 EST)
Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

PREPARED BY:

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NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW

Pursuant to sections 120.60(6) and 120.68, Florida Statutes, this Order shall be judicially reviewable. Review proceedings are governed by Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. Such proceedings are commenced by filing a Petition for Review, accompanied by a filing fee prescribed by law, with the District Court of Appeal and providing a copy of that Petition to the Department of Health Agency Clerk within 30 days of the date this Order is filed.