

Massage Treatment of Minors Policy for *Skin Deep Massage Therapy*, in compliance with relevant **Victorian legislation**, including the **Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (VIC)** and principles from the **Child Safe Standards** (under the **Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (VIC)**). It ensures the safe and ethical treatment of clients under 18 years of age.

Massage Treatment of Minors Policy
Skin Deep Massage Therapy – Victoria, Australia
Effective Date: 12/07/2025

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the procedures and safeguards in place to ensure the safe, ethical, and legal provision of massage therapy to clients under the age of 18 ("minors"). It is designed to comply with Victorian laws, including:

- *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (VIC)*
- *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (VIC)* – including the **Child Safe Standards**
- *Working with Children Act 2005 (VIC)*
- Relevant professional codes of conduct and ethics for massage therapists

2. Definitions

- **Minor:** A person under 18 years of age
- **Parent/Guardian:** A legal parent or person with legal authority to make decisions on behalf of the minor
- **Therapist:** A qualified and appropriately credentialed massage therapist employed by Skin Deep Massage Therapy

3. Consent Requirements

Massage therapy may only be provided to a minor under the following conditions:

a. Parental or Guardian Consent

- Written, informed consent must be obtained from the minor's parent or legal guardian prior to treatment.
- Consent must be renewed annually or whenever there is a change to the treatment plan.

b. Minor's Assent

- The minor must also agree (verbally or in writing) to receive treatment, in age-appropriate language, to ensure comfort and understanding.
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4. Presence of Parent/Guardian

- A parent or guardian **must be present** during the treatment of any minor under the age of **16**.
- For minors aged **16 to 17**, the presence of a parent/guardian is recommended but optional, subject to:
 - Written consent from the guardian
 - Comfort and preference of the minor

If a guardian chooses not to be present, the therapist must:

- Confirm consent in writing
 - Note the absence and reason in treatment records
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5. Therapist Requirements

All therapists providing treatment to minors must:

- Hold a valid **Working with Children Check (WWCC)** issued in Victoria
- Follow mandatory **child safety training**
- Maintain professional boundaries and conduct at all times

6. Privacy and Draping

- Draping and privacy practices must be strictly followed and explained clearly to both the minor and guardian
- At no time should a minor be asked to remove more clothing than is necessary for treatment
- Treatment areas must ensure privacy, safety, and professional boundaries

7. Documentation

The following must be maintained:

- Signed consent forms (from guardian and minor)
- Therapist treatment notes including:
 - Date of session
 - Guardian presence or absence

- Any concerns or irregularities

All records are kept confidential, in accordance with our Privacy Policy and the **Privacy Act 1988**

8. Mandatory Reporting

All staff are aware of their obligations as **mandatory reporters** under the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (VIC)*. If a therapist suspects a minor is being abused, neglected, or is at risk of harm, it must be reported to **Child Protection Victoria** or the relevant authority without delay.

9. Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed **annually** or when changes to legislation or practice guidelines occur. Updates will be communicated to all staff and clients as relevant.

Contact

For questions about this policy or to access consent forms:

Skin Deep Massage Therapy

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