

April 29th, 2016

From: Matthew Brownstein, CCHt
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201 North Franklin Street, Suite #3415, Tampa, FL 33602

To: City of Ormond Beach – Building Division

Re: Florida Hypnosis Law and Business Tax Receipts

It has recently come to the attention of our offices that one of our graduates is applying for a Business Tax Receipt in your City and that his request is undergoing a review with your legal team. I offer this letter to provide clarification upon the topic and as a request for its prompt resolution, as a graduate from a State-Licensed Postsecondary Vocational Institute is being delayed in his lawful right to practice his occupation.

I am cc'ing our attorneys, Mr. Gary Urso and Mr. Jan Govan, who can also speak to you about our Institute's understanding of these Statutes and Dr. Tanveer Chaudhry, the Clinical Psychiatrist who is the Chief Medical Officer of our Institute. We helped every City and County that we have worked with to come to a correct understanding of The Florida Hypnosis Statutes, which includes The City of Melbourne, The City of Orlando, The City of Fort Lauderdale, Sarasota County and Collier County. [Please click here for more specific information.](#)

In the early 1970's, the occupation of "Hypnotherapist" was acknowledged by the United States Department of Labor in a document which was formally known as The Dictionary of Occupational Titles. This occupational description read:

CODE: 079.157-010

TITLE(s): HYPNOTHERAPIST (profess. & kin.)

"Induces hypnotic state in client to increase motivation or alter behavior patterns: Consults with client to determine nature of problem. Prepares client to enter hypnotic state by explaining how hypnosis works and what client will experience. Tests subject to determine degree of physical and emotional suggestibility. Induces hypnotic state in client, using individualized methods and techniques of hypnosis based on interpretation of test results and analysis of client's problem. May train client in self-hypnosis conditioning."

As The Dictionary of Occupational Titles is no longer in print, it is our understanding that the Occupational Information Network (ONET) Index had then become the federally accepted standard as a directory for listed occupations. "Hypnotherapist" was listed under the category of "Therapist, Other", yet ONET no longer lists the separate category of "Therapists, Other."

Currently the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistic's Instructional Program Data lists Hypnotherapist as "513603: Hypnotherapy/Hypnotherapist", along with other

such occupations as Acupuncture, Homeopathic Medicine, Massage Therapy, Yoga Teacher, and Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences. Please reference:
<http://www.bls.gov/jobs/forms/ip3datastandard.pdf>

The Institute of Interpersonal Hypnotherapy (formerly known as The Florida Institute of Hypnotherapy) was Florida's first school to be licensed by the Florida Department of Education's Commission for Independent Education (License #3448) to offer legitimate career diplomas for "Hypnotherapist", "Clinical Hypnotherapist" and "Transpersonal Hypnotherapist". Therefore, on the State level, our graduates have legitimate credentials as Hypnotherapists as graduates from a State-Licensed Postsecondary Vocational Institute. Our school is also licensed by the Florida Department of Education's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VF#202535784001) to grant diplomas/certifications for "Hypnotherapists". This organization would not fund us to train people undergoing rehabilitation to become Hypnotherapists in Florida if it were illegal to use that occupational title.

Florida Hypnosis Law does not make any reference, in any way, to the occupational title "Hypnotherapist". It is clear that anyone practicing hypnosis must make the distinction as to whether or not they are practicing hypnosis for "therapeutic" purposes. The occupational title "Hypnotherapist" does not imply that someone is doing therapeutic hypnosis. The law simply states that such a person, if not a licensed practitioner of the healing arts, must have a prescription, referral, supervision or direction from the appropriate licensed practitioner if working on medical or mental health conditions. It does not limit the use of their occupational title, it limits what they can and cannot do without a prescription, referral, supervision or direction.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter and to ensure that graduates of State-Licensed schools are rightfully given their Business Tax Receipts in your City to legally and ethically practice their occupation without hindrance. Should you have any other interpretation of Florida Hypnosis Law, then I would kindly invite you to speak with me directly, or with our attorneys and associated licensed medical and mental health professionals before making any final decisions.

Respectfully,



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