



Healing Beyond Borders
Educating and Certifying the Healing Touch ®

Health Freedom Acts

Scope of Practice and US Health Freedom Laws

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Healing Touch is a complementary therapy founded in nursing process. The HTI Healing Touch Certificate Program offering continuing education in nursing and massage is designed to be incorporated within your educational and professional preparation. Within the US, state regulatory laws have required both licensed health care professionals and lay individuals to practice within their scope of practice and training.

A number of states within the US have passed **Health Freedom Laws** in order to allow unlicensed health care providers to advertise and provide their services legally, while complying with certain requirements specified within the law. As of 2016, 10 states have enacted health freedom laws, including Idaho, Oklahoma, Minnesota, California, Rhode Island, Louisiana, Arizona and New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada. (National Health Freedom Coalition, 2016)

Essentially, these health care laws allow the public to have access to unlicensed complementary care practitioners provided they comply with the following conditions:

Most of these laws require that unlicensed practitioners MUST disclose:

- ✓ Their credentials and training
- ✓ They are not a licensed physician or licensed health care provider
- ✓ Their service / therapy is NOT licensed by the state and is alternative or complementary to licensed healing arts services
- ✓ A description of their service and the rationale behind it

*Of importance is that whether or not a law exists within your state, practitioners MUST be transparent with re: to their training and scope of practice.

A Description of Healing Touch can be found in the **HBB Healing Touch Practitioner Brochure**.

“Healing Touch is a relaxing nurturing energy therapy. Gentle touch assists in balancing your physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well being. Healing Touch

works with your energy field to support your natural ability to heal. It is safe for all ages and works in harmony with standard medical care. Research suggests that Healing Touch may benefit you in” This brochure is available online through the HTI website at www.HealingBeyondBorders.org.

These laws prohibit unlicensed practitioners from invasive or diagnostic procedures. These laws include but are not necessarily limited to: performing surgery, setting fractures, administering x-ray radiation, prescribing drugs or controlled substances, directly manipulating the joints or spine, physically invading the body except for topical non-harmful and non-prescription applications, recommending discontinuing current medical treatment prescribed by a licensed health care practitioner, making a specific medical diagnosis, or engaging in unethical behavior or behavior that would be otherwise prohibited under state law.

The National Health Freedom Coalition is an organization with the mission of *“Promoting access to all health care information, services, treatments and products that the people deem beneficial for their own health and survival; to promote an understanding of the laws and factors impacting the right to access; and to promote the health of the people of this nation.”* It assists in the adoption of Health Freedom Laws throughout the country. **It is important for you to become very familiar with the regulatory laws in your state** and if a lay practitioner, consider becoming involved in a Health Freedom Law movement within your area. For further information re: such laws or activities in your state, visit: <http://www.nationalhealthfreedom.org>

An additional resource is a CAM blog by Attorney Michael H. Cohen, Esq., thought leader in business law and health care law, advising clients at the intersection of law, business, health and spirituality. He is a former Wall Street lawyer who has authored ground-breaking books on complementary medicine law and policy, and held a joint-appointment at Harvard University.

References

National Health Freedom Coalition (2016) at <http://www.nationalhealthfreedom.org>

Cohen, M. H., Complementary and Alternative Medicine Law Blog:
<http://www.camlawblog.com/articles/new-regulation/health-freedom-laws-further-expand-for-complementary-and-integrative-medicine/>