



9/26/2013

From: Matthew Brownstein, CHT
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To: _____ Magazine Publisher

Re: Florida Hypnosis Law

Please allow me to first begin by acknowledging the good works that you do through your magazine and that I do honor you as another one of the many who are acting in ways that bring more healing, love and light to our world. I therefore offer this letter with my highest respects.

It has recently come to my attention that one our graduates was not allowed to advertise in your magazine as a “Hypnotherapist” as she was told, that according to Florida Hypnosis Law, that she could only call herself a “Hypnotist” and that (according to her) that you received Hypnosis training in Louisiana yourself. I hope you will take the time to read this letter carefully, as this is a misunderstanding and there are a lot of us who work very hard to be sure to clarify these misinterpretations of the law when they arise.

The occupational title “Hypnotherapist” was originally listed in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles through the United States Department of Labor. As that document is no longer published, the new federal organization that monitors occupational titles is O*Net (The Occupational Information Network developed under the sponsorship of the US Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA). In their online database, the term “Hypnotherapist” is actually listed in the category of “Therapist, Other”. Therefore, on the federal level this is still not only a valid occupational title, yet it acknowledges the use of the term “therapist” when categorizing a Hypnotherapist.

The Florida Institute of Hypnotherapy was Florida’s first school to be licensed by the Florida Department of 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, not as Hypnotists. To deny someone to advertise with their State-Licensed credentials would be to limit something that someone worked very hard for through a true Postsecondary Vocational Institute.

Our school is also licensed by the Florida Department of Education - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VF#202535784001) to grant diplomas/certifications for “Hypnotherapists” and not just “Hypnotists”. 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.

Certain organizations have attempted to limit those in our occupation to only using the title “Hypnotist”, because they feel that we are not “therapists.” However, this is the interpretation of one person or a group of persons (usually operating as an association or guild) and in no way reflects federal, state, county or city standards for using the legitimate occupational title of Hypnotherapist.

Over the years, we have had graduates go to get their occupational licenses (now usually known as business tax receipts) in various counties and cities. At times, the county and/or city has misinterpreted Florida Hypnosis Law in the same way that you are. Every single time that this happens I have written letters like this one to these offices. They have checked with the State and have found that my understanding of this is accurate and have changed their policies accordingly; where our graduates can now receive occupational licenses/business tax receipts as “Hypnotherapists”.

You can find on our website a 10-minute video of me discussing this topic in depth:
<http://tfioh.com/IAIH-Law-and-Legislative-Efforts.html>

On this page you will also see all documentation with the various counties and cities that misunderstood Florida Hypnosis Law and changed their understanding of it.

On this webpage you will also find a 16-page PDF document that clearly explains every aspect of Florida Hypnosis Law. It has been reviewed by attorneys to check for its accuracy and in every way it has stood up on federal, state, county and city levels.

For over 40 years many fine organizations and leaders in this field have worked hard to establish and to protect our occupational title. Only a few of these organizations have required that their schools are licensed by their respective State’s Department of Education. I understand that you have the right to limit who advertises in your magazine, yet I do hope that you will reconsider your stance on Florida Hypnosis Law as your understanding limits our graduates and limits our profession, and therefore limits people’s right to practice their professions and to help others. I reviewed the current edition of your magazine online and did



not see a single Hypnotist, Hypnotherapist or Hypnotherapy School listed. This is unfortunate as those who transform the minds of others are truly worthy of being allowed to advertise their services.

I would also suggest that with this understanding that you do not look into whether someone calls themselves a hypnotist or a hypnotherapist, yet that you consider that if a school were to advertise in your magazine that they are State-Licensed to grant legitimate diplomas/certifications in Hypnotherapy. It is actually illegal to offer training in this occupation without such licensure and therefore you would be supporting illegal activity to allow a hypnosis training that grants certifications for an occupation to advertise in your magazine. One call to the Florida Department of Education's branch known as the Commission for Independent Education will validate this point.

Our school's organization, the International Association of Interpersonal Hypnotherapists, sends out a newsletter to all of our students and graduates. We update them regularly about their right to practice their occupation legally and with the full use of their hard-earned State-Licensed credentials. I do hope that I can tell them in good faith that _____ does indeed understand Florida Hypnosis Law and that they can advertise with you and support you in your good works as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Matthew Brownstein

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