



Village of Northbrook

DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING SERVICES

Zoning Code Interpretation

Purpose:	Classify the Land Use "Massage Therapist"
Northbrook Zoning Code Section(s):	Master Use Table Multiple Zoning Districts
Date:	November 29, 2000

Reason for Interpretation

The purpose of the interpretation is to establish guidelines to differentiate between a licensed massage therapist and other types of massage uses, which are not allowed.

Interpretation:

Although massage therapy is not specifically listed under this category, it is a use that has gained popularity since the SIC and Zoning Code defined its use. We believe that it is consistent with other health-related businesses that fall in this category, such as acupuncture, hypnotists, and physical therapists.

We have determined that there is a **difference between massage therapy and massage parlors**, which the Zoning Code currently recognizes as being permitted in the Commercial Zoning Districts. The difference is that the massage therapy is performed by a licensed professional and is used for the purposes of promoting health. It should be noted that even our Village health plan recognizes massage therapy as a covered medical expense.

That being said, Village Ordinance 00-41 was passed allowing certain health services as permitted uses in the O-2, O-3, and O-4 Office Districts.

After careful review of the Village Municipal Code and Zoning Code it has been determined by Wayne Hanson and Jennifer Maisch that massage therapy, as performed by a **licensed massage therapist, will be classified under SIC #8049**, Offices and Clinics of Health Practitioners, Not Elsewhere Classified.

Therefore, massage therapists (as opposed to massage parlors) are a permitted use in these districts under the interpretation above.

Reviewed and Affirmed:

Thomas R Poupard, AICP
Director of Development & Planning Services