



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

DIVISION OF INSURANCE
Juneau Office

P.O. Box 110805
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0805
Main: 907.465.2515
Fax: 907.465.3422

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To whom it may concern:

Executive Order (EO) 130, signed by Governor Dunleavy on January 15, 2024, and effective July 1, 2024, transfers the credentialing authority of direct entry midwives from the Board of Certified Direct Entry Midwives to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. Executive Order (EO) 127 signed by Governor Dunleavy on January 15, 2024, and effective July 1, 2024, transfers the credentialing authority of massage therapists from the Board of Massage Therapy to the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED). Both executive orders amend Alaska Statutes (AS), Title 08, Business and Professions, and AS Title 44, State Government.

Insurers must follow non-discrimination provisions under AS 21.36.090(d) when a health care provider delivers services within the scope of their professional license. This statute specifically recognizes direct entry midwives. Additionally, insurers must comply with Affordable Care Act (ACA) provider non-discrimination rules under 2706(a) which prohibits discrimination based on provider licensure in terms of reimbursement of covered services within a provider's state authorized scope of practice. Direct entry midwives and massage therapists will still be receiving professional licensure; it will be through DCCED by the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (CBPL) instead of a stand-alone professional licensure board.

Insurers may have different rules for who they accept billing(s) from, and providers are reminded it is a good idea to discuss with insurance payers any filing requirements, particularly if they are a new payer for the provider. The division believes that if midwives and/or massage therapists were billing insurance before EO 130 and EO 127, then they will be able to bill going forward.

In summary, the proposed changes in EO 130 and EO 127 do not impact direct-entry midwives' or massage therapists' ability to bill and receive reimbursement for services from health care insurers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori Wing-Heier".

Lori Wing-Heier
Director