

# Florida Hypnosis Law - Santa Rosa County

Published: Tuesday, June 3, 2014

Email stream with IAIH President Matthew Brownstein and the County of Santa Rosa, Florida.

Dear Amy,

I sincerely appreciate your response and your willingness to make this change which allows our graduates to truly make a real difference in people's lives within the actual confines of Florida Hypnosis Law.

Kind Regards,

**Matthew Brownstein, CHT**  
**CEO, Anahat Education Group, Inc.**  
**President, International Association of Interpersonal Hypnotherapists**  
**Executive Director, Florida Institute of Hypnotherapy**  
**One Tampa City Center**  
**201 North Franklin Street, Suite #3415, Tampa, FL 33602**  
**(813) 463-0264 – (800) 551-9247**  
[www.InterpersonalHypnotherapy.com](http://www.InterpersonalHypnotherapy.com)  
[www.tfiqh.com](http://www.tfiqh.com)

**From:** Amy Brinkerhoff [mailto:ABrinkerhoff@srctc.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 03, 2014 1:20 PM  
**To:** Matthew Brownstein, CHt  
**Subject:** RE: Florida Hypnosis Law and Business Tax Receipts

We will issue a service business tax receipt without a doctor's letter.

Amy Brinkerhoff, CFCA  
Director of Tax Administration  
Santa Rosa County Tax Collector  
850-983-1800 ext 413

**From:** Matthew Brownstein, CHt [<mailto:mbrownstein@instituteofhypnotherapy.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 02, 2014 3:51 PM  
**To:** Amy Brinkerhoff  
**Subject:** Florida Hypnosis Law and Business Tax Receipts  
**Importance:** High

Dear Ms. Brinkerhoff,

Thank you for your time today on the phone. I will offer a simple explanation here of the problem that I hope we can amicably work out together just as I have with many other cities and counties when there was a misinterpretation of Florida Hypnosis Law.

I am cc'ing our attorney, Mr. Gary Urso, 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.

Hypnotherapist is an occupational title on the Federal level. The US Department of Labor acknowledges it as "Therapist, Other." However, it is a certified and not a licensed profession.

The Florida Department of Education's Commission for Independent Education licenses our school (#3448) to provide career diplomas in Certified, Clinical and Transpersonal Hypnotherapy and our graduates must be allowed to practice their occupation within the confines of the law. <http://app1.fldoe.org/cie/SearchSchools/detail.aspx?schoolid=3448>

The Florida Hypnosis Statutes do not require that someone be a licensed practitioner of the healing arts to practice hypnotherapy as a profession. It requires that they have a prescription, referral, supervision or direction from one of these practitioners if they are working on a condition deemed "therapeutic." This is on a case-by-case basis and much of hypnotherapy focuses on non-therapeutic conditions where such a referral is simply not required.

Nothing in the Florida Hypnosis Statutes requires a letter to the County from a licensed practitioner saying that they will supervise a hypnotherapist. The law never requires that your offices request this letter. It says that the hypnotherapist must seek "prescription, referral, supervision or direction" to abide by Florida Law when working on a condition deemed medical or mental health. To limit a Hypnotherapist with state-licensed diplomas in a legitimate career to requiring a letter from a physician alone is simply not what the law states. The law requires that the hypnotherapist seeks out this referral from the appropriate licensed practitioner as the need arises when dealing with conditions deemed "therapeutic."

We have resolved this misinterpretation with every city and county that we have had to engage. The following links will offer complete information on an accurate understanding of the law and the solutions that we found to allow hypnotherapists to legally operate their practice.

[Florida Hypnosis Law - City of Melbourne](#)

"The very day that the City attempted to keep this student from having his business license [business tax receipt], this letter was written and upon careful deliberation of Florida Hypnosis Law the decision was reversed and the license was granted as it is completely legal for a hypnotherapist to practice hypnosis with the scope of his or her credentials in the State of Florida."

[Florida Hypnosis Law - City of Orlando](#)

-Direct letter from a graduate of our school of her experience of successfully getting her business tax receipt in Orlando after being told she could not.

[Florida Hypnosis Law - County of Sarasota](#)

“The woman at the County Office explained that a “Service Business Tax Receipt” will be offered in Sarasota County for Hypnotherapists as “receipt for taxes that are paid for performing a service.”

[Florida Hypnosis Law - City of Fort Lauderdale](#)

“Because of this understanding, Ms. Patterson decided to use the “4233.00 Therapist” occupational title for the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida when granting Hypnotherapists business tax receipts.”

[Protecting Clinical Hypnotherapy in Florida - Collier County](#)

“The new change acknowledges that a Hypnotherapist who is qualified to practice therapeutic hypnosis will sign an affidavit that reads: Certificate that applicant, requesting a business tax receipt to practice **therapeutic hypnosis**, has knowledge of and will comply with applicable law.”

I look forward to your response and once again hope that we can find a simple solution to this misunderstanding as we have a responsibility to our graduates to allow them to practice their occupation.

Respectfully,

**Matthew Brownstein, CHT**  
**CEO, Anahat Education Group, Inc.**  
**President, International Association of Interpersonal Hypnotherapists**  
**Executive Director, Florida Institute of Hypnotherapy**  
**One Tampa City Center**  
**201 North Franklin Street, Suite #3415, Tampa, FL 33602**  
**(813) 463-0264 – (800) 551-9247**  
**Direct Line – (813) 455-3309**  
[www.InterpersonalHypnotherapy.com](http://www.InterpersonalHypnotherapy.com)  
[www.tfioh.com](http://www.tfioh.com)

PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from the Santa Rosa County Tax Collector and employees regarding public business are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your e-mail may be subject to public disclosure.