

About the Asian Bodywork Therapy (ABT) Profession

- **Asian Bodywork Therapy (ABT)** is the accurate professional “umbrella” term that includes the following bodywork therapies: Acupressure, Amma, AMMA Therapy®, Chi Nei Tsang, Five Element Shiatsu, Integrative Eclectic Shiatsu, Japanese Shiatsu, Jin Shin Do® Bodymind Acupressure®, Jin Shou Tuina™, Macrobiotic Shiatsu, Medical Qigong, Nuad Bo 'Rarn (Traditional Thai Bodywork), Shiatsu, Shiatsu Anma Therapy, Tuina, and Zen Shiatsu.
- Legitimate practitioners may refer to themselves as Asian Bodywork Therapists or as practitioners of one or more of the above listed therapies.
- Legitimate practitioners do not typically present themselves as practitioners of ‘Oriental Massage’ or ‘Asian Massage,’ unless they are licensed as a Massage Therapist in addition to their Asian Bodywork Therapy (ABT) credentials.

Credentialing and Certification

- Legitimate Asian Bodywork Therapy professionals will have the following credentials or certifications:
 - They may be AOBTA® Certified Practitioners or Instructors (**AOBTA®-CP, AOBTA®-RI, or AOBTA®-CI**)
 - Resource for verification: www.aobta.org
 - They may be NCCAOM® Nationally Certified (Dipl. ABT (NCCAOM)®).
 - Resource for verification: www.nccaom.org
 - They may be licensed acupuncturists or licensed massage therapists that are also trained in one of the Asian Bodywork Therapies.

What to Look For

- A listing in the **AOBTA® Professional Directory** (www.aobta.org)
- A current **AOBTA® Certificate of Membership** and/or
- A current **NCCAOM® Diplomat of Asian Bodywork Therapy Certificate** and/or
- A current **Acupuncture License** and/or
- A current **Massage Therapy License** (in states requiring ABTs to be licensed as MTs)
- Appropriate business practices:
 - Practitioners will keep client records. The reception area and client files will be organized to protect client confidentiality. (HIPAA compliance)
 - Most often Asian Bodywork Therapy is performed with clients fully clothed. In instances where it is otherwise, our professional standards include proper use of draping.