

DATE: April 29, 2020

TO: Pinellas County - Licensed Acupuncturists

FROM: FSOMA Board of Directors

RE: Update on Pinellas County Local State of Emergency

FSOMA has received confirmation that “acupuncture” will be removed from the non-essential services list on Pinellas County “Safer-at-Home” Order #20-20 this week.

Throughout April, FSOMA has been working through its attorney Gabe Warren and lobbyist Rick Lindstrom to communicate with the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, their attorney Jewel White, the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Department and their attorney Shannon Lockhart.

Today, FSOMA was informed that Pinellas County’s misidentification of “acupuncture” as a non-essential service was unintended. FSOMA was also assured that no law enforcement visits, or actions were planned or taken against Acupuncturists in Pinellas County. It is now clear and understood that Acupuncturists provide “essential services” in Pinellas County. Any subsequent or future Orders issued by the County Board will reflect that understanding.

The Sheriff’s Department has requested through attorney Lockhart that, if any Acupuncturist has been contacted by Pinellas County law enforcement regarding their business being open, please provide the name and address of your business to FSOMA immediately. We will remain in contact with the Sheriff’s Department and their attorney’s office to resolve any potential enforcement actions involving acupuncturists.

Thank you,

Ellen Teeter, AP

Executive Director