



News Release

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State disciplines health care providers

OLYMPIA -- The Washington State Department of Health has taken disciplinary actions or withdrawn charges against health care providers in our state.

The department's Health Systems Quality Assurance Division works with boards, commissions, and advisory committees to set licensing standards for more than 80 health care professions (e.g., medical doctors, nurses, counselors).

Information about health care providers is on the agency website. Click on "[Look up a healthcare provider license](#)" in the "How Do I?" section of the [Department of Health website](#) (doh.wa.gov). The site includes information about a health care provider's license status, the expiration and renewal date of their credential, disciplinary actions and copies of legal documents issued after July 1998. This information is also available by calling 360-236-4700. Consumers who think a health care provider acted unprofessionally are encouraged to call and report their complaint.

Clark County

In November 2014 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Robert John Watez** (RN00126536) with unprofessional conduct. Charges say that in 2013 the Oregon State Board of Nursing put Watez on probation for sexually inappropriate behavior toward co-workers that interfered with patient care.

Franklin County

In November 2014 the Medical Commission entered an agreement with physician **Stephen L. Smith** (MD00019257). He has agreed not to treat patients under age 18; he is restricted in testing patients for heavy metal toxicity; restricted from treating patients who aren't under the care of a primary care provider or other specialist; and must pay a \$1,000 fine. Smith treated a 15-year-old boy who'd been diagnosed with autism. He didn't maintain adequate documentation or refer the patient to specialists. Smith also treated the patient with substances that don't address autism symptoms, and diagnosed the patient with lead poisoning despite a lack of evidence.

Grant County

In November 2014 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant **James Danial Munro** (NA00089068) with unprofessional conduct. In 2014 Munro was convicted of

residential burglary and third-degree rape with aggravated circumstances—sexual motivation.

King County

In November 2014 the Dental Commission filed an amended statement of charges against dental assistant **Shamay Monique Haskin**, also known as Melody Harwell and Tabra Rene Cunningham (D160058955), to delete certain allegations.

In November 2014 the Occupational Therapy Board conditionally granted an occupational therapy assistant credential to **Eskinder Birku Abasseran** (LA60478138) and ordered him to undergo a substance abuse evaluation. In 2003 Abasseran was convicted of reckless driving. In 2010 he was convicted of driving while intoxicated and physical control while intoxicated.

In November 2014 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant **Mawa Conde** (NA60101258) with unprofessional conduct. She worked at an adult family home where charges say she found a patient on the floor and didn't know whether he was injured. Instead of summoning help or reporting the fall, Conde allegedly put the patient back in his bed and didn't document the fall.

In November 2014 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Sandra Lee Stephens** (RN00094442) with unprofessional conduct. Charges say that during a 13-month period when her credential was expired, Stephens maintained a nursing delegation contract with the Department of Social and Health Services, providing nursing delegation services. She also allegedly admitted billing for services she didn't provide and being paid.

In November 2014 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Gwendolyn Scarlett Blanton** (RN00111503) with unprofessional conduct. Charges say Blanton worked at a hospital chemical dependency center that admitted a patient with multiple health problems for alcohol detoxification. Blanton allegedly documented assessing the patient, but later admitted she hadn't, and didn't take a blood pressure reading as required.

In November 2014 the secretary of health conditionally granted interim medical assistant and certified medical assistant credentials to **Lisa Nichole Ellefsen** (IC60501665, CM60371070), who must continue to comply with conditions imposed when she received a health care assistant license in 2012.

Kitsap County

In November 2014 the secretary of health conditionally granted a registered nursing assistant credential to **David Warren Mills** (NA60479030) and ordered him to participate in a substance abuse monitoring program. In 2008 and again in 2014 Mills was convicted of driving while intoxicated. Mills underwent a substance abuse evaluation that indicated he could practice with reasonable skill and safety if he follows treatment recommendations.

In November 2014 the Medical Commission ended probation for physician **Janet E. Vondran** (MD00033182).

Pierce County

In November 2014 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Weixiu Luo** of its intent to issue a cease-and-desist order. Luo, who has no massage practitioner license, allegedly provided massage treatment to a patient for \$60.

In November 2014 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant **Rhonda J. Larson** (NA00053897) with unprofessional conduct. She worked at an adult family home and allegedly asked a vulnerable adult who lived there for money to pay her cell phone bill. Charges say Larson told the resident the bill was six dollars, but his bank statement showed Larson had taken \$123.84 from his account.

In October 2014 the secretary of health denied a registered nursing assistant credential to **Bryan Jeffrey France** (NA60429965). In 2013 France was convicted of reckless driving and in 2014 he was convicted of minor in possession. France told the Department of Health he was receiving substance abuse treatment and also acknowledged a relapse. The department hasn't received proof that France complied with a requirement to undergo a substance use evaluation.

In November 2014 the Licensed Independent Social Worker Program charged licensed independent social worker **Michael K. Strub** (LW00004263) with unprofessional conduct. Charges say Strub didn't meet the standard of care for a client in about 270 psychotherapy sessions over about four years. Strub allegedly held extended sessions without documenting medical necessity or client improvement; didn't adequately assess, treat, or document the client's conditions; created a risk due to the client's overdependence on Strub; created a lack of continuity in treatment; and created a risk of harm to the patient.

Skagit County

In November 2014 the secretary of health ended probation for health care assistant **Ebony Renee Fryer** (HC60309685).

Snohomish County

In November 2014 the Dental Commission charged dental assistant **Sheridan Antoinette Williams** (D160080732) with unprofessional conduct. In 2011 Williams was convicted of second-degree theft and second-degree trafficking in stolen property. In 2012 she was convicted of third-degree theft. In response to a Department of Health investigator's inquiry, Williams submitted a letter of recommendation alleged to be from a dentist. The dentist said he neither wrote nor knew about the letter.

In November 2014 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant **Musukebba Drammeh** (NA00143385) with being unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety. Charges say that after Drammeh inaccurately read and wrote down the dosage of a patient's medication, an eye exam showed her vision isn't adequate to safely perform the duties of a nursing assistant.

Spokane County

In November 2014 the Nursing Assistant Program reinstated the registered nursing assistant and certified nursing assistant credentials of **Elaine L. Gannaway** (NA00193415, NC60078347) and placed her on probation for at least one year. Gannaway's licenses were suspended in 2012 when she didn't comply with a requirement to submit performance evaluation reports.

Yakima County

In November 2014 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Ming Lei** of its intent to issue a cease-and-desist order. Lei, who doesn't have a massage practitioner credential, allegedly owns and operates a massage business, and advertises massages online. A health care investigator who visited the business allegedly saw at least one sign advertising massage.

In November 2014 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Xue Mei Dilley** of its intent to issue a cease-and-desist order. Dilley doesn't have a massage practitioner license. A health care investigator who visited her workplace allegedly saw at least one sign advertising massage. Dilley allegedly offered to provide massage treatment to the investigator for \$60.

In November 2014 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Yuxue Guan** of its intent to issue a cease-and-desist order. Guan, who has no massage practitioner license, allegedly provided massage treatment to a patient for \$60.

In November 2014 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Yunhong Li** of its intent to issue a cease-and-desist order. Li doesn't have a massage practitioner credential. She allegedly offered to provide massage treatment to an investigator for \$60.

Out of State

Oregon: In November 2014 the Nursing Assistant Program reinstated the certified nursing assistant credential of **Jiddah Marie Aseniero** (NC10050053). Her license was suspended in 2001 until she got a substance abuse evaluation and showed competency to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

Note to Editors: Health care providers charged with unprofessional conduct have 20 days to respond to the Department of Health in writing. The case then enters the settlement process. If no disciplinary agreement can be reached, the case will go to a hearing.

The [Department of Health website](http://www.doh.wa.gov) (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).