



News Release

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Physician ordered by state to use chaperone while treating female patients

OLYMPIA — Physician Steven J. Bernick (MD60206990) has been ordered to be chaperoned while treating female patients due to allegations of sexual misconduct. The order was issued by the state Medical Quality Assurance Commission.

Bernick is required to maintain a log of chaperoned visits for the commission to review. He must also undergo a multidisciplinary evaluation, follow recommendations of the evaluators, and successfully complete an ethics course on professional boundaries. The commission's order states that Bernick committed unprofessional conduct in the form of inappropriate communication with a female patient.

Bernick sent the female patient frequent text messages, some of which contained photos of himself including one of a tattoo located on his bicep. Bernick requested the female patient reciprocate and send photos of herself. He also commented on the female patient's looks, discussed her marriage, and revealed personal details about his own divorce.

Legal documents in this case are available by calling 360-236-4700 or online by clicking the link to "[Provider Credential Search](#)" on the [Department of Health home page](#).

The Medical Quality Assurance Commission and the Department of Health protect and promote public health, safety, and welfare in Washington by regulating physicians' and physician assistants' competency and quality. The commission develops rules, policies, and procedures to promote delivery of high-quality health care to state residents.

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