



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OLYMPIA -- The Washington State Department of Health has taken disciplinary actions or withdrawn charges against health care providers in our state.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

Chelan County

In April 2015 the secretary of health ended probation for chemical dependency professional trainee and chemical dependency professional **Benjamin Joseph Robert Wilson** (CO60199471, CP60285822).

In May 2015 the Pharmacy Commission charged pharmacy technician **Tabitha M. Fabian** (VA00041714) with unprofessional conduct. She allegedly admitted diverting controlled substances from the pharmacy where she worked for her own use. In 2015 Fabian was convicted of first-degree theft, and unlawful possession of a controlled substance—hydrocodone.

Clark County

In April 2015 the Dental Commission charged dentist **Avery Elmer Harrison** (DE00004619) with unprofessional conduct. He allegedly contracted to practice dentistry for a company that didn't have a Washington license, enabling the company's unlicensed practice of dentistry.

In April 2015 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant **Regina Ieisha Hurts** (NC60484819) with unprofessional conduct. Charges say Hurts admitted taking jewelry

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that belonged to a 90-year-old resident at an assisted living facility where she worked. In 2015 Hurts pleaded guilty to third-degree theft.

Douglas County

In April 2015 the secretary of health ended probation for chemical dependency professional trainee **Natasha Dawn Craigen** (CO60423039).

Garfield County

In April 2015 the Counselor and Chemical Dependency Professional programs charged agency affiliated counselor and chemical dependency professional **Wayne G. McLean** (CG60155298, CP00006070) with being unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

Grays Harbor County

In April 2015 the Dental Commission ended conditions on the credential of dentist **George Whitehead** (DE00005204).

King County

In April 2015 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Shari Joy Cassara** of its intent to issue a cease-and-desist order. Charges say Cassara used the letters “RN” on her office door plate, name tag, and business cards despite not having a registered nurse license.

In April 2015 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Fengqin Hu** of its intent to issue a cease-and-desist order. Charges allege that although Hu has no massage practitioner credential, Hu’s workplace had a sign advertising massage.

In April 2015 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant **Laif Davis McCaddon** (NC60216119) with unprofessional conduct. In 2014 McCaddon pleaded guilty to third-degree assault and driving while intoxicated.

In April 2015 the Nursing Assistant Program entered an agreement with certified nursing assistant **Diane Margaret Johnson** (NC60307152) that lifts the suspension on her credential. Johnson must complete continuing education in fall prevention, ethics, teamwork and patient partnering, and preventing errors and mistakes. She must pay a \$250 fine. Contrary to orders, Johnson tried to transfer a nursing home patient from a toilet to a wheelchair without a gait belt or help from another staff member. The patient fell and broke a hip. Since the state Department of Social and Health Services found that Johnson neglected a vulnerable adult, she is not allowed to be employed in caring for or having unsupervised access to vulnerable adults.

In March 2015 the secretary of health denied a chemical dependency professional trainee credential to **Sophia Kaye Johnson** (CO60488344). In 2012 Johnson was convicted of third-degree theft, first-degree attempted retail theft, and theft.

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In April 2015 the Pharmacy Commission ended probation for pharmacy technician **Xoa T. Oaks** (VA00039372).

In April 2015 the Pharmacy Commission charged pharmacy technician **Michaela M. Connors** (VA00013423) with unprofessional conduct. Connors allegedly didn't comply with a substance abuse monitoring contract.

Kitsap County

In April 2015 the secretary of health conditionally granted a certified nursing assistant credential to **Brandy Christine Heitmann** (NC60528894) and placed her on probation until February 6, 2016. Heitmann must abide by conditions imposed when she received a registered nursing assistant credential in February 2015.

Pierce County

In May 2015 the Nursing Commission entered an agreement with licensed practical nurse **Teresa J. Askew** (LP00031931) that places her license on probation for at least two years and fines her \$1,000. Askew worked at an adult family home where she received medications from a pharmacy for a patient, but didn't log them in accordance with facility policy. She withdrew controlled substances for patients multiple times, but didn't document administering or disposing of them.

Skagit County

In March 2015 the secretary of health denied an agency affiliated counselor credential to **David M. Moena** (CG60516127). Moena's registered nursing assistant license was placed on probation in 2014 because of medication errors.

In May 2015 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant **Jennifer M. Leach** (NA00103845) with unprofessional conduct. Charges say Leach arrived for work as a caregiver with alcohol on her breath. Co-workers allegedly observed her swaying, slurring her words, and having difficulty standing-up straight. Leach hasn't provided a full explanation in response to a Department of Health inquiry.

Snohomish County

In April 2015 the Massage Program amended a statement of charges against massage practitioner **Judson Karl Lentz** (MA60206865) to delete and change the wording of some allegations, and to add Lentz pleaded guilty in 2015 to third-degree attempted assault with sexual motivation.

Spokane County

In April 2015 the Medical Commission charged physician **Lewis J. Meline** (MD00041815) with unprofessional conduct. Meline allegedly had ongoing sexual relationships with two patients who are described in the statement of charges as prostitutes. He allegedly provided about

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\$50,000 to \$60,000 in financial support to one and about \$8,000 to \$10,000 in financial support to the other, paying for items such as child support, phone bills, health care, escort service advertisements, and housing expenses. Charges say he took one patient with him to a medical conference in Las Vegas, where they shared a hotel room and he paid for all expenses. Meline allegedly issued prescriptions (including controlled substances) to both patients without treating them in a clinical setting, performing diagnostic tests, or keeping medical records. Charges say Meline prescribed testosterone for himself without keeping medical records and he wrote non-emergency prescriptions for family members without keeping medical records.

In April 2015 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program ended probation for chemical dependency professional trainee **Patricia Noel Shropshire** (CO60418513).

In May 2015 the secretary of health ended probation for certified counselor **Michael Tyrone Deal** (CL60246873).

Thurston County

In April 2015 the secretary of health ended probation for chemical dependency professional trainee **Kelly James Knittle** (CO60278515).

In May 2015 the Pharmacy Commission charged pharmacist **Richard E. Andersen** (PH00010483) with unprofessional conduct. Andersen allegedly diverted narcotics for his own use from the hospital pharmacy where he worked. Charges say Andersen admitted falsifying records.

Out of State

New York: In April 2015 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Ruiyun Niu** of its intent to issue a cease-and-desist order. Niu allegedly doesn't have a massage practitioner credential, but her workplace had a sign advertising massage.

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://doh.wa.gov) (doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*.

Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

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