



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OLYMPIA -- The Washington State Department of Health has taken disciplinary actions or withdrawn charges against health care providers in our state.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

Benton County

In February 2016 the secretary of health conditionally granted an emergency medical technician credential to **Sean Christopher Phillips** (ES60592808) and placed him on probation for at least one year. In 2012 Phillips was convicted in Oregon of indecent exposure.

In February 2016 the Nursing Commission entered an agreement with registered nurse **Patricia Anne Short** (RN00112783) that places her on probation for at least five years and fines her \$1,000. When Short worked at an adult family home, she told a medication aide to write false information about circumstances in which a resident had a heart attack and subsequently died. Short also lied about an incident involving missing medication, and forged another staff member's initials on a medication record.

Clark County

In February 2016 the Medical Commission charged physician **Eric A. Doerfler** (MD00029233) with unprofessional conduct. Doerfler allegedly provided substandard care to a chronic pain patient, and inadequately supervised a physician assistant.

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Grant County

In February 2016 the secretary of health ended probation for respiratory care practitioner **Colette K. Lancaster** (LR00003822).

King County

In February 2016 the secretary of health ended probation for registered nursing assistant and certified nursing assistant **Janelle Alene Wallace** (NA60393202, NC60393687).

In February 2016 the Unlicensed Practice Program ordered **Anh Thi Hoang** to cease and desist from practicing massage without a license, and pay a \$1,000 fine. Hoang, who doesn't have a massage practitioner license, owns a business that advertised massage, but had no licensed employees on-site.

In February 2016 the Agency-Affiliated Counselor Program reinstated the expired agency-affiliated counselor credential of **Mafabi R. Gidudu** (CG60143466), who must continue to undergo treatment for a chronic mental condition.

In February 2016 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant **Benjamin G. Phipps** (NC60551255) with unprofessional conduct. While working at a residential care facility for developmentally disabled adults, Phipps allegedly touched a resident inappropriately and tried to climb into the resident's bed.

In February 2016 the secretary of health conditionally granted a certified nursing assistant credential to **Shannon Olivia Gergen** (CM60611231) and ordered her to undergo an evaluation for a substance abuse monitoring program. On her application, Gergen disclosed previous alcohol-related criminal charges, and a pending case involving drugs and/or alcohol. In 2009 she was convicted of reckless driving.

In February 2016 the Nursing Commission entered an agreement with registered nurse **Ingrid C. Landerth** (RN00156108) that requires her to enter and participate in a substance abuse monitoring program. After making a medication error, Landerth tested positive for cocaine, and admitted relapsing after being in treatment for alcohol and cocaine addiction.

In February 2016 the Nursing Commission granted a registered nurse credential to **Melisa Wanja Kariuki** (RN60516867) and placed her on probation for at least 18 months. Kariuki must submit performance evaluation reports from her employer, complete continuing education in ethics, and write a report about it. In 2013 the state Department of Social and Health Services determined that Kariuki financially exploited a vulnerable adult while working as a caregiver and cannot be employed in caring for or having unsupervised access to vulnerable adults.

In March 2016 the Chiropractic Commission charged chiropractor **David L. Nicholes** (CH00002410) with unprofessional conduct. Nicholes allegedly didn't heed other chiropractors' records in treating two patients.

Kitsap County

In February 2016 the Pharmacy Commission placed pharmacist **Nicholas D. Wyatt** (PH60017358) on probation and ordered him to write an essay about a pharmacist's duty ensuring patient safety. Wyatt failed to exercise professional clinical judgment when managing medications through a collaborative agreement with a physician.

Lewis County

In February 2016 the secretary of health conditionally granted a chemical dependency professional trainee credential to **Kathryn Michelle Allen** (CO60613206) and ordered her to undergo an evaluation for a substance abuse monitoring program. In 2010 Allen was convicted of three counts of possession of a controlled substance, and one count each of unlawful use of drug paraphernalia, driving while intoxicated, and reckless endangerment.

In February 2016 the Agency-Affiliated Counselor Program charged agency-affiliated counselor **Erin Lee Snodgrass** (CG60405014) with unprofessional conduct. In 2016 Snodgrass was charged with first-degree custodial sexual misconduct. She allegedly had a sexual relationship with a juvenile prison inmate she counseled.

Pierce County

In February 2016 the Counselor Program charged chemical dependency professional, agency-affiliated counselor and certified counselor **Bryan David Jeffers-Atkins** (CP00006148, CG60277350, CL60284014) with unprofessional conduct. Charges say Jeffers-Atkins admitted buying narcotics from a patient at a facility where he worked. He allegedly admitted taking a list of clients' names and telephone numbers on his last day of work and then his spouse tried to get narcotics from a client. Jeffers-Atkins also allegedly obtained a prescription in his name to get narcotics for his spouse.

Skagit County

In February 2016 the Chiropractic Commission ended probation for chiropractor **Aaron Farleigh Theriot** (CH60331405).

Snohomish County

In February 2016 the Unlicensed Practice Program entered an agreement with **Jennifer Hua** that requires her to cease and desist from practicing optometry without a license, and pay \$200. Hua, who doesn't have a dispensing optician license, owns a business that made contact lenses available to the public.

In February 2016 the Nursing Commission ended probation for registered nurse **Cassandra L. Abbott** (RN00097911).

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Spokane County

In February 2016 the Nursing Commission ended probation for registered nurse **Kaarene Denee Parker** (RN00130561).

In February 2016 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Elizabeth A. Rubertas** of its intent to issue a cease-and-desist order. Rubertas allegedly admitted performing blood draws without a medical assistant-phlebotomist license.

Thurston County

In February 2016 the Nursing Commission charged licensed practical nurse **Louise Irene Patrick** (LP00052991) with unprofessional conduct. Charges say Patrick practiced as a nurse with a suspended and expired credential, and she didn't report a 2013 conviction for unlawful issuance of a bank check.

In February 2016 the Nursing Commission entered an agreement with licensed practical nurse **Errin Brooke Garcia** (LP60402191) that requires her to complete a substance abuse monitoring program. Garcia didn't comply with a previous substance abuse monitoring contract.

Yakima County

In February 2016 the Medical Commission charged physician **Frederick Jarl Thysell** (MD00024540) with unprofessional conduct. Thysell allegedly provided substandard care to chronic pain patients.

Out of State

Idaho: In February 2016 the secretary of health ended probation for chemical dependency professional trainee and chemical dependency professional **Daryl Scott Cline** (CO60314034, CP60416722).

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*.

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