

REMINDER NOTICE TO ALL HEALTH-RELATED LICENSEES AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS

ACT 31 OF 2014 – INITIAL TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION IN CHILD ABUSE RECOGNITION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA), in conjunction with the Department of Human Services (DHS), is providing advance notice to all health-related licensees and funeral directors that are considered “mandatory reporters” under section 6311 of the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) (23 P.S. § 6311), as amended, that EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015, all persons applying for issuance of an initial license shall be required to complete 3 hours of DHS-approved training in child abuse recognition and reporting requirements as a condition of licensure.

Additionally, EFFECTIVE WITH THE FIRST LICENSE RENEWAL AFTER JANUARY 1, 2015, all health-related licensees and funeral directors applying for the renewal of a license issued by the Board shall be required to complete at least 2 hours of Board-approved continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting requirements as a condition of renewal.

Please note that Act 31 applies to all health-related licensees, regardless of whether they are subject to the continuing education requirements of the applicable board.

More information regarding this requirement will be posted on the BPOA website when it is available.

Approved providers may be reviewed at the following link:

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/con_ed_providers/21920

Act 31 may be reviewed at the following link:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/LI/uconsCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&yr=2014&sessInd=0&smthLwlnd=0&act=31>.

Updating Your Address

Each licensee should make sure that his or her current address is on record with the Board. This will ensure that renewal forms and all communications from the Board will be sent to the proper address and can expedite the renewal process. Licensees can check, and if necessary, change their address on the My License website www.mylicense.state.pa.us. First time users will need their registration code located on the Board issued wallet card.

Continuing Education

According to the Practice Act/Law, all continuing education must be Pennsylvania State Board approved in order for these credits to be accepted for the 24 hour CE requirement. It is the licensee’s responsibility to ensure that the CE courses taken are PA Board approved.

Common errors of CE management can be averted if you follow some of these suggestions:

1. Confirm with the CE provider that the course is PA approved;
2. Confirm via the website of the State Board of Chiropractic that the CE course is approved - go to the Board's website, www.dos.pa.gov/chiro, click on the link "General Board Information" and then the link "Approved Continuing Education Programs".;
3. Maintain your certificates for a total of 2 renewal cycles;
4. If your certificate does not have the following evidence of completion, contact the provider immediately and request a reprinted certificate that contains all of the information - Name of licensee, business address, name of the sponsor and instructor, course taken (including the course's PA Board approval number), hours completed, date and place of the continuing education program offered, and a signed statement sworn and attested to by the licensee that the licensee was full in attendance at the program offered and that the information in such form is true and correct. If you experience difficulty in obtaining a certificate of attendance, please contact the Board with as much of the information, listed above, as you are able to provide.
5. The Board may make exceptions to the continuing education program requirements in emergency or hardship cases. An exception must be approved PRIOR to answering that you completed the continuing education requirement during your renewal process. Please contact the Board as early as possible and maintain documentation of any claimed emergency or hardships.

Kathleen McConnell, DC

Public Protection

It is your responsibility, as a licensed health care provider, to know The Chiropractic Practice Act and to abide by the scope and standards of practice. The Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) provides administrative support to all of the professional licensing boards within its jurisdiction and ensures that each licensee follows the applicable laws and regulations governing the scope and standards of practice of your profession. The laws governing chiropractic practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania can be found on the Board's website www.dos.pa.gov/chiro, under the link "Board Laws and Regulations".

The public is at risk if a health professional goes beyond the permissible scope of practice and/or performs procedures he or she is not trained to perform or is prohibited by law from performing.

Kathleen McConnell, DC

Advertising and Your Practice

There are many different ways to advertise your practice. Board members, administrators and staff are often asked questions about "FREE" or "DISCOUNTED"

items or services, etc. The proper way to protect yourself and your practice would include being fully aware of the various state and federal regulations that deal with your conduct as it relates to these offers.

It is strongly recommended that you obtain, read and understand the Chiropractic Rules and Regulations, available on the Board website www.dos.pa.gov/chiro.

Specifically, as it pertains to free offers, discounts or giveaways, please reference Subchapter C “Business Aspects of Practice,” § 5.31 “Professional Advertising” Paragraph (c), which reads:

“Advertising which is false, fraudulent, deceptive or misleading will be considered unprofessional conduct and may provide the basis for disciplinary action against the advertising licensee. An advertisement shall be deemed by the Board to be fraudulent, false, deceptive or misleading if it does the following:

Subparagraph (2) “Makes only a partial disclosure of relevant facts in its content or in the context in which it is presented; for example, advertising free services or services for a specific charge when, in fact, the licensee is transmitting a higher charge for the advertised services to a third-party payor for payment, or advertising a free service or services which are conditioned upon the purchase of an additional service or services without disclosing the condition.”

Joseph Grice, DC