



**Pennsylvania  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**STATE HEALTH LICENSING BOARDS  
DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS  
September 2007**

Secretary of the Commonwealth Pedro A. Cortés and Basil L. Merenda, Commissioner of the Department's Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, announced 55 disciplinary actions taken by the following State Health Licensing Boards: Chiropractic; Dentistry; Medicine; Nursing Home Administrators; Occupational Therapy; Optometry; Osteopathic Medicine; Pharmacy; Physical Therapy; Podiatry; Psychology; Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors; Examiners in Speech-Language and Hearing; and Veterinary Medicine.

Actions were taken against individuals or firms in the following counties: Allegheny (5 actions); Bucks (4 actions); Butler (1 action); Centre (1 action); Chester (1 action); Clarion (1 action); Crawford (1 action); Franklin (1 action); Lackawanna (1 action); Lancaster (1 action); Lawrence (1 action); Lycoming (1 action); Mercer (2 actions); Montgomery (2 actions); Northampton (1 action); Philadelphia (3 actions); Potter (1 action); Tioga (1 action); Wayne (1 action); Westmoreland (1 action); and York (1 action). Twenty-three actions involved licensees with out-of-state addresses.

**BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC**

**Butler County**

Samuel G. Fenn, license no. DC007700R, of Sarver, Butler County was reprimanded, ordered to complete continuing education and demonstrate proficiency through examination, based upon disciplinary action taken by another state. (08-03-07)

**BOARD OF DENTISTRY**

**Philadelphia County**

Joseph E. Gian-Grasso, license no. DS018466L of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was assessed a \$500 civil penalty and his license was publicly reprimanded. Gian-Grasso prescribed a controlled substance, Xanax, to an employee outside the scope of his dentist-patient relationship. (09-07-07)

Carl L. Tinkelman, license no. DS015962L of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, had a public reprimand placed on his board record because Tinkelman's license to practice dentistry was disciplined by the proper licensing authority of another state. (09-07-07)

### **York County**

William U. Blymire, III, license no. DS025238L of York, York County, was indefinitely suspended for no less than three years, immediately stayed in favor of no less than three years of probation under the Disciplinary Monitoring Unit. Blymire was unable to practice dentistry with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness or drunkenness. (09-07-07)

### **Out of State**

Todd A. Frost, license no. DS024424L of Brigantine, N.J., had a public reprimand placed on his record with the board because Frost had disciplinary action imposed on his license by the proper licensing authority of another state. (09-07-07)

## **BOARD OF MEDICINE**

### **Allegheny County**

Curtis George Kelly, license no. YM000366L of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, was suspended for no less than one year because he is unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety to patients because of illness, addiction to drugs or alcohol. (08-28-07)

Cheryl B. Langerman, license no. YM004604L of Oakdale, Allegheny County, had her license to practice respiratory care indefinitely suspended for no less than three years, immediately stayed in favor of no less than three years of probation subject to terms and conditions. Langerman was unable to practice the profession with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness or addiction to drugs or alcohol. (08-28-07)

### **Bucks County**

David M. Leach, license no. MD039284E, of Newtown, Bucks County, was granted reinstatement of his license to practice medicine and surgery, said license to be placed on probation for two years based on findings that he had met all requirements of a previous board order. (07-25-07)

### **Lackawanna County**

Gregory J. Salko, license no. MD013922E, voluntarily surrendered his license to practice medicine while his criminal cases are pending in the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas and the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Salko was arrested on July 31, 2007, in Lackawanna County and charged with illegally prescribing controlled substances and with two counts

of neglect of a care-dependant person. Additionally, Salko was indicted on 19 charges in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, which included two counts of health care fraud and 17 counts of false statements in health care matters. The voluntary surrender of Salko's license was effective Sept. 7, 2007, due to the Medical Board's concern about continuity of patient care and to afford the opportunity for patients to choose a new treating physician. The consent agreement provided that on Aug. 9, 2007, Salko surrendered his DEA registration, agreed not to assume the care of any new patients and would only provide treatment to those existing patients requiring care until they could appropriately be transferred to another physician. Salko last practiced in Carbondale, Lackawanna County. (08-28-07)

### **Lawrence County**

L. Alan Egleston, license no. MD014972E, of New Wilmington, Lawrence County, had his license revoked based on findings that he has been convicted of a felony relating to the medical profession; his actions presented an immediate and clear danger to public health and safety; he committed an act of immoral conduct that directly affected the health, welfare or safety of the citizens of the commonwealth; he is guilty of immoral or unprofessional conduct because his actions constitute a departure from ethical and quality standards of the profession; and he possessed, used, prescribed for use or distributed a controlled substance or legend drug in a way other than for an acceptable medical purpose. (07-25-07)

### **Mercer County**

Wendy Michele Thrasher, license no. YM005311L of Greenville, Mercer County, was retroactively suspended for 60 days. In addition, two years' probation and a public reprimand were imposed because Thrasher had disciplinary action taken against her license by the proper licensing authority of another state. (08-28-07)

### **Montgomery County**

Robert P. Ditizio, license no. MD047027L, of Collegetown, Montgomery County, had his license reinstated to probationary status based on findings that he has completed the terms of a previous board order. (08-27-07)

### **Philadelphia County**

Gregory A. Nelson, license no. MD024997E of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was assessed a \$5,000 civil penalty and had a reprimand placed on his board record because Nelson was convicted of willful failure to pay taxes, in violation of federal law. (08-28-07)

### **Potter County**

Eric J. Burrous, license no. YM011882 of Galeton, Potter County, was assessed a \$250 civil penalty because he practiced or offered to practice as a respiratory care practitioner without having a valid, current temporary permit or certificate from June 1, 2006 through March 1, 2007. (08-28-07)

### **Out of State**

Jorge A. Martinez, license no. MD039186L, of Poland, OH, had his license indefinitely suspended based on findings he was convicted of felonies under the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act. (04-30-07)

Javier Martinez Torres, license no. MD048061L, of Culver City, Calif., had his license indefinitely suspended and was assessed a \$500 civil penalty based on disciplinary action taken against his license to practice medicine and surgery imposed by the proper licensing authority of another state. (06-05-07)

Mounir Mekhail, license no. MD057269L, of Garland, TX, had his license publicly reprimanded and was assessed a \$1,000 civil penalty based on disciplinary action taken against his license by the proper licensing authority of another state. (07-06-07)

Richard B. Manis, license no. MD047847L, of Huntington, W. Va., had his license publicly reprimanded based on disciplinary action taken against his license in Missouri. (07-20-07)

John Christopher Luke, of Brooklyn, N.Y., had his application for licensure to practice medicine and surgery denied based on indications of negligence in the practice of medicine. (07-27-07)

Richard A. Hellander, license no. MD067371L, of Laurel Springs, N.J., had his license indefinitely suspended, immediately stayed in favor of probation, and was assessed a \$500 civil penalty based on disciplinary action taken against his license to practice medicine and surgery imposed by the proper licensing authority of another state. (07-30-07)

Ira Stephen Saposnik, license no. MD025784E, of Nashville, Tenn., had his license indefinitely suspended based on disciplinary action taken against his license to practice medicine and surgery imposed by the proper licensing authority of another state. (07-31-07)

James M. Stanch, license no. MD029722E, of Manahawkin, N.J., had his license revoked based on findings that he has been convicted of a felony in a federal court. (07-31-07)

Claude E. Hartman, of Elkhart, Ind., had his application for license to practice medicine and surgery denied based on Hartman having practiced medicine in a manner that departs from a quality standard of the practice. (08-15-07)

Robyn L. Alexander, license no. MA000726L of Cherry Hill, N.J., had her license to practice as a physician assistant indefinitely suspended for no less than three years, immediately stayed in favor of no less than three years of probation,

subject to terms and conditions under the Disciplinary Monitoring Unit. Alexander was unable to practice the profession with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness, addiction to drugs or alcohol and that she violated a lawful order of the board. (08-28-07)

Gaston F. DaCosta, license no. MD072824L, of Carthage, N.Y., was suspended for two years, immediately stayed in favor of probation because he was disciplined by the proper licensing authority of another state. (08-28-07)

Ralph A. DiGiacomo, license no. MD039630L of West Kingston, R.I., was immediately and indefinitely suspended because DiGiacomo had disciplinary action taken against his license by the proper licensing authority of another state. (08-28-07)

Lovsho Phen, license no. MD037401E of Portola, Calif., voluntarily surrendered her license to practice medicine and surgery in Pennsylvania because Phen had disciplinary action imposed by a proper licensing authority of another state. (08-28-07)

Peter W. Ross, Jr., license no. MD014843E of Louisville, Ky., voluntarily and permanently surrendered his license because his license to practice medicine and surgery was disciplined by the proper licensing authority of another state. (08-28-07)

John J. Ryan, Jr., license no. MA001825L of Glassboro, N.J., was suspended for no less than three years, immediately stayed in favor of no less than three years of probation because he had a license or other authorization to practice the profession revoked or suspended or had other disciplinary action taken, or an application for a license or other authorization refused, revoked or suspended by a proper licensing authority of another state, territory, possession or country, or a branch of the federal government. (08-28-07)

Nicholas Frank Sapienza, license no. MD427705 of Utica, N.Y., was assessed a \$500 civil penalty; his license was placed on indefinite probation for no less than five years; he was ordered not to write prescriptions for himself or members of his immediate family; a public reprimand was placed on his permanent board record. Sapienza had disciplinary action taken against his license by the proper licensing authority of another state. (08-28-07)

Ashutosh Virmani, license no. MD041128E of Charlotte, N.C., had a public reprimand placed on his board record because Virmani had disciplinary action imposed on his license to practice medicine by a proper licensing authority of another state. (08-28-07)

Vladimir P. Shurlan, license no. MD042098E of Cambridge, Mass., permanently and voluntarily surrendered his license to practice medicine in Pennsylvania because he pled guilty to one count of health care fraud and because he was disciplined by the Board of Registration in Medicine in Massachusetts in that he was permitted to resign his license to practice. (08-28-07)

Dwight Stansbury of Marlton, N.J., was assessed a \$5,000 civil penalty and ordered to cease and desist from practicing as an athletic trainer in Pennsylvania until he is properly certified to do so. Stansbury practiced without being certified under the Medical Practice Act. (08-28-07)

Abdolhossein Hafizi, license no. MD033962L, of Washington, D.C., had his license revoked based on findings that he has been convicted of a misdemeanor relating to the medical profession in a U.S. court. (08-29-07)

## **BOARD OF NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS**

No disciplinary actions taken.

## **BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

No disciplinary actions taken.

## **BOARD OF OPTOMETRY**

### **Franklin County**

William E. Schwab, license no. OE007557P, of Chambersburg, Franklin County, was assessed \$1,000 a civil penalty and had his license reprimanded for having practiced optometry without a valid, unexpired, unrevoked and unsuspended license. (07-13-07)

## **BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE**

### **Westmoreland County**

Robert P. Snyder, license no. OS009746L, of Wexford, Westmoreland County, had his license automatically suspended based on his felony drug conviction. (08-07-07)

## **BOARD OF PHARMACY**

No disciplinary actions taken.

## **BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

No disciplinary actions taken.

## **BOARD OF PODIATRY**

No disciplinary actions taken.

## **BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

### **Allegheny County**

Joseph S. Auria, license no. PS007340L, of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, was reprimanded based on his having engaged in immoral or unprofessional conduct for having prepared psychological evaluations wherein he included portions of other psychologists' evaluations without attribution. (08-01-07)

J. Anthony McGroarty, Psy.D., license no. PS003631L of Sewickley, Allegheny County, was assessed a \$1,000 civil penalty and a public reprimand was placed on his permanent board record because he violated the act which requires a psychologist to renew their license every two years and violated the act which prohibits a psychologist whose license is inactive or lapsed from practicing psychology in the commonwealth. (09-10-07)

## **BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKERS, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS**

No disciplinary actions taken.

## **BOARD OF SPEECH, LANGUAGE AND HEARING**

No disciplinary actions taken.

## **BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

### **Allegheny County**

Steven Richard Smolen, license no. BV010169, of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, was assessed a \$1,000 civil penalty and a public reprimand was placed on his permanent board record because he practiced during two biennial registration periods when he did not hold a valid license to do so. (08-30-07)

### **Bucks County**

Charles J. Malinauskas, license no. BV04624L of Chalfont, Bucks County, was assessed a \$250 civil penalty and ordered to immediately contact Verizon if he intends to continue to advertise in the Verizon Eastern Montgomery County Yellow Pages, so that an advertisement that is compliant with regulations of the board will appear in future editions of the Verizon Eastern Montgomery County Yellow Pages. Malinauskas placed or caused to be placed advertising for emergency veterinary services that was untrue, fraudulent, misleading or deceptive by failing to state whether a veterinarian is on the premises or on call, and disclosing specific limitations when advertising emergency services. (08-30-07)

Ransome Diener Weis, license no. BV008445L of Ottsville, Bucks County, was assessed a \$450 civil penalty and, within six months, must complete nine hours of continuing education credits for the period of Dec. 1, 2004, through Nov. 30, 2006, because he failed to complete 30 clock hours of board-approved continuing education. (08-30-07)

Katrina S. Jackson, license no. BV006896L, of Warrington, Bucks County, was assessed a \$750 civil penalty based on findings that she placed or caused to be placed advertising for emergency veterinary services that is untrue, fraudulent, misleading or deceptive by failing to state whether a veterinarian is on the premises or on call, and disclosing specific limitations when advertising emergency services. (09-04-07)

### **Centre County**

Joseph I. Ewaskiewicz, license no. BV008308L, of Millheim, Centre County, was assessed a \$700 civil penalty and, within six months, must complete and submit proof of required 14 clock hours of continuing education because he failed to complete 30 clock hours of board-approved continuing education for the biennial reporting period Dec. 1, 2004, through Nov. 30, 2006. (08-30-07)

### **Chester County**

Lorie D. Portugal, license no. BV007338L of Thorndale, Chester County, was assessed a \$2,000 civil penalty and her license was suspended for six months. Portugal failed to conform to the standard of acceptable and prevailing veterinary medical practice by refusing to release a pet to his owners when medically appropriate. (08-30-07)

**Clarion County**

Jatin P. Mehta, license no. BV007102L, of Shipperville, Clarion County, was assessed a \$1,500 civil penalty and, within six months, Mehta must complete 30 hours of continuing education credits for the licensing period Dec. 1, 2004, through Nov. 30, 2006. Mehta failed to complete 30 clock hours of board-approved continuing education for the above licensing period. These continuing education credits are in addition to the required credits for the current renewal period of 2006-2008 and failure to complete the continuing education credits by required date will result in the immediate and indefinite suspension of Mehta's license. (08-30-07)

**Crawford County**

Jonathan P. Walker, license no. BV003413L of Titusville, Crawford County, was assessed a \$250 civil penalty. If he intends to continue to advertise in the Scranton Yellow Book, he must immediately contact the Yellow Book so that an advertisement compliant with board regulations will appear in future editions. Walker placed advertising for emergency veterinary services at the Titusville Veterinary Clinic in the Sept. 2006 Verizon Yellow Pages but failed to list whether a veterinarian was on the premises or on call and failed to specify the hours during which emergency services are available. (08-30-07)

**Lancaster County**

Deborah L. Blanshine, license no. VT002663 of Lancaster, Lancaster County, was assessed a \$250 civil penalty and her license was publicly reprimanded. Blanshine practiced through one biennial registration period when she did not hold a valid certificate to do so. (08-30-07)

**Lycoming County**

Robert J. Lewis, license no. BV007040L, of Linden, Lycoming County, was assessed a \$250 civil penalty and ordered to ensure that all future advertisements of any kind are compliant with board regulations; this includes, but is not limited to, newspaper, phone and Internet advertising. Lewis placed or caused to be placed advertising in a local newspaper for emergency veterinary services at the Lewis Veterinary Clinic, but failed to state whether a veterinarian was on the premises or on call, failed to specify the hours during which emergency services are available and failed to disclose specific limitations of the services, such as exotics/avian/large animal/small animal; and identified "Dr. Bob and Mary Lewis, V.M.D." which could cause a reasonable person to misunderstand that Mary Lewis is a veterinarian with the clinic. (08-30-07)

**Mercer County**

Tammy S. Clark, license no. BV006387L of Greenville, Mercer County, was assessed a \$250 civil penalty. Also, within six months, she must complete five hours of continuing education credits for the period Dec. 1, 2004, through Nov.

30, 2006, because she failed to complete 30 clock hours of board-approved continuing education. (08-30-07)

### **Montgomery County**

Elizabeth Branscomb Bales, license no. BV009134L, of Jenkintown, Montgomery County, willfully failed to complete at least 30 hours of continuing education, but the board declined taking disciplinary action because the public interest would not be served by the imposition of a disciplinary sanction. (09-04-07)

### **Northampton County**

Gary Guz, unlicensed, of Bangor, Northampton County, was ordered to cease and desist from the unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine and was assessed a \$2,000 civil penalty based on findings that he practiced veterinary medicine when he was not authorized by license to do so. (08-31-07)

### **Tioga County**

Leonard D. Kreger, license no. BV004736L, of Liberty, Tioga County, was assessed a \$1,000 civil penalty based on findings that he deviated from the acceptable and prevailing standards of veterinary medical practice by failing to euthanize an animal and by failing to obtain the owner's consent to ongoing treatment of the animal. (08-31-07)

### **Wayne County**

John P. Burlein, license no. BV003000L of Honesdale, Wayne County, was assessed a \$300 civil penalty and must complete six hours of continuing education credits for the period Dec. 1, 2004, through Nov. 30, 2006, within six months because he failed to complete 30 clock hours of board-approved continuing education. (08-30-07)

### **Out of State**

Martin S. McGuire, license no. BV006026L, of Key West, Fla., was assessed a \$450 civil penalty and must complete nine hours of continuing education for the period Dec. 1, 2004, through Nov. 30, 2006, within six months because he failed to complete 30 clock hours of board-approved continuing education. (08-30-07)

Aymed A. Salem, license no. BV011115 of Winchester, Va., was ordered to be publicly reprimanded and to pay a \$500 civil penalty because Salem's license to practice veterinary medicine was disciplined by the proper licensing authority of another state. (08-30-07)

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***A complete list of sanctions is available online at***

***[www.state.pa.us](http://www.state.pa.us)***

***Keyword: licensing disciplinary actions.***

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