



Dora NEWSLETTER

Department of Regulatory Agencies

Division of Registrations

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor
Barbara J. Kelley
Executive
Director
Megan Ripko
Program
Director

OFFICE OF ACUPUNCTURE LICENSURE

WELCOME OUR NEW SECTION DIRECTOR AND NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dino Ioannides joined the Division of Registrations in August of 2010. In March of 2011, he became the Section Director of the Division's Health Services Section, which includes regulatory oversight over the Office of Acupuncture Licensure. Prior to joining the Division, Mr. Ioannides worked for the Public Utilities Commission, another division in DORA, and has many years of regulatory experience. Mr. Ioannides enjoys working with regulated professionals, professional organizations and associations, and Colorado consumers to promote beneficial relationships with all stakeholders, to advance mutually beneficial interests, and to fairly and effectively enforce Colorado law.

Please join us in welcoming Megan Ripko as the new Program Director for the Office of Acupuncture Licensure. Ms. Ripko has been with the Division of Registrations for three years and served as the Division's Operations and Management Coordinator before accepting her new position. Ms. Ripko's experience, education, and enthusiasm make her a welcome addition as the new Program Director. Ms. Ripko welcomes the opportunity to work with acupuncturists and professional organizations and associations, and looks forward to fulfilling DORA's mission of consumer protection.

Contact us:

Office of Acupuncture Licensure

1560 Broadway, Suite 1350
Denver, Colorado 80202

[www.dora.state.co.us/
acupuncturists](http://www.dora.state.co.us/acupuncturists)

Tel.: 303.894.7800

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HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONS PROFILING PROGRAM

Senate Bill 10-124 enacted the Michael Skolnik Medical Transparency Act of 2010 (Act). This bill expanded the requirement to submit an online Healthcare Profession Profile to 18 professions including acupuncturist licenses.

The Director of the Division of Registrations has jurisdiction over the Healthcare Professions Profiling Program (HPPP) and has the authority to issue an administrative fine for any individual found to be noncompliant with the requirement.

The requirement states that anyone with an active status license must complete an online profile. This will apply to all currently licensed acupuncturists during their next renewal. Effective July 1, 2011, all newly licensed or reinstated acupuncturists will be required to complete online profiles before their applications will be approved. After July 1, 2011, any licensed professional included in the Act can complete a profile and is not required to wait until their next renewal.

All of the required information is available in the Michael Skolnik Medical Transparency Act of 2010. To review the statute, rules, and policies, or to find more information regarding the Healthcare Professions Profiling Program, please visit their website at www.dora.state.co.us/hppp. If you have questions specific to the profiling system and the requirements, please contact their office at hppp@dora.state.co.us or 303-894-5942.



**Consumer protection
is our mission**

PROOF OF LAWFUL PRESENCE



Effective January 1, 2007, all persons requesting original licensure, renewal of an active license or reinstatement of an expired license must verify lawful presence in the United States based on the passage of House Bill 06S-1009. This bill applies to all applicants and licensees in the Division of Registrations, with the exception of apprentices, interns, and businesses.

Licenses will not be issued or renewed without completing the Affidavit of Eligibility form.

The good news is that you can complete this affidavit online when you renew using Registrations Online Services!

You must possess at least one secure and verifiable document and include information about that document on the Affidavit itself (or provide the information during online renewal). The list of secure and verifiable documents is available to you when you renew online.

More information regarding this law is available on our website at

www.dora.state.co.us/registrations/Affidavit

SUNSET REVIEW 2012

Colorado law requires every regulatory program in the state to undergo a periodic evaluation by the Office of Policy, Research, and Regulatory Reform (OPRRR). The process, called a “sunset review,” is intended to ensure that state regulation is still necessary to protect the public. OPRRR will conduct such a review of Colorado’s acupuncture practice act and provide its sunset report to the Colorado Legislature. The laws regulating the practice of acupuncture will expire on July 1, 2013, unless the Legislature renews the acupuncture practice act.

The Office of Acupuncture Licensure will work with OPRRR to provide data and background information, which will facilitate OPRRR’s review process. The program’s Section Director and Program Director will also aid OPRRR by making available a list of experts in the field for research purposes.

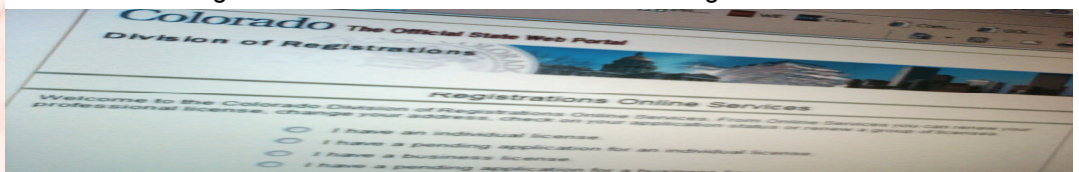
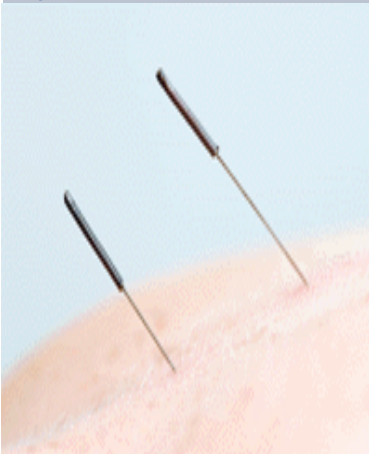
Ellen Graham, the analyst assigned to evaluate the acupuncture program, recently began her research and in the future will observe any rulemaking hearings, interview staff, meet with representatives of the industry, and examine similar regulatory laws in other states. Ms. Graham is accepting input throughout the process, but since she must start writing the report in June, it would be best to provide input before then, if possible. Anyone is welcome to provide input about the program to Ms. Graham; she can be reached at Ellen.Graham@dora.state.co.us. The sunset report, which will include OPRRR’s sunset recommendations, will be released to the Legislature and the public on or before October 15, 2012. You may look for the report, and the archive of previous reports, at www.dora.state.co.us/opr. The criteria used in the analysis may also be found at that website address.

After the report is released, a bill will be drafted by the Office of Legislative Legal Services. The bill will be introduced early in the 2013 session and will begin in the Senate with committee hearings. DORA staff, industry representatives, and concerned individuals will testify during the hearings. Participation in the process is critical to the outcome, as amendments to the bill can be made during the process. The bill will work its way through the Senate and then go through the same process in the House.

Check the Program’s website in the months leading up to and following the end of the 2013 legislative session. Information will be provided about the sunset process, resulting changes to the law, and how the changes may affect your practice. The website address is www.dora.state.co.us/acupuncturist.

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR MAILING ADDRESS LATELY?

It is imperative that you keep your contact information updated with the Division. The Division mails renewal notices and other information to you at the last address furnished to us. Failure to receive a renewal notice does not relieve you of your obligation to timely renew. Once you have logged into Registrations Online Services, check your mailing address and update it if it is not correct. If you received your renewal notice due to a forwarding order it is important that you change your address on file with us, since we cannot change the information based on the forwarding order.



COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE

Between September 2009 and September 2011, 19 new complaints were filed against acupuncturists in Colorado. The allegations include unlicensed practice, practicing on a lapsed license, injury to patient, sexual contact, practicing beyond the scope, felony conviction, failure to refer, and improper use of title. Twenty-six complaints were dismissed. Four complaints are still open. A total of eight disciplinary actions were taken, including two Cease and Desist Orders, three Letters of Admonition, and three Stipulations. These actions are listed below.

Licensee's Name	Date	Conduct	Disciplinary Sanction
Nai-Hsin Chien	10/13/2009	Improper use of titles	Stipulation
Todd Flemion	06/15/2010	Sexual contact	Stipulation
Christopher Kaufmann	01/13/2011	Unlicensed practice	Cease and Desist
Kristen Lum	09/20/2010	Practiced on a lapsed license	Letter of Admonition
Thomas Lynch	03/05/2010	Practiced on a lapsed license	Letter of Admonition
Jill Tucci	10/08/2009	Practiced on a lapsed license	Letter of Admonition
Serene Washburn	07/21/2011	Unlicensed practice	Cease and Desist
Seth Bartholomew Van De Riet	07/14/2010	Felony conviction	Stipulation

REGISTRATIONS ONLINE DOCUMENTS

If you would like to view an action you may use the **Registrations Online Documents (ROD)**. ROD is a website that makes certain scanned documents related to actions taken on licensees available to the public via the Internet. The document may be found on ROD if a licensee has been disciplined or if the office has taken some other non-disciplinary action against the licensee that restricts or limits the individual's license.

The following documents are available via ROD:

- All Stipulations, Final Agency Orders, and Suspensions that were in effect in February 2000 plus any that became effective since that date. Child Support Suspensions are not available online but may be obtained by contacting the appropriate board/program.
- Any document Revoking or agreeing to a Voluntary Relinquishment/Surrender of license, Cease and Desist Orders and Letters of Admonition from January 1, 1999 to the present.
- All Injunctions.

[Click here](#) for more information about the types of documents provided by this online system and definitions of terms used within the disciplinary documents.

If you are interested in viewing these documents, please visit www.dora.state.co.us/registrations/ROD.

STAY INFORMED!

The Division wants to keep you informed of upcoming renewal, legislation, events and other information that impacts your profession. In order to do this more efficiently we have implemented "DORA eUpdates" and we look forward to providing more of these in the future. These eUpdates are sent to the email address in our licensing system for each active licensee. To update or add your email address, log into [Registrations Online Services](#).

RENEW YOUR LICENSE ON TIME!

You may renew your license online using Registrations Online Services. Renewals are generally made available 6 to 8 weeks prior to the license expiration date. After that there is a 60-day grace period. That means you typically have a time-frame of 16 weeks within which to renew your license!

Any license not renewed prior to the end of the grace period will be considered expired. Once a license is in expired status, a reinstatement application must be completed and returned to our office with the appropriate fee listed on the form.

If you do not renew your license prior to the end of the grace period and continue to practice, you will be practicing on an expired license and may be subject to disciplinary action. The Division sees a number of situations every year of individuals who have failed to renew their license on time and practiced without a license. The reasons that are offered boil down to some common themes: I forgot; I moved and I forgot to notify the Office so I never got the renewal notice; I thought that my assistant/secretary/spouse/boyfriend, et cetera, handled it; it's the Office's fault because I *did* renew my license...or I *thought* I renewed my license. The result is that depending on how long it takes for the individual to "remember" to renew, the Division often takes disciplinary action against the individual because it is against the law to practice without an active license.

So, here's where we need your help. The steps are as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Go to the Division of Registrations website at www.dora.state.co.us/registrations and click on Registrations Online Services to renew your license.
2. Note the expiration date in your calendar to remind yourself of when it is time to renew your license the next time.
3. Make sure that the address listed on your record is accurate. If it is not, then update your address with the Division. Remember to update your address anytime that you move so that you do not miss out on any important notices from the Division.

HOW ARE RENEWAL FEES SET?

By law, the Office must operate strictly with funds collected from the persons it regulates, with no support from the State's General Fund. The Colorado Legislature determines the budget for the program. Once the Legislature sets the budget, the money must be raised through fees. The good news is that these fees are evaluated each year. Therefore, they are modified depending on how much money is anticipated to be received through the licensure and renewal processes and what the anticipated expenditures are expected to be. The primary obligation is to protect consumers and the operations of the program are focused to ensure it can work diligently to do so.



WALL CERTIFICATES

The Division of Registrations is pleased to announce that it has outsourced the production of wall certificates to Wall Certificate Service (WCS) a division of Professional Credential Services, Inc. (PCS). The outsourcing of the certificates provides enhancements to the certificates that both new and existing licensees will find beneficial. Specifically, the certificate provided by WCS is a larger, professionally designed, better quality certificate than what the Division was able to provide. For more information regarding wall certificates, which license types are eligible, and how to obtain one, please visit our website at www.dora.state.co.us/registrations/wallcert. You will be able to order and pay the fee online. The fee for U.S. residents is \$25. There is an additional international shipping fee for international residents.

