



Dora NEWSLETTER

Department of Regulatory Agencies

Division of Registrations

October 2011

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

OFFICE OF MIDWIFERY REGISTRATION

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 Midwifery Registration. 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 Midwifery Registration. 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 direct entry midwives and professional organizations and associations. In addition, Ms. Ripko looks forward to fulfilling DORA's mission of consumer protection.

2011 RULEMAKING

On October 25, the Director of the Division of Registrations will hold a rulemaking hearing to implement the statutory changes found in Senate Bill 11-088. Information about the rulemaking can be found at www.dora.state.co.us/midwives/rulemaking.htm. The rules are expected to be effective in late December, 2011, and will be posted on the website. A summary of the statutory changes can be found at www.dora.state.co.us/

NEW REGISTRANTS

Nine new midwives have registered since the 2010 newsletter was issued: Jennifer Anderson-Tarver, Kristina Dillon, Louana George, Jaymi McKay, Brenda Ramler, Tawnya Schiebel, Lauren Schowe, Melissa Sexton, and Maren Wood. Congratulations and welcome to the practice!

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](#).

Contact us:

Office of Midwifery Registration
1560 Broadway, Suite 1350
Denver, Colorado 80202
www.dora.state.co.us/midwives

Tel.: 303.894.7800

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**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



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 direct entry midwives 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 or retired status license must complete an online profile. This will apply to licensed direct entry midwives at their next renewal. Effective July 1, 2011 all newly licensed direct entry midwives 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.

HOW ARE RENEWAL FEES SET?

By law, the Board 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.

Fees for this renewal cycle will increase approximately 26 percent over the last renewal cycle. This increase is due primarily to increased legal fees resulting from complex disciplinary cases and the sunset legislation. Legal fees are paid to the Office of the Colorado Attorney General. The Division of Registrations works hard to contain program costs and to keep fees for regulated professionals as low as possible.

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.

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 Board so I never got the renewal notice; I thought that my assistant/secretary/spouse/boyfriend, et cetera, handled it; it's the Board'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.

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 \$25 fee online.

REGISTRATIONS ONLINE DOCUMENTS

If you would like to view a board action you may use the **Registrations Online Documents (ROD)**. ROD is a website that makes certain scanned documents related to board 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 board has taken some other non-disciplinary action against the licensee that restricts or limits the individual's license.

[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.

COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE

Between August 2010 and July 2011, six new complaints were filed against direct entry midwives in Colorado. The allegations include practicing without a registration, failure to make entries in a patient's record, falsified entries in patients' records, failure to transport in a timely manner, scope of practice, and reporting infant demise. In the period from August 2010 through July 2011, four complaints were dismissed.

The following individuals were disciplined by the Office of Midwifery Registrations from August 2010 through July 2011:

Lynda Gail Sizemore
Judith Ann Roberts

Revocation
Voluntary Surrender