



**NEWS RELEASE - Consumer Protection Week - March 1-7, 2009**

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## **Colorado Consumers: Verify Your Professional Is Qualified at DORA's Division of Registrations Web Site**

**Community Organizations Also Invited To Host Consumer Education Talks**

**DENVER, Colo.** A little extra peace of mind is just a few clicks away for proactive consumers who take precautionary measures to verify whether a professional is licensed and without disciplinary actions via the online tools at the Colorado Division of Registrations web site: [www.dora.state.co.us/registrations](http://www.dora.state.co.us/registrations).

That's why the Division of Registrations, the largest division within the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), strongly encourages Colorado consumers to visit the division web site, [www.dora.state.co.us/registrations](http://www.dora.state.co.us/registrations), to:

- Verify whether a professional is licensed or registered in Colorado.
- Check for disciplinary actions.
- Look up a physician's professional profile.
- Find information on how to file a complaint.

The Division receives more than 4,000 complaints annually regarding Colorado licensees and registrants, which is why it is reaching out to consumers across the state during the 11<sup>th</sup> annual National Consumer Protection Week (March 1-7, 2009).

"Unfortunately, it's often too late by the time consumers think to check whether their doctor, psychologist, plumber, certified public accountant, hair stylist or other professional meets necessary professional qualifications or has been disciplined," said Rosemary McCool, Director of the Division, which oversees more than 47 different professional categories encompassing more than 325,000 regulated individuals, businesses and entities across Colorado. "We want to prevent these situations by educating consumers on how they can tap into our many resources and online tools."

As part of its ongoing consumer protection mission, the Division also is inviting community organizations to host talks led by Division representatives so the public can learn about available tools for empowering consumers. Interested organizations can call 303-894-7787 or email [ronne.hines@dora.state.co.us](mailto:ronne.hines@dora.state.co.us) to arrange a talk.

The Division is part of a group of federal, state, and local government agencies and national consumer organizations participating in National Consumer Protection Week – "Nuts and Bolts: Tools for Today's Economy" – highlighting consumer education efforts across the nation.

"User-friendly and easily accessible information, especially in these challenging economic times, is one of the first lines of defense for the public," McCool said, "and the 2009 National Consumer Protection Week is a prime opportunity to highlight these resources and consumer protection tools available to Coloradans."

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*DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment. Consumer protection is our mission.*