

Colorado Audiologists & Hearing Aid Providers

Registration News 2001

*State of Colorado
Department of Regulatory Agencies
Bill Owens, Governor
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Once again it's time to renew your registrations as audiologists and hearing aid providers (the name changed from "hearing aid dealer" last year), and again we would like to bring you up to date on what's been happening in this office during the past year.

The first thing you will notice is the much smaller renewal fee. Because expenses have decreased, primarily legal expenses, the renewal fee for both audiologists and hearing aid providers is now \$145.00!

The other big news of the year is a sizeable drop in the number of complaints filed. Beginning on May 1, 2000 and continuing through May 1, 2001, there have been 20 complaints filed with a total of 33 charges involved. The previous year there were 34 complaints filed with 57 charges. We believe this decrease can be attributed to the slow but steady progress this office is making in restricting or eliminating the practice registrations of a few individuals who have unfortunately conducted their business transactions in a manner that reflected poorly upon the profession. We hope to continue this process of elimination until only those individuals with reputations they can be proud of are permitted to actively and unrestrictedly practice their profession.

Last year's renewal period saw 88 renewals mailed for hearing aid providers with 78 renewing, or 88.8 percent electing to renew. There were 193 renewals sent out to audiologists with 164 choosing to renew, or 84.9 percent. Colorado now has 200 active audiologists and 87 active hearing aid providers. We have registered 28 new audiologists and 9 new hearing aid providers since May 1, 2000. This compares with 22 new audiologists and 4 new hearing aid providers registered between May 1, 1999 and May 1, 2000.

New roster

Included in this envelope is an up-to-date roster of Colorado audiologists and hearing aid dealers, clinical fellows and hearing aid trainees. Please check your own name to be sure the information we have on file for you is correct, and notify us with your renewal if it isn't!

Contract form

Last fall we mailed out copies of the new Practice Act, the new Rules and Regulations, and a standard contract form. If you would like additional copies of any of these, just contact our office. The contract form is also available electronically; just email us and we will send you a copy in Microsoft Word.

CFY and HAT "Grads"

Since May 1, 2000, the following individuals have finished their Clinical Fellowship Year training and become registered audiologists: Catherine Miller, Betty Sweetman, Nicole Mitovich, Jessica Rossi, Theresa Hilton, Christie Ruddy, Lisa Young, Sara Baumgartner, Kristine Johnson, Janelle Burdette, Whitney Price, and Kenneth Evans.

Former hearing aid trainees who have become hearing aid providers since last year's newsletter list are: Denice Tripp, Ellen Stevens, John Mallon, Marlene Partin, Lori Reid, Brandy Lujan, Cort Klein, Robert Wall. Congratulations to all!

Disciplinary actions

Last year's statistics demonstrated that contract violations led to more complaints than any other charge. This year, substandard care leads with nine charges.

During the past year (May 1, 2000 through May 1, 2001), a total of 20 complaints were filed with this office; this is down from 34 last year. Eight were formal complaints (assigned to a professional investigator to gather the facts in the case) and 12 were informal. Also during the past year, 38 charges were finalized. The following chart breaks them down by type of charge and action taken:

No.	Charge Type	No.	Outcome
2	Fee Dispute	1	Injunction
5	CPA Violation – Contract	1	Contempt Citation
2	CPA Violation - Advertising	2	Stipulation to Probation
5	CPA Violation – Refunds	18	Combined w/other charges
3	False Information	1	Cease & Desist Order
2	Unlicensed Practice	1	Revocation
9	Substandard Care	1	Same Case
3	Improper Supervision	13	Dismissed
1	Stipulation/Order Violation		
1	No Malpractice Insurance		

Total: 33 charges filed under 20 complaints. 38 cases received a disposition in this time period. Individuals disciplined are:

Terry Smith - his registration was revoked 6/5/00. Terry Mosier - was issued a Cease & Desist order for unregistered practice, and is currently registered as a trainee. Gerald Tillman - 6-19-00 injunction for unregistered practice. Monte Bruns - 8-23-00 probation. H. Warner Glassford - 8-11-00 probation.

Broken down by license type, five new charges were brought against audiologists or CFYs, 32 against hearing aid providers, and three against trainee hearing aid providers. (The other two charges were made against unregistered persons.) Broken down by closure code, seven of the cases closed during this time period were closed administratively (by our office). Thirty-one were closed by the Director.

The Registration's web page lists individuals prohibited by court order or voluntary agreement from selling hearing aids in Colorado. They are Marilyn Bishop, Wallace Hatfield, Larry Vezakis, Rick Vezakis, Vincent Mitchell, Robert Horine, Thomas Gillespie, Terry Smith and Gerald Tillman. You may also review your own or someone else's record in the database. Scroll down to the wiggly red arrow near the bottom of our home page, labeled "Search Database," then follow the simple directions. The address is www.dora.state.co.us/audiologists.

