

Colorado Audiologists & Hearing Aid Providers

Registration News 2004

State of Colorado
Bill Owens, Governor

Department of Regulatory Agencies
Richard F. O'Donnell, Executive Director

Division of Registrations
Rosemary McCool, Director

Still More Changes Are in the Works

Last year at this time, we told you about "Project T," the Division of Registrations' name for the business reorganization that all licensing offices have undergone. The goal of the project is to provide improved customer service by combining several functions such as licensing, cash management and central intake. The Division also updated its computer licensing system, so your registration cards will look different. Printed in red instead of green, these registration cards are wallet cards ONLY. There will be no "display card" to frame and hang on the wall. In the future, we expect additional revision in the appearance of the registration card. We also expect for you to be able to renew your registrations online via credit card payments. Other online functions will include license application, verification transactions, and address changes.

There have been other major changes in the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) that oversees the Division of Registrations. The current Executive Director of DORA, Richard F. O'Donnell, was recently appointed by Governor Owens to head the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. He will continue to oversee DORA until a replacement is named. Another change which will impact you more directly is that Kevin Heupel, who has headed the Audiology and Hearing Aid Provider Registration since November 2001, is also moving on. Beginning May 10, 2004, he will be the Director of Titles, Registrations and Emissions for the Colorado Motor Vehicle Department. At this time we do not know who will replace him as Program Director for Allied Health Registrations.

Renewal

This year's renewal fees are the same as last year's. Fees paid timely are \$145 for audiologists and \$195 for hearing aid providers. If you send in your payment after June 30, 2004, there is a \$15 late fee added, making the late renewals \$160 and \$210 respectively. If you have not paid by September 1, 2004, you must contact the main office at 303-894-7800 for reinstatement information.

During the 2003 renewal period, 310 renewals were mailed to hearing aid providers and audiologists. Out of that number, 281 renewed during the scheduled renewal period, or 91 percent. Twenty-seven people were lapsed.

Licensing

As of mid-April, Colorado now has 254 active audiologists and 92 active hearing aid providers. These numbers are up slightly from the previous year, which claimed 233 and 86 respectively. We have registered 28 new audiologists and 8 new hearing aid providers since May 1, 2003. This compares with 24 new audiologists and 8 new hearing aid providers at this time last year. Also, we have registered 11 clinical fellows and 20 hearing aid provider trainees since May 1, 2003.

Sign up for the DORA Regulatory Notice Email System

Feel like you're jumping through hoops when it comes to following government regulations? Colorado's new Department of Regulatory Agencies Regulatory Notice email system provides business owners with the ability to effortlessly track proposed state regulations. After signing up on the Office of Economic Competitiveness and Regulatory Reform website (www.dora.state.co.us/oeccrr/), participants will receive an email when a proposed regulation has been submitted in their specified industry. The email provides several key items: a link to the proposed rule, details about the hearing (time, location, etc.) and the submitting agency's contact information. You are encouraged to comment on proposed *and* existing regulations. In the past, only larger businesses that could afford to hire lawyers and lobbyists were able to track and comment on proposed regulations of consequence. DORA Regulatory Notice is an effective, user-friendly tool that will help level the playing field between large and small businesses in the regulatory process. The Office of Economic Competitiveness and Regulatory Reform and the Regulatory Notice email system will serve to hold the government more accountable for its actions, and empower Coloradans to become more involved in the regulatory process. Sign up for DORA Regulatory Notice today!

