

# **Colorado Audiologists & Hearing Aid Providers**

## **Registration News 2005**

<i>State of Colorado</i> <i>Bill Owens, Governor</i>	<i>Department of Regulatory Agencies</i> <i>Tambor Williams, Executive Director</i>	<i>Division of Registrations</i> <i>Rosemary McCool, Director</i>
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### **NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

As of August 2, 2004, the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) has a new Executive Director, former State Representative Tambor Williams of Greeley. Richard F. O'Donnell, the previous Executive Director, was appointed by Governor Owens to head the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.

Ms. Williams served in the Colorado House of Representatives since 1997 and was Speaker Pro Tem. She chaired both the House Business Affairs and Legislative Audit committees, and was a member of the House Appropriations committee. Throughout her eight years in the Legislature, she served on interim committees dealing with motor vehicle insurance, small employer health insurance availability, and health care.

As an attorney, Ms. Williams' practice has focused on domestic law, estate planning, business organization, insurance, employer practices, and contracts. She earned her law degree from the University of Colorado, Master of Arts degree from Western State College, and Bachelor of Arts degree from Queens College in New York.

### **NOW YOU CAN RENEW ONLINE!**

The Division of Registrations recently introduced **Registrations Online Services**, a new online system that will make maintaining your professional license easier than ever. After a simple registration process through our secure web interface, you will be able to:

- Renew your license online using a credit card.
- Update your mailing address and contact information in "real time."
- Check the status of a pending application, and much more!

Registrations Online Services is the final phase of Project T, the Division of Registrations' ongoing effort to streamline, standardize, and improve the way we do business. For the latest updates on Registrations Online Services, please keep checking our website at [www.dora.state.co.us/registrations/index.htm](http://www.dora.state.co.us/registrations/index.htm).

### **RENEWAL**

Please check your name and address on the renewal to be sure it is correct. If not, please let us know if any information has changed. **Remember, you can now do this online!**

This year's renewal fees are as follows. Fees paid timely are \$35 for audiologists and \$85 for hearing aid providers. If you send in your payment after June 30, 2005, there is a \$15 delinquency charge added, making the late renewals \$50 and \$100 respectively. If you have not paid by August 31, 2005, you must contact the main office at 303-894-7851 for reinstatement information.

Remember, audiologists are required to carry malpractice insurance of at least \$1 million per incident and \$3 million aggregate. Hearing aid providers are required to have a \$10,000 surety bond. All audiologists are required to sign the "Attestation of Compliance with Malpractice Insurance Requirement" on the renewal form; all hearing aid providers are likewise required to sign the "Attestation of Compliance with Surety Bond Requirement." Be aware that if you sign but do not carry the required coverage, you are committing perjury.

As of mid-April 2005, Colorado has 267 active audiologists and 96 active hearing aid providers. These numbers are up slightly from the previous year (254 and 92 respectively).

## COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE

Between April 15, 2004 and April 15, 2005, 17 new complaints were filed against hearing aid providers and audiologists in Colorado; this is down from 27 complaints last year. The allegations included unregistered practice, practice beyond the scope, failure to make refunds, misleading advertising, substandard care, misrepresentation of facts, causing injury to a client, and fraud. In the same time period, 27 cases were finalized. The following individuals were disciplined since last year's newsletter was printed:

Registrant's Name	Date	Conduct	Disciplinary Sanction
Max Chartrand	June 29, 2004	Unauthorized use of title "Dr." and of term "digital hybrid hearing aid" (six complaints combined)	Probation
Peter Cunningham	March 28, 2005	Unregistered practice	Voluntary Surrender
Terry Weber	November 17, 2004	Unregistered practice	Cease & Desist
Larry Webster	May 27, 2004	Failure to refund (two cases combined)	Voluntary Surrender

Six complaints filed against audiologists were dismissed in this timeframe, and 10 complaints filed against hearing aid providers were dismissed.

To view disciplinary documents dating from January 1, 1999 to the present, please visit Registrations Online Disciplinary Documents (RODD) at [www.dora.state.co.us/doraimages](http://www.dora.state.co.us/doraimages).

### NEW DORA REGULATORY NOTICE EMAIL SYSTEM

The Department of Regulatory Agencies' new Regulatory Notice email system provides business owners with the ability to effortlessly track and comment on proposed state regulations before they take effect. After signing up at the Office of Economic Competitiveness and Regulatory Reform website ([www.dora.state.co.us/oecrr](http://www.dora.state.co.us/oecrr)), 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. Should you have concerns about a proposed regulation, please contact the Office of Economic Competitiveness and Regulatory Reform at (303) 894-2950 or [oecrr@dora.state.co.us](mailto:oecrr@dora.state.co.us). The DORA Regulatory Notice email system helps to hold state government more accountable for its actions, and empowers Coloradans to become more involved in the regulatory process. Sign up for DORA Regulatory Notice today!

### NOTICE TO AUDIOLOGISTS AND HEARING AID PROVIDERS REGARDING SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

Section 24-34-107(1) of the Colorado Revised Statutes requires that every application by an individual for a license issued pursuant to the authority set forth in Title 12, C.R.S., by the Department of Regulatory Agencies, shall require the applicant's Social Security number. Disclosure of your Social Security number is mandatory for purposes of establishing, modifying, or enforcing child support under § 14-14-113 and § 26-13-126, C.R.S.; locating an individual who is under an obligation to pay child support as required by § 26-13-107(3)(a)(I)(A), C.R.S.; and reporting disciplinary actions to the Health Integrity and Protection Data Bank as required by 45 CFR §§ 61.1 et seq. Failure to provide your Social Security number for these mandatory purposes will result in the denial of your licensure application. Disclosure of your Social Security number is voluntary for disclosure to other state regulatory agencies, testing and examination vendors, law enforcement agencies, and other private federations and associations involved in professional regulation for identification purposes only. Your Social Security number will not be released for any other purpose not provided for by law.