



STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD

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 Director

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS (PTA'S) NOW MUST BE CERTIFIED

The State Physical Therapy Board is pleased to announce that over 700 PTAs across Colorado were certified by DORA by the deadline of June 1, 2012. Implementing the regulation of a new profession can be a daunting task, and the Board extends its thanks and congratulations on a job well done to all those who worked so hard to see this important piece of the Physical Therapy Practice Act implemented.

The State Physical Therapy Board handles similar regulatory matters for PTAs as it does for physical therapists (PTs). This includes approving or denying applications for certification of PTAs, promulgating rules concerning PTAs and their practice, as well as imposing discipline for complaints filed against PTAs.

The renewal of certification for PTAs will be on the same date as the date established for PT license renewal. *Both professions will be renewing by October 31, 2012, for a two-year cycle.*

CONTINUING COMPETENCY PROGRAM COMING SOON

[Senate Bill 11-169](#) passed in 2011 will require Colorado licensed physical therapists to demonstrate their continuing competency (CC) in order to renew or reinstate their license. It does not apply to physical therapy assistants. The program becomes effective on November 1, 2014; licensees will begin participating in CC after they renew their license in 2014. All new CC requirements must be met prior to renewing in 2016. The program is still in the implementation process and rulemaking will take place in 2013. All meetings are noticed on the Board's website and are open to the public. Outreach to the profession will occur after rules are adopted in 2013. Licensees will be alerted of the program and its requirements through email updates, outreach events, the Board's website, webinars or other methods.

INTRODUCING THE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS!

After 44 years, the Division of Registrations got a new name on August 8, 2012, that better reflects its mission. The regulator of 50 professions, occupations, and businesses in the state is now the **Division of Professions and Occupations**. The Division is responsible for the licensure and enforcement of 50 professions, occupations and businesses totaling nearly 350,000 people in the state. It preserves the integrity of the marketplace through the consistent and fair pursuit of consumer protection. The work of the Division facilitates a labor force that is a critical driver of the state's economy, and touches all Coloradans in their personal, daily lives.

Contact us:

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www.dora.state.co.us/physical-therapy/index.htm

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**Consumer protection
 is our mission**

THE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS WELCOMES OUR NEW DIVISION DIRECTOR!

Lauren Larson became the Director of the Division of Professions and Occupations in August 2012. Ms. Larson comes to DORA from Washington, DC, where she was a senior executive at the Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget (OMB). As Chief of the Treasury Branch at OMB, she negotiated billions of dollars in spending and numerous industry regulations. Her experience includes budget, legislative and general management oversight for federal regulatory agencies such as the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Ms. Larson also served as a senior advisor at the Internal Revenue Service. Prior to her government service, Ms. Larson was an economic consultant with PricewaterhouseCoopers, and a manager at a nonprofit. She holds a Master of Public Policy from the University of Michigan, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Syracuse University.

ONLINE SERVICES HAS A NEW LOOK

The new Online Services is faster, more user-friendly and more compatible with browsers such as Safari, Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome. **Go to www.colorado.gov/dora/licensing to renew your license, verify a license, or change your address.** *If you have not logged into the system since July 1, 2012, you must Register to create a new account.*

DID YOU KNOW THE LAW REQUIRES YOU TO HAVE A HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL PROFILE ?

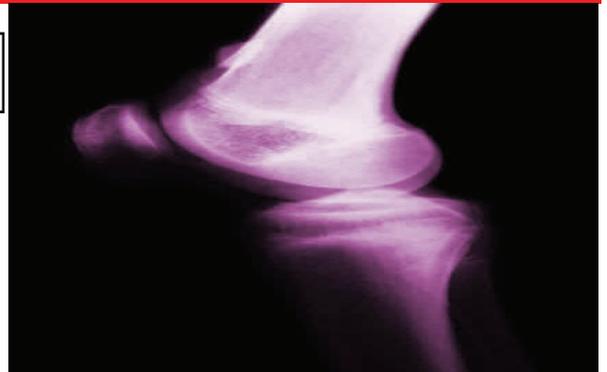
All physical therapists and physical therapist assistants are required to disclose specific information for public review through the Healthcare Professions Profiling Program. BY LAW, a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant license CANNOT be renewed in Active or Retired status unless the licensed professional complies with the profile requirements. To review the statute, rules, and policies regarding the Healthcare Professions Profiling Program, please visit their web site at www.dora.state.co.us/hppp. If you have questions specific to the profiling requirements, please contact their office at hppp@dora.state.co.us or 303-894-5942.

ONLINE SERVICES

Online Services makes it easier for all licensed professionals to renew and update their contact information after a simple registration process. For detailed renewal instructions, go to your [renewal page](#).

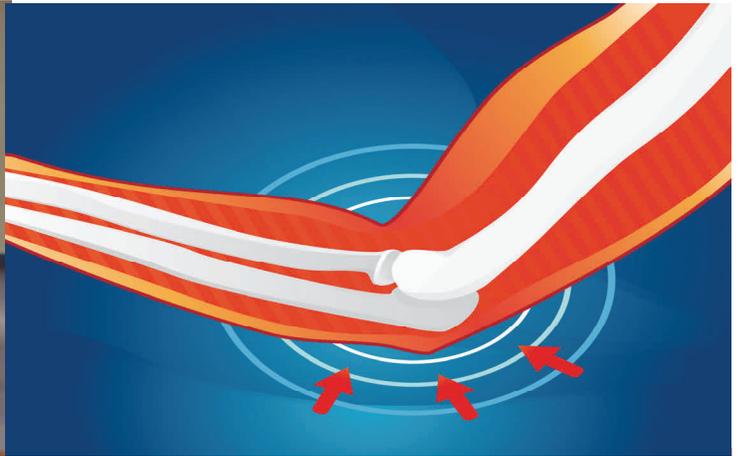
WALL CERTIFICATES

The Division of Professions and Occupations outsources the production of wall certificates to Wall Certificate Service (WCS), a division of Professional Credential Services, Inc. (PCS). For more information, please visit our [website](#). You will be able to order and pay the fee online. The fee for U.S. residents is \$25. There is an additional international shipping fee for international residents.



SIGN UP FOR E-UPDATES!

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 [Online Services](#).



PROOF OF LAWFUL PRESENCE

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 registrants in the Division of Professions and Occupations, 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 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).

More information regarding this law is available on our website at www.dora.state.co.us/registrations/Affidavit.

RENEW YOUR LICENSE ON TIME!

You may renew your license online using 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 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 Office so I never got the renewal notice; I thought that my assistant/secretary/spouse/boyfriend, et cetera, handled it; it's the Office'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 Professions and Occupations website at www.dora.state.co.us/professions and click *Online License Renewal* to renew your license.
2. Note the expiration date in your calendar to remind yourself of when it is time to renew your registration 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.

Remember, it is each licensee's responsibility to renew his or her license on time. With our online system, you can handle all of this yourself, any time, day or night.

This newsletter was created by the Division of Professions and Occupations to improve communications between the Division and its licensees

RENEWAL FEES

By law, the program 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 registration 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. The Division of Professions and Occupations works hard to contain program costs and to keep fees for regulated professionals as low as possible.



VIEW DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS ONLINE

The Division of Professions and Occupations allows anyone to view images of scanned disciplinary documents through the Internet. In reviewing a licensee's information, it is important to know what is and is not available from the agency about Colorado licensees.

The following information would appear on a record under Board or Program Actions if applicable to the licensee:

1. If a licensee had been disciplined or formally accused of wrongdoing by the Board or Program.
2. If the Board or Program has taken some other non-disciplinary action against the licensee that restricts or limits the individual's license.

Board/Program Action Documents available:

- All Stipulations, Final Agency Orders, and Suspensions that were in effect in February 2000 plus any that became effective since that date. Child support suspensions are not available online but may be obtained by contacting the appropriate Board or Program.
- Any document Revoking or agreeing to a Voluntary Relinquishment/Surrender of license, Cease and Desist Orders and Letters of Admonition from January 1, 1999 to the present.
- All Injunctions.

If you are interested in viewing these disciplinary action documents, please visit
www.dora.state.co.us/registrations/ROD.

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR MAILING ADDRESS ?

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 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.

NEW BOARD ENGAGED IN RULEMAKING

Since its inception on January 1, 2012, the State Physical Therapy Board has been gathering input from PTs, PTAs, and other interested stakeholders from around Colorado for the Board's consideration in rule-making. On May 7, 2012, the Board held a public rulemaking hearing concerning its first set of rules. These new promulgated rules are posted on DORA's website at: www.dora.state.co.us/physical-therapy. Thus far, there are 16 rules that are currently in effect for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.

Additional input is now being accepted for the second round of rulemaking. The public hearing is scheduled for November 30, 2012. If you would like to submit your ideas and/or opinions in writing, please send an email to Deann Conroy, Program Director for the Board, at deann.conroy@dora.state.co.us by November 9, 2012, for the Board's consideration.

COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE

In Fiscal Year 2012 (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012), 34 complaints were filed against physical therapists in Colorado. Complaints were handled by the Director of Professions and Occupations at DORA until December 31, 2011. Beginning January 1, 2012, the State Physical Therapy Board took over handling discipline matters as part of their Board duties.

The following individuals were publicly disciplined during FY2011 and FY2012. The Final Agency Order documents for these cases may be reviewed at: www.dora.state.co.us/registrations/ROD.

LICENSEE'S NAME	DATE	DISCIPLINE
Raul Oblanca	4/23/2012	Stipulation - Probation
Lynette Robinson	8/29/2011; revised 10/25/2011	Stipulation - Probation
Gerald Mitchell	7/6/2011	Stipulation - Probation
Phillip Rambo	3/3/2011	Stipulation - Probation
Douglas Heckenkamp	8/25/2010	Stipulation - Suspension

