



Rick Scott
Governor

H. Frank Farmer, Jr., MD, PhD, FACP
State Surgeon General

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ISSUES FIFTEEN EMERGENCY SUSPENSION ORDERS

– Action taken against licenses of fourteen practitioners and one pain management clinic –

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Health (DOH) today announced the Emergency Suspension Orders (ESO) of twelve practitioners and a Lake Mary Pain Management Clinic. The ESOs immediately suspend the practitioners' and clinic's licenses to practice in Florida.

“The Florida Department of Health will continue to protect our citizens and visitors from practitioners and pain clinics that break the law,” stated the State Surgeon General Dr. Frank Farmer. “We must remain vigilant in using appropriate disciplinary tools, such as the Emergency Suspension Orders, to safeguard public health.”

Over the past few weeks the following orders were issued:

- **Hope Pain Management Group, LLC.**, Spring Hill. Hope Pain Management Group (HPMG) co-owner Lynn Hutchinson, who has never held a license to practice any healthcare profession in the State of Florida, violated Florida Statutes by committing medical malpractice for failing to practice medicine in accordance with the level of care, skill and treatment recognized in general law related to health care licensure; prescribed controlled substances to patients without first obtaining prior treatment records and without medical justification, utilized blank re-signed prescription forms to prescribe medication to patients, provided medical care to patients via an unlicensed person, increased patients medication without medical justification and prescribe controlled substances to patients without first performing drug screens on the patients; prescribed excessive or inappropriate quantities and doses of controlled substances to patients and without performing adequate physical examinations or evaluations of the patients; failed to obtain a complete medical history for patients, failed to refer patients to evaluations or consultations with specialists or other treatment providers and/or failed to monitor patients for diversion or substance abuse.
- **Ty Reso Anderson, Osteopathic Physician**, Seminole. Anderson violated Florida Statutes by entering a plea of guilty to one felony count of possession of cocaine and one misdemeanor count of possession of paraphernalia.
- **Alexandra Burkowsky, Advance Registered Nurse Practitioner**, Ft. Lauderdale. Burkowsky violated Florida Statutes by filling out fraudulent prescriptions for herself to receive Clonazepam and Vicodin for her own use; failing to enter into and complete the inpatient chemical dependency treatment program recommended Intervention Project for Nurses (IPN) facilitated evaluations two times; and being unable to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of polysubstance dependence.

- **Dwayne C. Frisch, Hearing Aid Specialist**, Winter Haven. Frisch violated Florida Statutes by entering a plea of nolo contendere to one felony count of possession of testosterone.
- **Jennafer Lang Hallquist, Registered Nurse**, Port St. Lucie. Hallquist violated Florida Statutes by testing positive for any drugs on her drug screen when she did not have a prescription and legitimate medical reason for using such drug.
- **Judith Ann Heern, Registered Nurse**, Carbondale, Illinois. Heern violated Florida Statutes by engaging in unprofessional conduct by testing positive for any drugs on her drug screen when she did not have a prescription and legitimate medical reason for using such drug.
- **Justin M. Oliver, Registered Nurse**, Jacksonville. Oliver violated Florida Statutes by taking fentanyl from the Mayo Clinic for his own personal use; being unable to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of opioid dependence and alcohol abuse and by testing positive for fentanyl when he did not have a legitimate prescription and medical reason for using fentanyl.
- **Cynthia A. Pugh, Certified Nursing Assistant**, Castleberry, Alabama. Pugh violated Florida Statutes by engaging in unprofessional conduct by testing positive for any drugs on any drug screen when she did not have a prescription and legitimate medical reason for using such drug.
- **Alex Manuel Ramos, Registered Nurse**, Plantation. Ramos violated Florida Statutes by being able to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness or use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals, any other type of material or as a result of any mental or physical condition.
- **Susan S. Paules, Registered Nurse**, Lake Park. Paules violated Florida Statutes by being unable to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness or use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals, any other type of material or as a result of any mental or physical condition.
- **Mark T. Ramsey, Medical Doctor**, Tampa. Ramsey violated Florida Statutes by being terminated from Professionals Resource Network, Inc. (PRN), failing to comply with the requirements of PRN and/or failing to successfully complete the drug/alcohol treatment programs provided through PRN; being unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients due to his dependence on alcohol, opioids, cocaine and methamphetamine, use of amphetamines and his emotional and mental conditions.
- **Timothy Scott Sigman, Medical Doctor**, Sebastian. Sigman violated Florida Statutes by prescribing growth hormones, testosterone or its analogs, HCG or other hormones for the purpose of muscle building or to enhance athletic performance to patients; inappropriately prescribing or prescribing excessive or inappropriate quantities of steroids, hGH and/or HCG to patients without medical justification for such treatments and without obtaining pretreatment laboratory studies, without evaluating patients at any time, without obtaining adequate follow-up laboratory studies and failing to adequately treat patients who had abnormal laboratory results.
- **Jon Scott Sturtsman, Registered Nurse**, Vero Beach. Sturtsman violated Florida Statutes by taking possession of a vial of morphine and injecting himself with the drug prior to a flight where he was responsible for caring for patients.
- **Michael David Tascione, Registered Nurse**, Jacksonville. Tascione violated Florida Statutes by engaging in unprofessional conduct by testing positive for tetrahydrocannabinol for which he did not have a prescription and legitimate medical reason for using such drug.
- **Cheryl Yvonne Witt, Registered Nurse**, Lake City. Witt violated Florida Statutes by pleading guilty to one felony count of possession of a controlled substance – morphine.

View the complete Order listed above on DOH's Online Newsroom at <http://newsroom.doh.state.fl.us/category/healthcare-licensing/>.

Emergency suspension or restriction orders are not considered final agency action but are imposed as specified by section 456.074, Florida Statutes, for serious violations relating to the commission of crimes, standard of care, drug use, or for student loan defaults. The subject is entitled to a hearing before final action is taken by a regulatory board or by DOH.

To learn more about the Florida Department of Health visit www.doh.state.fl.us.

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The mission of the Florida Department of Health and Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) is to protect and promote the health of all residents and visitors in the state through organized state and community efforts, including cooperative agreements with counties. Working in conjunction with 22 boards and six councils, MQA regulates six types of facilities and more than 40 healthcare professions. MQA evaluates the credentials of all applicants for licensure, issues licenses, analyzes and investigates complaints, inspects facilities, assists in prosecuting practice act violations, combats unlicensed activity and provides credential and discipline history about licensees to the public.