

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCES A NEW CONSUMER
FEATURE TO ITS LICENSE VERIFICATION WEB SITE**

~Administrative complaints against licensees now published online~

TALLAHASSEE—The Florida Department of Health (DOH) announces today that public administrative complaints filed against licensed health care practitioners are now available on its Web site. This new feature allows consumers to see if a public complaint exists for any health care professional licensed by DOH.

"When it comes to the health and well-being of Floridians, they need and deserve to have all the facts about their health care providers," said Governor Charlie Crist. "This Web site is another testament to Florida's commitment to transparency and accountability regarding those trusted by the public and I applaud Senator Gaetz for his leadership on this important issue. My administration remains committed to protecting Floridians through increased open government efforts."

While this information has always been available upon request, posting administrative complaints online provides a more accessible and timely option. Public administrative complaints filed after November 1999 are now available online; however, public complaints prior to November 1999 still need to be requested by the Department of Health.

"The Department of Health continues its commitment to open government by providing greater transparency to health care regulation," said State Surgeon General Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H. "This new service created by the Division of Medical Quality Assurance provides easier access to public information that is available from DOH."

An administrative complaint is not a disciplinary action; it is a document listing charges that have not been proven. An administrative complaint is the result of an investigation of the allegation of a violation of the practice act that governs a health care profession.

Access to this information is available at www.flhealthsource.com under the license verification tab.

The mission of DOH is to promote, protect and improve the health of all people in Florida. Working in conjunction with 22 boards and six councils, the Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) regulates seven types of facilities and 200-plus license types in more than 40 health care 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.