

TITLE 16 OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
CHAPTER 4 CHIROPRACTIC PRACTITIONERS
PART 8 DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

16.4.8.1 ISSUING AGENCY: New Mexico Board of Chiropractic Examiners, PO Box 25101, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504.
[16.4.8.1 NMAC - N, 3/15/06]

16.4.8.2 SCOPE: The provisions of 16.4.8 NMAC apply to all active license holders and applicants for licensure. These provisions may also be of interest to anyone who may wish to file a complaint against a chiropractor licensed by the board.
[16.4.8.2 NMAC - N, 3/15/06]

16.4.8.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 16.4.8 NMAC is promulgated pursuant to the Chiropractic Physician Practice Act, NMSA 1978, Section 61-4-10.
[16.4.8.3 NMAC - N, 3/15/06]

16.4.8.4 DURATION: Permanent.
[16.4.8.4 NMAC - N, 3/15/06]

16.4.8.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: March 15, 2006, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[16.4.8.5 NMAC - N, 3/15/06]

16.4.8.6 OBJECTIVE: To establish the procedures for filing complaints against licensees and applicants, the disciplinary actions available to the board, the authority to issue investigative subpoenas and to further define actions by a licensee which are considered incompetent or unprofessional practice.
[16.4.8.6 NMAC - N, 3/15/06]

16.4.8.7 DEFINITIONS: [RESERVED]

16.4.8.8 COMPLAINTS: Disciplinary proceedings may be instituted by sworn complaint of any person, including members of the board and complaint/review committee. Any hearing held pursuant to the complaint shall conform to the provisions of the Uniform Licensing Act, the Chiropractic Physician Practice Act, and the Impaired Practitioners Act.
[16.4.8.8 NMAC - N, 3/15/06]

16.4.8.9 ACTIONS:

A. The board may penalize, deny, revoke, suspend, stipulate, or otherwise limit a license if the board determines the licensee is guilty of violating any of the provisions of the Chiropractic Physician Practice Act, the Uniform Licensing Act, the Impaired Healthcare Care Providers Act, these Rules, or discipline imposed by other governing bodies.

B. The board may reprimand, censure, or require licensees to fulfill additional continuing education hours within limited time constraints for violations of the act or rules.

C. The board may at its discretion hire investigators to investigate complaints made to the board regarding chiropractic physicians.

D. Licensees shall bear all costs of disciplinary proceedings unless exonerated.
[16.4.8.9 NMAC - N, 3/15/06]

16.4.8.10 GUIDELINES: The board shall use the following as guidelines for disciplinary action.

A. "Gross incompetence" or "gross negligence" means, but shall not be limited to, a significant departure from the prevailing standard of care in treating patients.

B. "Unprofessional conduct" means, but is not limited to because of enumeration:
(1) performing, or holding oneself out as able to perform, professional services beyond the scope of one's license and field or fields of competence as established by education, experience, training, or any combination

thereof; this includes, but is not limited to, the use of any instrument or device in a manner that is not in accordance with the customary standards and practices of the chiropractic profession;

- (2) representing to a patient that a manifestly incurable condition or sickness, disease or injury can be cured;
- (3) willfully or negligently divulging a professional confidence;
- (4) failure to release to a patient copies of that patients's records and x-rays;
- (5) failure to seek consultation whenever the welfare of the patient would be safeguarded or advanced by consultation with individuals having special skills, knowledge, and experience;
- (6) failure of a chiropractor to comply with and following advertising guidelines as set in 16.4.1.12 NMAC;
- (7) failure to use appropriate infection control techniques and sterilization procedures;
- (8) deliberate and willful failure to reveal, at the request of the board, the incompetent, dishonest, or corrupt practices of another chiropractor licensed or applying for licensure by the board;
- (9) accept rebates, or split fees or commissions from any source associated with the service rendered to a patient;
- (10) intentionally engaging in sexual contact with a patient other than his spouse during the doctor-patient relationship;
- (11) the use of a false, fraudulent or deceptive statement in any document connected with the practice of chiropractics;
- (12) employing ~~abusive~~ fraudulent billing practices;
- (13) fraud, deceit or misrepresentation in any renewal or reinstatement application;
- (14) violation of any order of the board, including any probation order;
- (15) failure to adequately supervise, as provided by board regulation, a chiropractic assistant or technician who renders care as a chiropractic assistant under 16.4.19 NMAC of these rules;
- (16) cheating on an examination for licensure;
- (17) is habitually intemperate or is addicted to the use of habit-forming drugs or is addicted to any vice to such a degree as to render him unfit to practice chiropractic;
- (18) is guilty of failing to comply with any of the provisions of the Chiropractic Physician Practice Act (Chapter 61, Article 4 NMSA 1978) or rules and regulations promulgated by the board and filed in accordance with the State Rules Act (Chapter 14, Article 4 NMSA 1978);
- (19) has been declared mentally incompetent by regularly constituted authorities or is manifestly incapacitated to practice chiropractic;
- (20) has incurred a prior suspension or revocation in another state where the suspension or revocation of a license to practice chiropractics was based upon acts by the licensee similar to acts described in this section and by board rules;
- (21) failure to report to the board within 90 days any adverse action taken after due process has been afforded to the licensee by:
 - (a) another licensing jurisdiction;
 - (b) any health care entity, not involving disputes over fees;
 - (c) any governmental agency, not involving disputes overseas;
 - (d) any court for acts or conduct similar to acts or conduct that would constitute grounds for action as defined in this section;
- (22) failure to furnish the board, its investigators or representatives with information requested by the board;
- (23) abandonment of patients;
- (24) providing a false, materially incomplete, factually unsupported opinion or opinions which are not congruent with current teachings and standards of care as taught in CCE accredited chiropractic colleges in a peer review, records review, independent medical examination, or chiropractic examination.

[16.4.8.10 NMAC - N, 3/15/06; A, 3/31/09; A, 8/20/12]

16.4.8.11 COMPLAINT/REVIEW COMMITTEE: The complaint/review committee of the board is authorized to:

- A. carry out the instructions of the board in the investigation and processing of complaints against licensees.
- B. disciplinary actions taken by the board shall be reported as required to the following entities:

- (1) national practitioner databank-healthcare integrity and protection databank “NPDB-HIPD”;
- (2) federation of chiropractic licensing boards “FCLB”;
- (3) or their successors.

[16.4.8.11 NMAC - N, 3/15/06]

HISTORY OF 16.4.8 NMAC: [RESERVED]