

2002 Press Releases

June 28, 2002

Physician Assistant Board Suspends License

The Texas State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners has temporarily suspended the license of Rocky Dale Dial, P.A., of Rowlett.

The action was taken today (June 28, 2002) under the Board's authority to temporarily suspend a physician assistant's license when it determines the individual's continuation in practice is a threat to the public welfare. The Board action was due to Mr. Dial's violation of the terms and conditions required under a Board disciplinary order dated January 19, 2001. The length of a temporary suspension order is indefinite and the order remains in effect until the board takes further action.

The temporary suspension is one of the first by the Physician Assistant Board under new legislation. HB 3421 by Rep. David Farabee, passed in the 2001 legislative session, provided the board with authority to temporarily and immediately suspend a license.

The nine-member Physician Assistant Examiners Board consists equally of physicians, physician assistants and public members appointed by the governor for a six-year term. Members of the Board's Disciplinary Panel are appointed by the Board Chair,. Members of the June 28th Disciplinary Panel were Dwight M. Deter, PA-C, of El Paso; Timothy Webb, J.D., a public member from Houston; and Stephen D. Benold, M.D., of Georgetown.

The Physician Assistant Examiners Board is one of three boards staffed by Texas State Board of Medical Examiners, the state agency that also regulates physicians and acupuncturists. The agency provides consumer protection through licensure, investigation and disciplinary action.

The Board, under Chair G. Al Bendeck, PA-C, of Plainview and Executive Director Donald W. Patrick, M.D., J.D., is strengthening and accelerating the disciplinary process for licensees who fail to meet the required standards of professional competency and behavior. The agency is seeking new legislation to expand current statutory authority to better fulfill its mission to ensure that medical care is delivered by competent professionals.

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