



For Immediate Release

19-016

License Action Taken Against Arrested Health Care Providers

Monday, October 21, 2019 (Juneau) – In the last two weeks, two health care providers have been arrested for overprescribing narcotics and two health care providers have been arrested for possession of child pornography. The department determined additional steps were necessary to appropriately safeguard the public.

To this end, investigators with the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (CBPL) worked with law enforcement to determine suitable disciplinary action on a case-by-case basis. In each case, the licensee voluntarily agreed to the sanction, and each sanction was ratified by the relevant licensing board.

The division's cases on the suspended licenses will remain open until new information is obtained, the allegations are disproven in federal court, or the allegations are proven by conviction. Once all facts are gathered, each board can then decide whether license revocation, reinstatement, or another action is applicable.

Shannon Bell – Clinical Social Worker

Mr. Bell was charged with possession and distribution of child pornography. The charges were reported by the media on October 1. He signed a voluntary suspension of license on October 4. The Board of Social Work Examiners adopted the suspension on October 11.

Michael Cassista – Registered Nurse

Mr. Cassista was charged with 10 counts of possession of child pornography. The charges were reported by the media on October 2. He signed a voluntary surrender of license on October 7. The Board of Nursing adopted the surrender on October 11.

Jessica Spayd – Advanced Practice Registered Nurse

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) arrested Ms. Spayd for prescribing practices on October 8. Ms. Spayd signed a voluntary surrender of license on October 9. The Board of Nursing adopted the surrender on October 11.

Lavern Davidhizar – Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.)

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) arrested Dr. Davidhizar for prescribing practices on October 8. Dr. Davidhizar signed a voluntary suspension of license on October 9. The Alaska State Medical Board adopted the surrender October 11.

The division's mission is to inspire public confidence through balanced regulation of competent professional and business services. Visit professionallicense.alaska.gov for additional information about the professions requiring a CBPL license to practice in Alaska. A thorough explanation of the investigative process is posted on the division's [investigations web page](#).

###

Media Contact: Sara Chambers, Director, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing: sara.chambers@alaska.gov, 465-2144