

# **ALASKA BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS POSITION STATEMENT: AMBULANCE CHASING**

**Date:** 10/02/2014

**Status:** New

**Organized by:** Alaska Board of Chiropractic Examiners

**Adopted by:** Alaska Board of Chiropractic Examiners

## **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this statement is to introduce the ABOCE's position opposing the practice of ambulance chasing.

## **STATEMENT:**

The ABOCE opposes the practice of chiropractors contacting the victims of motor vehicle collisions through "cold call" procedures either by phone, mail, direct contact or internet by utilizing lists obtained by third parties, including Police Department information sites or other intermediaries. These types of solicitations have been shown to be:

- Contributory to higher health care costs
- Intrusive to patient's privacy
- Inappropriate for minors
- Deleterious to the reputation of chiropractors

## **HISTORY:**

The ABOCE became aware of the existence of an organized mail-out solicitation a year ago in Anchorage when a parent testified in front of the Board about an unsolicited offer by mail from a chiropractic office for treatment of her minor child who was in a motor vehicle collision. The parent who testified in front of the Board deeply resented the intrusion, considering it, at the least, inappropriate, and asked the Board if it violated HIPPA. It was explained that it did not as there was no patient/doctor relationship established.

## **SUPPORTIVE MATERIAL:**

It is known that nationally and in England, lists of motor vehicle collision victims have been gathered by attorneys from police sources and passed to chiropractors and other medical providers for monetary re-imbursement or other obligations for the referral sourcing. These practices are widely condemned by lawyer's associations and chiropractic organizations. ("Ambulance chasing law firms forcing crackdown by ministers in move that could see insurance premiums drop", James Chapman; Newsonline, 30/4/2013; "Lawmaker, several lawyers charged in ambulance chasing scheme", Brian Rogers; Chron, 25/3/2013. This last article detailed personal visits to MVC victims and referral to 2 chiropractic offices.)