

Tennessee Board of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors



Newsletter



2016

A Regulatory Agency of the State of Tennessee

Fall

In conjunction with the purpose and goals of the Department of Health the Mission of the Bureau of Health Licensure and Regulation is to: Monitor, access and enforce the health care laws and regulations. Protect, promote and enhance quality health care for all citizens; Continuously strive to meet the needs of our customers in a respectful and caring manner; Provide quality work-life necessary to attract and retain competent, caring employees; Empower out employees to become entrepreneurs in their jobs; Increase awareness and public confidence in our services; and utilize our resources efficiently and cost effectively.

665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37243 • <http://tn.gov/health> (615) 741-5735 or 1-800-778-4123

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time (except State and Federal holidays) Fax: (615) 532-5369

2017 Board Meeting Dates

January 27, 2017

9:00 a.m. CT, Poplar Room

April 14, 2017

9:00 a.m. CT, Poplar Room

July 14, 2017

9:00 a.m. CT, Poplar Room

October 6, 2017

9:00 a.m. CT, Poplar room



All board meetings will be held at 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville TN, unless otherwise noted.

LAWS
you need to
KNOW

Legislative Updates - 2016

Public Chapter 926

Declares that no person providing counseling or therapy services will be required to counsel or serve a client as to goals, outcomes, or behaviors that conflict with the sincerely held principles of the counselor or therapist; requires such counselor or therapist to refer the client to another counselor

or therapist; creates immunity for such action; maintains liability for counselors who will not counsel a client based on the counselor's religious beliefs when the individual seeking or undergoing the counseling is in imminent danger of harming themselves or others. This act was effective upon the Governor's signature on April 6, 2016.

Public Chapter 1002

Public Chapter 1002 enacts the "Tennessee Prescription Safety Act of 2016," which revises regulation of controlled substances primarily by means of procedures involving the controlled substances database. This act was effective upon the Governor's signature on April 27, 2016.

Public Chapter 763

Permits licensees whose licenses from a health-related board have expired to obtain reinstatement on the payment of the renewal fee as well as the late payment fee which shall not exceed twice the renewal fee, instead of the current requirement of payment of all past due fees before reinstatement. This act will take effect on July 1, 2016.

Public Chapter 990

Eliminates the requirement that a healthcare services provider be at a hospital or other qualified site for the service to be considered telehealth services for insurance purposes; requires health insurance entities to reimburse healthcare service providers at the same rate for telehealth services as for in-person encounters. This act will take effect on July 1, 2016.

Public Chapter 1053

All boards under the Department of Health are not affected and were amended out of the act. This act as written requires each licensing agency, by December 31, 2016, to submit a copy of all existing or pending entry regulations to the licensing authority and an aggregate list of such entry regulations to the chairs of the government operations committees of the senate and house of representatives. Requires the committees to conduct a study of such entry regulations and authorizes the committee, at the committees' discretion, to conduct a hearing regarding the entry regulations submitted by any licensing authority. The committee will issue a joint report regarding the committees' findings and recommendations to the general assembly no later than January 1, 2018. This act was effective upon the Governor's signature on April 28, 2016.

Public Chapter 912

As enacted, creates nonresidential office-based opiate treatment facilities. Nonresidential office-based opiate treatment facilities refers to facilities that are prescribing buprenorphine or products containing buprenorphine to 50% or more of its patients and to one hundred fifty patients or more. This act will take effect on January 1, 2017.

Public Chapter 683

As enacted, requires that any mandated health benefit that takes effect on or after the effective date of this act shall apply not only to private health insurance issuers but also any managed care organization contracting with the state to provide insurance through the TennCare program and state or local insurance program.

Public Chapter 959

This bill authorizes the commissioner of health or the commissioner's designee to obtain records maintained by any licensed facility licensed to facilitate investigations and inquiries concerning opioid drug abuse, opioid drug overdoses, and opioid overdose deaths. Such facilities must provide records in the most efficient and expedient means possible. To determine these means, the department must: (1) Consult with stakeholders to develop data reporting elements and a short term mechanism for near real-time electronic access to these data elements by July 1, 2016; (2) Implement the short-term reporting system by October 1, 2016; and (3) Consult with stakeholders to develop a long-term electronic real-time data reporting plan utilizing electronic processes for opioid drug abuse, overdoses, and overdose deaths by January 1, 2017.

Public Chapter 719

Allows licensing authorities for certain state regulatory agencies to consider whether a person's conviction for the commission of a felony bears directly on the person's fitness to practice competently when making determinations

regarding the person's licensure status. This act was effective upon the Governor's signature on April 6, 2016.

Public Chapter 973

This act establishes requirements for the dispensing of opioids and benzodiazepines by physicians and other healthcare providers. This act was effective upon the Governor's signature on April 27, 2016.

Statistical Information

A & D Counselors	Total number
Level 1	14
Level 2	359*

* Many of these licensees were grandfathered in as Level 2 licensees.

Board Disciplinary Action Available Online

The Tennessee Department of Health issues a monthly media release listing all disciplinary actions taken by the health related boards during the prior month. All action taken by the Board of Medical Examiners is viewable online at: <http://health.state.tn.us/Boards/disciplinary.htm>

Live Streaming Video

If you would like to see your board "in action" but can't attend a meeting in person, you can now watch the board meeting on your computer through live streaming video. The link is: <https://web.nowuseeit.tn.gov/Mediasite/Catalog/Full/98fe21d561e9489487745f0c7da678b221>. After you access the page, go to the board meeting you wish to view and click on that particular link.

Oral Examination Information

As of January 8, 2016, the Board is no longer administering an oral examination as a requirement for licensure for a Level 2 counselor.

RULE AMENDMENTS



There are no new rules at this time. New rules are being considered so please visit the Board's website for updates on

rulemaking hearings. Please visit the Secretary of State's website at: <http://share.tn.gov/sos/rules/1200/1200-30/1200-30-01.20150625.pdf> to view the current rules.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors Website

You may download a copy of the rules, applications and forms, board member list, board meeting schedule, policy statements, and other pertinent information at the board's website:

<http://tn.gov/health/topic/AD-board>

Electronic Notification for Licensed Health Professionals

On January 1, 2013, a new law became effective requiring all Tennessee health professional boards to provide electronic notices to healthcare professionals they license. The law gives healthcare professionals the option of being notified electronically of the following: (1) Renewals of license, certification or registration; (2) Any fee increases; (3) Any changes in state law that impact the license holder; and (4) Any board meeting where changes in rules or fees are on the agenda. If a healthcare professional "opts in", the Department of Health will also be able to alert him or her of critical public health matters impacting Tennessee. Please visit apps.tn.gov/hlrs/begin.jsp and complete the registration process to opt in. Upon receipt of a current email address, those who opt in will begin to receive ALL notices electronically rather than through the United States mail. Please note opting in means license renewal notification will be delivered electronically approximately 45 days in advance of the expiration date. The electronic notice will direct the licensee to the appropriate Web page to renew. For professions that do not permit licensees to renew their licenses online, a paper renewal will continue to be provided. For more information, contact the Health Professional Boards office at 615-741-5735 or toll-free at 1-800-778-4123.

Renew Your License Online



Whether you receive a paper renewal form or not, you can still renew your license online. This is faster, more

convenient, and you can use a credit card to pay the renewal fees. Just go to <https://apps.tn.gov/hlrs/> to renew your license. You may renew up to 70 days prior to the expiration date.

Click the "Licensing Renewal" link where you can renew your license and update your professional license information. *Licensees are responsible for renewing their licenses on time and keeping the Board apprised of current information. It is a violation of the law and of the Board's rules to practice on an expired license.*

-Step 1: Login - Select our board and your profession and enter your license number.

-Step 2: Update your Information - Change your home and/or office address.

-Step 3: Enter your renewal information - Answer all necessary questions, as if you were completing your hard-copy form.

-Step 4: Payment - Enter your credit card information through the secure site and choose "submit".

If you have met all of the criteria necessary, your renewal certificate will be mailed to you in approximately one week. Updated license information will be available on the department's web site within two business days.

Retirement of License

If you are not practicing in Tennessee and do not wish to renew your license, it is suggested you retire your license rather than have it fall into failed to renew status. A retirement form may be obtained at our website at:

<http://tn.gov/health/article/AD-applications>

If you do not have access to the internet, you may request a retirement form be mailed to you. **Note: you cannot retire an expired license.**



Have You Moved/Changed Your Name?

Must be reported (in writing or by e-mail) to the board's office within 30 days! Please include the following:

- your name and license number;
- your profession;
- your old address and phone number;
- your new address and phone number, e-mail address, and/or your fax number; and your signature!
- If your name has changed due to marriage or divorce, you must send a copy of the document that made the change in status.

Keeping the board's administrative staff up to date on your location facilitates the timely notification to you of important information such as your application for licensure renewal and important statutory and rule changes.

You may fax your change to the board's administrative office at (615) 532-5369 or mail to: 665 Mainstream Dr., Nashville, TN 37243.

You may e-mail the board at: TN.Health@tn.gov, or visit the website at: <http://tn.gov/health/topic/AD-board>

PRACTITIONER PROFILE

When you notify the board of an address or name change, please remember to update your practitioner profile.

WORKING ON AN EXPIRED LICENSE

Statute prohibits an individual from working as a licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor unless he/she has an active license.

1. Upon recognition that his/her license has expired, the individual must stop practicing immediately and contact the Board's administrative office and request a reinstatement application.
2. The individual must complete the reinstatement in its entirety along with a detailed work history from the date the license expired. The application must be signed and notarized and returned to the Board's administrative office along with proof of documentation of continuing education requirements taken within the previous twelve (12) months, as well as all applicable fees.
3. Once the completed reinstatement application and all required documentation is received, the Board administrator may immediately reinstate the license **only** if the license has been in an expired status for a period of three (3) months or less.
4. If the reinstatement application received indicates in the work history that the individual has worked **more than three (3) months on an expired license, the licensee will be assessed a \$100 penalty for each month worked in excess of three (3) months.**

Discipline for lapsed licenses is reportable to the national databanks as well as the Department's Disciplinary Action

report and will be noted on the practitioner's licensure profile.

OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS



The Office of Investigations is responsible for receiving and processing all complaints for the licensure boards. To file a complaint, please contact the Office of Investigations at 1-800-852-2187 or visit our website at <http://tn.gov/health/article/filing-complaints-against-health-care-professionals> where you may download and print out the complaint form.

To Contact This Board Call:

(615) 741-5735 local or (800) 778-4123 nationwide or write to:

**Tennessee Board of Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors
665 Mainstream Drive
Nashville, TN 37243**

**or visit the board's website at:
<http://tn.gov/health/topic/AD-board>**

BOARD MEMBERS

Susan Cunningham, LADAC, Chair
Karen Dennis, LADAC
Major McNeil, Citizen Member
Hilde Phipps, LADAC
Vacant, LADAC

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