



# News Release

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## State disciplines health care providers

**OLYMPIA** -- The Washington State Department of Health has taken disciplinary actions or withdrawn charges against the following health care providers in our state.

The department's Health Systems Quality Assurance Division works with boards, commissions, and advisory committees to set licensing standards for more than 80 health care professions (e.g., dentists, nurses, counselors). Information about disciplinary action taken against medical doctors and physician assistants can be found on the [Washington Medical Commission \(WMC\) website](#). Questions about WMC disciplinary actions can be sent to [media@wmc.wa.gov](mailto:media@wmc.wa.gov).

Information about health care providers is on the agency website. Click on "[Look up a health care provider license](#)" in the "How Do I?" section of the [Department of Health website](#) ([doh.wa.gov](http://doh.wa.gov)). The site includes information about a health care provider's license status, the expiration and renewal date of their credential, disciplinary actions and copies of legal documents issued after July 1998. This information is also available by calling 360-236-4700. Consumers who think a health care provider acted unprofessionally are encouraged to call and report their complaint.

### Benton County

In July 2022 the secretary of health granted with conditions a substance use disorder professional trainee license to **Hannah Elizabeth Cowin** (CO61291072). Cowin agreed to the conditions, which include probation for 24 months, professional supervision, and quarterly performance reports. In 2017, Cowin was convicted of possession of a stolen vehicle and possession of a controlled substance in superior court. In 2016, she was convicted of three counts of theft.

In May 2022 the secretary of health granted with conditions an agency affiliated counselor license to **Tricia Elizabeth Tyner**, also known as Tricia Elizabeth Tyner-Longhorn, (CG61203426). Tyner agreed to the conditions, which include two years' probation, professional supervision, and quarterly performance evaluations. In 2018, Tyner was convicted of identity theft in a California Superior Court.

### Clallam County

In July 2022 the Dental Commission ended probation on the dentist license of **Abel Luis Riojas** (DE00010763).

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### **Clark County**

In July 2022 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant **Roberto Zitri Espinoza Vargas** (NC60996291) with unprofessional conduct. Vargas allegedly abused a vulnerable adult who was a patient in the locked memory care unit of an assisted living facility where he worked. Charges state that Vargas wrongly told the patient, who suffered from dementia, that his family was deceased, and the patient had killed them. Vargas also allegedly pushed, pulled, choked, and forcefully restrained the patient against his will by lying on top of him.

### **Jefferson County**

In July 2022 the secretary of health withdrew charges against independent social worker **Shannon M. Tierney** (LW00007915).

### **King County**

In July 2022 the Unlicensed Practice Program notified **Therese A. Henning** (MA00012801) of its intent to issue a cease-and-desist order for allegedly practicing massage without a license and advertising to provide massage services.

In July 2022 the Pharmacy Commission charged pharmacy assistant and technician **Mark Alan Schultz** (VB60802080, VA60968405) with unprofessional conduct. Schultz allegedly took merchandise from the pharmacy where he worked, including two bottles of Alprazolam, a controlled substance.

In July 2022 the secretary of health ended probation on the registered agency affiliated counselor license of **Luther Armane Mitchell-Walker** (CG61072042).

In July 2022 the secretary of health ended probation on the nursing assistant license of **Wakila Monique Rankin** (NC60335443).

### **Kitsap County**

In July 2022 the Massage Therapy Program charged massage therapist **Matthew Richard Timmons** (MA60171973) with unprofessional conduct. He did not respond to an investigator about a complaint alleging Timmons practiced massage with an expired license.

### **Pacific County**

In July 2022 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Liza A. Johnson** (RN00150962) with unprofessional conduct. Johnson allegedly disclosed criminal convictions for burglary and theft, after submitting a reactivation application for her license.

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### **Pierce County**

In July 2022 the Nursing Commission charged licensed practical nurse **Michael Angelo Vidal** (LP61041061) with unprofessional conduct. Vidal was convicted of fourth-degree assault – domestic violence in Pierce County District Court, after Vidal assaulted his child.

In July 2022 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Nicholas Christian Keller** (RN60261908) with unprofessional conduct. Keller allegedly diverted oxycodone from his workplace for his personal use.

In July 2022 the Nursing Commission charged licensed practical nurse **Kristi Marie Auckland** (LP60270286) with unprofessional conduct. Auckland allegedly diverted controlled substances from several facilities where she worked. In January 2021, Auckland was convicted of driving under the influence in Lakewood Municipal Court.

### **Snohomish County**

In July 2022 the Dental Commission and dentist **David G. Myaskovsky** (DE00007078) agreed to an order that requires Myaskovsky to pay a fine of \$5,000, pay reimbursement of \$5,469, take additional continuing education in record keeping, and take an ethics and boundaries examination, among other things. Myaskovsky practiced below the standard of care.

### **Spokane County**

In July 2022 the secretary of health reinstated the certified nursing assistant license of **Thomas Francis Begley** (NC60167880).

### **Thurston County**

In July 2022 the Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery Board withdrew charges against osteopathic physician and surgeon **Karolyn Kay Moody** (OP60734187).

### **Out of State**

**California:** In July 2022 the Dental Commission ended probation on the dentist license of **Yang H. Kim** (DE60541477).

**Note to Editors:** Health care providers charged with unprofessional conduct have 20 days to respond to the Department of Health in writing. The case then enters the settlement process. If no disciplinary agreement can be reached, the case will go to a hearing.

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