

OBD COMMUNIQUE

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Ohio Board of Dietetics
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RENEWAL REMINDERS

It's time to renew your license to practice dietetics in Ohio once again. **Make sure that you don't throw out the cherry pink application in this mailing!** Please fill out the form carefully and completely, and don't forget to sign it on the back side.

Last year renewal applications were most often incomplete because the licensee:

- Failed to complete information regarding approval of a general program of weight control
- Failed to complete current employment information or indicate "not employed"
- Failed to answer or provide complete information regarding supervision of persons claiming exemption
- Failed to provide social security number

So be extra careful in those areas!

If you are considering a change in status (either letting your license lapse or requesting inactive status), such changes or requests also need to be submitted by the **June 30** deadline. If you are uncertain about your choices, give OBD staff a call.

We no longer are requiring dietitians who approve weight control programs to report that activity. If you have questions about how to go about approving weight control programs, call the Board office.

The Board requests that the completed application and fee be returned by May 31 in order to allow for adequate time to process applications before current licenses expire.

Your license actually expires on June 30; therefore, renewal applications must be postmarked on or before that date. Don't delay as late fees and reinstatement fees are hefty if you do not renew timely!

Please contact the Board office if you have questions about the renewal application or the renewal process.

THE BOARD IS ONCE AGAIN COMPLETE!

After losing an unusually high number of Board members during this past year, we are happy to report that the Board is once again complete! Governor Bob Taft has appointed Jonathan Hughes to a partial term in the Public Member position on the Ohio Board of Dietetics. Jon will complete the term vacated by Tonda Hollenback who resigned as a result of a change in professional employment. His term will end June 30, 2004.

Jonathan Hughes is currently President of JSH Consulting, and has past experience with state government through the Ohio State Auditor's office. He resides in Dublin, Ohio with his wife and two children.

When deliberating the issues that come before the Board we rely on input from the diversity of perspectives that all of our members offer. We look forward to Jon's input as a public member.

DIETETIC TECHNICIAN LICENSURE

It is expected that Ohio Representative Peter Lawson Jones (D), Cleveland will reintroduce the Dietetic Technician Licensure bill again soon. The previous bill "died" in committee during the past legislative session. The Advocates for the Utilization of Dietetic Technicians, representatives of the Ohio Dietetic Association, and representatives of the Board have met and come to agreement on the proposed content of the bill. The actual wording must now be drafted by the Legislative Service Commission. Once a draft is available, and agreed upon by the interested parties, Rep. Jones will seek sponsors and introduce the legislation.

As previously, the Ohio Board of Dietetics is maintaining a neutral position regarding the bill, but is positioning itself to be able to absorb the additional licensees, board members and activities which would result if the bill is enacted.

If you are interested in the bill you may get more information by contacting Dr. Sarah Wilder from the Advocates for Dietetic Technician Licensure, calling the Board office, or speaking with Pat McKnight of the Ohio Dietetic Association. When the bill is introduced, more information will be available.

NOTE: NEW ZIP CODE FOR OHIO BOARD OF DIETETICS!

Our new zipcode is: **43215-6119**

OBD WEBSITE NEWS!

We are finally in the process of training our own staff to update our website and provide you with current information. Some changes have recently been made to our site at: www.state.oh.us/obd. including updated meeting dates, guidelines, and contact information. Board meeting agendas, minutes, Communiqué newsletters, and annual reports will soon also be current.

The change of address form, and application forms for Limited Permit licenses and Initial licenses will also be added to the site before mid-summer. Please note that these new forms can be printed off the site, but must be completed and mailed back to the Board.

We have more plans in store to develop the OBD website. Let us know if there is anything that you particularly want to see included.

**EXCERPTS FROM THE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2000 (JULY 1, 1999-JUNE 30, 2000)**

FY 2000 was a busy enforcement year as usual. Following is a five year OBD complaint history:

<u>FISCAL YEAR</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Complaints from previous FY	31	26	36	37	32
New Complaints Opened	90	113	131	103	113
Total Investigated Complaints	121	139	167	140	145
Complaints Closed	95	103	130	108	112
Complaints Pending	26	36	37	32	33

Categorizing complaints is just one way in which the Board is able to track trends, and identify areas of concern related to public protection and enforcement of the law. The 145 complaints investigated in fiscal year 2000 are categorized as follows:

Alleged Unlicensed Practice	# of cases
supplement sales	27
weight loss programs	5
fitness/personal trainers	8
other licensed professionals	7
persons claiming dietetic technician and 4-yr Graduate exemptions	11
miscellaneous	7
applicants	17
expired licenses/without reason	54
Alleged impairment to practice/or moral character violation	6
Alleged Failure to meet continuing education requirement	1
Alleged Standards Violations	2
TOTAL	145

Board Actions During fiscal year 2000:

Cease and Desist Orders	6
Notices of Opportunity for Hearing	5
Hearing Held	1
Consent Agreements	4
License issued with Letters of Caution	9

The Board and staff thank the dietitians who have assisted and cooperated with finding the facts related to investigations of complaints, and locating dietitians whose licenses expired without reason. Further, the Board expresses appreciation to dietitians for their questions and concerns regarding the law and its enforcement.

Look for the Fiscal Year 2001 Enforcement Report and Formal Action List in the summer Communique.

YOU ASKED IT!

Q. WHAT IS AN “RDE” - “REGISTERED DIETITIAN ELIGIBLE” ?

A. Persons who have completed the academic and pre-professional experience in order to qualify for taking the registration examination for dietitians offered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration, are sometimes called “RDE”. Achieving this designation does not automatically allow one to practice dietetics in Ohio. In fact, in Ohio one who has these qualifications **MUST** have a license in order to practice.

Q. WHAT IS A LIMITED PERMIT?

A. The Ohio Board of Dietetics offers a Limited Permit license to a person who has completed the academic and pre-professional requirements as specified in Ohio law, and who presents evidence to the Board of intent to take the Board approved examination (which is the registration examination offered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration.)
One who holds a Limited Permit license uses the designation LP and the permit number assigned - for example: Jane Doe, LP1234.

Q. WHAT CAN A LIMITED PERMIT HOLDER DO? MUST THEIR WORK BE CO-SIGNED?

A. The Limited Permit license enables the holder to practice dietetics and engage in the full scope of practice until they have taken and passed the examination. One who holds a Limited Permit license is required to comply with Ohio laws and rules. The law does not require that their work be co-signed or reviewed. However, it is the prerogative of the employer to determine how much supervision is desired for their employees. Since Limited Permit holders are generally inexperienced practitioners, the employer may wish to more closely monitor their work.

Q. WHAT HAPPENS IF A LIMITED PERMIT HOLDER FAILS THE EXAMINATION?

A. If a Limited Permit holder fails the examination, then they must not practice unless supervised by a licensed dietitian. Once supervision is in place, they may return to practice on a valid Limited Permit. Their Limited Permit becomes a Supervised Limited Permit.

If someone fails the examination two times, the Supervised Limited Permit expires, and no other dietitian license will be granted until the individual demonstrates competency by passing the examination.

Q. WHAT TITLE DOES A LIMITED PERMIT HOLDER USE WHO HAS PASSED THE EXAMINATION?

A. Once the Limited Permit holder passes the examination, they may add the designation RD (registered dietitian) to their title, along with the Limited Permit designation - for example: Jane Doe, RD, LP 1234. Next, in order to continue to practice in Ohio, they must apply for an Initial License prior to the expiration of the Limited Permit. Once their Initial License is issued, the dietitian has met all requirements and may use the designations RD, Registered Dietitian and LD, Licensed Dietitian – for example: Jane Doe, RD, LD.

Q. CAN'T A LICENSED DIETITIAN JUST CO-SIGN THE WORK OF SOMEONE WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO TAKE THE EXAMINATION “RDE” SO THEY MAY PRACTICE DIETETICS? AFTER ALL, THEY WERE JUST A STUDENT.

A.NO !!....If one qualifies for their own Limited Permit license or LD license and intends to practice dietetics in Ohio, they must first get a license. Simply put... “If you qualify for your own license you can't work on another person's license”.

Practicing dietetics without a Limited Permit license as an “RDE” is a violation of Ohio law.

