

Press Release  
BOARD ISSUES ORDER OF EMERGENCY SUSPENSION  
*Mark LaRue D.C., License #3381*

On July 2, 2017, the Board held an emergency meeting, where the Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners (OBCE) issued an Order of Emergency Suspension and Notice of Rights for Mark LaRue, D.C. effective July 2, 2017.

On June 29, 2017 Battle Ground, Washington Police arrested Mark LaRue D.C. Dr. LaRue was arrested for charges including second-degree rape and indecent liberties involving at least two female patients. Dr. LaRue was alleged to have touched female patients inappropriately during medical treatments and engaged in sexual conduct with patients in his office.

Battle Ground Police continue to investigate Dr. LaRue's conduct and suspect there may be additional victims.

Due to this alleged conduct and continuing concerns regarding public safety raised by ongoing police investigations, the Board held an emergency meeting on July 2, 2017. At this Emergency Board Meeting, the OBCE found that the acts and conduct described above constitute grounds for immediate license suspension and amounts to unprofessional conduct. Licensee's practice constitutes a clear and present danger to the health or safety of his patients and the public if allowed to continue before a hearing may be held. The OBCE, therefore, immediately suspends Licensee's chiropractic license pursuant to ORS 183.430(2) and ORS 684.100(3).

The OBCE has grave concerns should Licensee attempt these same actions with members of the public or patients visiting his practice. Licensee's license is suspended, effective July 2, 2017, and he is not permitted to practice chiropractic in the State of Oregon pending the outcome of his criminal case and any further disciplinary action.

Licensee has 90 days to request a hearing before an administrative law judge to contest the OBCE's order.

Anyone with additional information may contact George Finch, Investigator, at 503-373-1615, or Frank Prideaux DC, Healthcare Investigator, at 503-373-1848.

For more information, contact Cassandra C. McLeod-Skinner, Executive Director, at 503-373-1620, or by email: [cass.mcleod-skinner@oregon.gov](mailto:cass.mcleod-skinner@oregon.gov)



made a comment to Patient 2 that one of the apparatus used for treatment would make a good vibrator.

3.

Between the dates of about April 21, 2004 and April 28, 2004, Licensee massaged the breasts and buttocks of Patient 3 for the purpose of gratifying Licensee's sexual desire.

4.

Within 2004, Licensee massaged the breasts and buttocks of Patient 4 for the purpose of gratifying Licensee's sexual desire.

5.

On or about December 27, 2002, Licensee massaged the breasts of Patient 5 for the purpose of gratifying Licensee's sexual desire.

6.

The allegations as noted above in paragraphs 1-5, if proven, would constitute multiple violations of ORS 684.100(1) (f) and (A) and (C) and OAR 811-035-0015(1)(a) as these acts constitute conduct and verbal behavior toward patients that may be reasonably viewed as sexual, seductive, sexually demeaning or romantic. These acts also constitute a touching of sexual intimate part of another, and therefore fall within the definition of "sexual relations" in OAR 811-035-0015(1)(c) and are prohibited under 684.100(1) (f)(A),(C) and OAR 811-035-0015(1)(b).

7.

At a special July 2, 2017 board meeting, the Board found that the acts and conduct of Licensee described above constitutes grounds for immediate license suspension and amounts to unprofessional conduct. Licensee's practice, as described above, constitutes a clear and present danger to the health or safety of his patients and the public if allowed to continue before a hearing may be held. The above acts are in violation of ORS 684.100(1)(f)(A), (C) and OAR 811-035-0015(1)(a),(b). Therefore, the Board is authorized to and does immediately suspend Licensee's chiropractic license pursuant to ORS 183.430(2) and ORS 684.100(3).

8.

Rationale for the suspension is as follows:

The Board has received and investigated independent, credible information concerning Licensee's inappropriate touching of patients and inappropriate comments to a patient. These complaints allege acts of unprofessional conduct. As of July 2, 2017, Licensee has been arrested and charged with Rape in Second Degree in Washington state.

In view of the nature of the alleged misconduct and its repeated nature, there is a high probability of recurrent acts of endangerment of patients if Licensee is to continue to practice chiropractic prior to any completion of a hearing and/or finalization of this investigation. The Board has grave concerns that the Licensee is unable to safely and competently practice chiropractic. The nature of the complaints and the current behaviors of Licensee place great risk of potential harm to individual patients.

9.

Licensee's license is suspended effective July 2, 2017 and Licensee is not permitted to practice chiropractic in the State of Oregon pending the outcome of further disciplinary action.

10.

#### **NOTICE OF HEARING RIGHTS**

Licensee has the right, if Licensee requests, to have a formal contested case hearing pursuant to ORS 183.430(2) and OAR 137-003-0560 as soon as practicable to contest this Emergency Suspension Order. Licensee has a right to demand that a hearing be held as soon as practicable to contest the emergency suspension order. Such a request must be made in writing and must be received in the Board's office no more than 90 days after the effective date of this order. If not so received, Licensee's right to a hearing under ORS chapter 183 will be waived. If Licensee timely requests a hearing, the hearing could be consolidated with any other Board proceeding affecting this license. Licensee may elect to be represented by counsel and to respond and present evidence and argument on all issues involved. After the hearing, the Board will issue an order confirming, altering or revoking this suspension order.

11.

**NOTICE TO ACTIVE DUTY SERVICEMEMBERS:**


Active duty service members have a right to stay these proceedings under the federal Service members Civil Relief Act. For more information contact the Oregon State Bar at 800-452-8260, the Oregon Military Department at 800-452-7500 or the nearest United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Office through <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2017.

**BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS**  
State of Oregon

Original signatures are on file in OBCE office

By:

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Cassandra C. McLeod-Skinner, J.D.  
Executive Director  
Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners

VERIFICATION

State of Oregon )  
County of Marion ) Case # 2017-5012

I, Cassandra C. McLeod-Skinner, being first duly sworn, state that I am the Executive Director of the Board of Chiropractic Examiners of the State of Oregon, and as such, am authorized to verify pleadings in this case: and that the foregoing Order is true to the best of my knowledge as I verily believe.

Original signatures are on file in OBCE office

Cassandra C. McLeod-Skinner  
Cassandra C. McLeod-Skinner, J.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OREGON BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me  
this 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017.

Original signatures are on file in OBCE office

NOTARY PUBLIC FOR OREGON  
My Commission Expires: 10/04/19



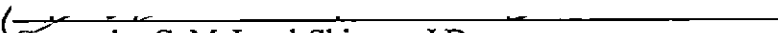
**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Cassandra C. McLeod-Skinner, certify that on July 5, 2017, I served the Emergency Suspension Order upon Mark LaRue, DC, the party hereto, by email and mailing, certified mail, postage prepaid, a true, exact and full copy thereof to:

Mark LaRue, DC  
713 W Main St # 102  
Battle Ground, WA 98604  
[markslarue@comcast.net](mailto:markslarue@comcast.net)

Therese Lavalley, AAL  
1409 Franklin St Ste 212  
Vancouver, WA 98660-2826  
[lavlaw99@aol.com](mailto:lavlaw99@aol.com)

Original signatures are on file in OBCE office

  
Cassandra C. McLeod-Skinner, J.D.  
Executive Director  
Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners