



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners

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Salem, OR 97302-6311

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November 6, 2001

Geoffrey Skelton DC  
20330 SE Hwy 212  
Clackamas, Oregon 97015

Re: Letter of Reprimand,  
Case # 99-1043, 2000-1012, 2000-1013

Dear Dr. Skelton,

This is a Letter of Reprimand for the conduct described in more detail in the enclosed Final Order by Default.

The findings of the Board and the Peer Review Committee were multiple violations of administrative rules related to documentation and chart noting. The Peer Review Committee found on several files that they would be unable to assume care of that patient based on your chart notes. The Notice also documents your failure to document your radiographic findings.

The Board hopes that the time you spent with the Peer Review Committee was instructive regarding the improvements that are needed in order for your record keeping and patient care to meet the minimal standards of this profession.

The Peer Review Committee's report also made prominent mention of your need to improve communication with your patients. The Board requests that you make every effort to do so in order to avoid complaints like these in the future.

I want to make special note of the issues related to when a patient becomes a patient, and termination of the patient-doctor relationship. Your missteps in this area were potentially serious violations, especially given your previous complaint and disciplinary history. Please give special attention to this aspect of your record keeping.

Finally, the Board wishes to thank you for cooperating fully with this inquiry and your expressed wish to address all of these issues.

Sincerely,

Original signatures on file  
at the OBCE office.

Richard McCarthy DC  
President



BEFORE THE  
BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS  
STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of	)	
	)	FINAL ORDER BY
Geoffrey Skelton , D.C.	)	
	)	DEFAULT
	)	
Licensee.	)	Case # 99-1043, 2000-1012,
	)	2000-1013
	)	

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The Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners (hereafter "Board" or "OBCE") is the state agency responsible for licensing, regulating and disciplining chiropractic physicians and certified chiropractic assistants in the State of Oregon.

Geoffrey Skelton, D.C. (hereafter "Licensee"), is a licensed chiropractic physician in Oregon. The Board proposes to issue a Letter of Reprimand for the following reasons:

1.

Three complaints filed against Licensee revealed deficiencies in the patients' files and the doctor's management of these patients. The OBCE referred the case to the Peer Review Committee who conducted a personal interview with Licensee and reported its findings back to the Board. The OBCE makes the following findings:

2.

In regards to Patient # 1 there is no documented diagnosis, x-ray report, treatment plan or prognosis. The chart notes do not document any patient orientation class or that there were any indications of problems with this patient. There is no documentation of the telephone conversation between the doctor and the patient. The chart notes do not meet minimal standards and the chart notes do not have clinic and or physician named on pages in violation of 811-015-0005 (1) and (1) (b). The chart notes do not have radiographic findings in violation of 811-030-0030 (2) (k).

3.

Patient #2 noted complaints of dizziness, nausea, history of a fall striking her head. The examination form does not document that any blood pressure, pulse rate, or cranial nerve test was performed. When Licensee was asked why these tests were not performed he stated he did a basilar insufficiency test and it was negative so he did not feel it was important. He did not take a blood pressure since he has done so many and did not find they were clinically significant. Even though Patient #2 had complaints of dizziness and a head injury he did not believe that a blood pressure was important in this case. The OBCE agrees with the Peer Review Committee's finding that that this falls below the minimal standard of care.

Patient #2 was treated two times. Licensee did note this was for relief of symptoms only. He did not feel he could correct anything so he released her. This is not documented in his records.

There is no x-ray report, diagnosis, treatment plan or prognosis. The OBCE agrees with the Peer Review Committee's finding that this does not meet the minimal standard of documentation. The Peer Review committee voted unanimously that they would not be able to take over this case in Dr. Skeleton's absence.

The aforementioned is in violation of ORS 684.100 (g) (A), OAR 811-015-0005 (1) (a) (b) (Records), 811-030-0030 (2) (k) (No radiographic findings).

4.

Patient #3 is a 60-year-old man with complaint of chronic neck pain, sinus headache, and lower back pain. His symptoms ranged from mild to moderate and were progressively getting worse. His symptoms were increased when watching TV in bed. The past history included motor vehicle accident some 20 years prior, and "Football". Licensee could not explain why Patient # 3's pre-pay plan agreement was not in the file. There are no examination findings, diagnosis, treatment plan or prognosis noted in this file. The OBCE agrees with the Peer Review Committee's finding that this does not meet minimal standards.

The aforementioned is in violation of ORS 684.100 (g) (A), OAR 811-015-0005 (1) (a) (b) (Records), 811-030-0030 (2) (k) (No radiographic findings).

5.

Patient # 4's patient file showed X-rays of the cervical spine were taken without any report documented. There is no diagnosis, treatment plan or

prognosis noted in the chart notes. There is no documentation describing the referral or the reasons for the referral to Western States Chiropractic College in the file. The Peer Review Committee voted unanimously that they would not be able to take over this case in Licensee's absence. The aforementioned is in violation of ORS 684.100 (g) (A), OAR 811-015-0005 (1) (a) (b) (Records), 811-030-0030 (2) (k) (No radiographic findings).

6.

The Notice of Proposed Disciplinary Action was sent to the Licensee on September 26, 2001 and he received it certified mail on October 1, 2001. The request for a reprimand was made in the Notice of Proposed Disciplinary Action and a draft of that letter was provided to the Licensee. The notice granted an opportunity for a hearing if requested within 30 days. The notice designated the Board's file on this matter as the record for purposes of default. There has been no response to the Notice, nor a request for hearing made by the Licensee. The Board has not received any communication from the Licensee since the Notice of Discipline was served on October 1, 2001.

7.

After consideration of the records and files the Board finds that the acts and conduct of Licensee described constitutes violations of the statutes mentioned in paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5. The Board further finds that the above acts and conduct warrant to issue a letter of reprimand for those acts and conduct. It is hereby ordered that the letter of reprimand be issued against the Licensee as noted above.

8.

Licensee is ordered to pay costs of this matter including investigative costs and attorney fees, pursuant to ORS 684.100(9)(g) in an amount to be determined in 30 days.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 6th day of November 2001.

OREGON BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS  
State of Oregon

By:

Original signatures on file at  
the OBCE office.

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Dave McTeague  
Executive Director

**BEFORE THE  
BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS  
STATE OF OREGON**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	Notice Of Proposed
Geoffrey Skelton , D.C.	)	
	)	Disciplinary Action
	)	
Licensee.	)	Case # 99-1043, 2000-1012,
	)	2000-1013
	)	

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Geoffrey Skelton, D.C. (hereafter "Licensee"), is a licensed chiropractic physician in Oregon. The Board proposes to issue a Letter of Reprimand for the following reasons:

1.

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2.

In regards to Patient # 1 there is no documented diagnosis, x-ray report, treatment plan or prognosis. The chart notes do not document any patient orientation class or that there were any indications of problems with this patient. There is no documentation of the telephone conversation between the doctor and the patient. The chart notes do not meet minimal standards and the chart notes do not have clinic and or physician named on pages in violation of 811-015-0005 (1) and (1) (b). The chart notes do not have radiographic findings in violation of 811-030-0030 (2) (k).

3.

Patient #2 noted complaints of dizziness, nausea, history of a fall striking her head. The examination form does not document that any blood pressure, pulse rate, or cranial nerve test was performed. When Licensee was asked why these tests were not performed he stated he did a basilar insufficiency test and it was negative so he did not feel it was important. He did not take a blood pressure since he has done so many and did not find they were clinically significant. Even though Patient #2 had complaints of dizziness and a head injury he did not believe that a blood pressure was important in this case. The OBCE agrees with the Peer Review Committee's finding that that this falls below the minimal standard of care.

Patient #2 was treated two times. Licensee did note this was for relief of symptoms only. He did not feel he could correct anything so he released her. This is not documented in his records.

There is no x-ray report, diagnosis, treatment plan or prognosis. The OBCE agrees with the Peer Review Committee's finding that this does not meet the minimal standard of documentation. The Peer Review committee voted unanimously that they would not be able to take over this case in Dr. Skeleton's absence.

The aforementioned is in violation of ORS 684.100 (g) (A), OAR 811-015-0005 (1) (a) (b) (Records), 811-030-0030 (2) (k) (No radiographic findings).

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6.

Due to the aforementioned violations, the OBCE proposes to issue a Letter of Reprimand (Attachment 1).

7.

Licensee shall pay costs of this disciplinary proceeding, including investigative costs and attorney fees pursuant to ORS 684.100(9)(g).

8.

Licensee has the right, if Licensee requests, to have a formal contested case hearing before the OBCE or its hearing officer to contest the matter set out above. At the hearing, Licensee may be represented by an attorney and subpoena and cross-examine witnesses. That request for hearing must be made in writing to the OBCE, must be received by the OBCE within 30 days from the mailing of this notice (or if not mailed, the date of personal service), and must be accompanied by a written answer to the charges contained in this notice.

9.

The answer shall be made in writing to the OBCE and shall include an admission or denial of each factual matter alleged in this notice, and a short plain statement of each relevant affirmative defense Licensee may have. Except for good cause, factual matters alleged in this notice and not denied in the answer will be considered a waiver of such defense; new matters alleged in this answer (affirmative defenses) shall be presumed to be denied by the agency and evidence shall not be taken on any issue not raised in the notice and answer.

10.

If Licensee requests a hearing, before commencement of that hearing, Licensee will be given information on the procedures, rights of representation and other rights of the parties relating to the conduct of the hearing as required under ORS 183.413-415.

11.

If Licensee fails to request a hearing within 30 days, or fails to appear as scheduled at the hearing, the OBCE may issue a final order by default and impose the above sanctions against Licensee. Upon default order of the Board or failure to appear, the contents of the Board's file regarding the subject of this automatically become part of the evidentiary record of this disciplinary action upon default for the purpose of proving a prima facie case.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September 2001.

OREGON BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS  
State of Oregon

By:

Original signatures on file at  
the OBCE office.

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Dave McTeague  
Executive Director



State of Oregon  
County of Marion

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)  
)

Case # 99-1043, 2000-1012,  
2000-1013

I, Dave McTeague, 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 Notice is true to the best of my knowledge as I verily believe.

Original signatures on file  
at the OBCE office.

DAVE McTEAGUE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OREGON BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

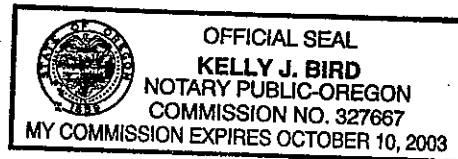
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me

this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2001.

Original signatures on file at  
the OBCE office.

NOTARY PUBLIC FOR OREGON

My Commission Expires: 10/10/03



**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Dave McTeague, certify that on September 26, 2001, I served the foregoing Notice of Proposed Disciplinary Action upon Geoffrey Skelton, D.C., the party hereto, by mailing, certified mail, postage prepaid, a true, exact and full copy thereof to:

Geoffrey Skelton DC  
20330 SE Hwy 212  
Clackamas, Oregon 97015

Original signatures on file at  
the OBCE office.

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Dave McTeague  
Executive Director  
Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners

September 27, 2001

Geoffrey Skelton DC  
20330 SE Hwy 212  
Clackamas, Oregon 97015

Re: Letter of Reprimand,  
Case # 99-1043, 2000-1012, 2000-1013

Dear Dr. Skelton,

This is a Letter of Reprimand for the conduct described in more detail in the Notice of Disciplinary Action dated September 25, 2001.

The findings of the Board and the Peer Review Committee were multiple violations of administrative rules related to documentation and chart noting. The Peer Review Committee found on several files that they would be unable to assume care of that patient based on your chart notes. The Notice also documents your failure to document your radiographic findings.

The Board hopes that the time you spent with the Peer Review Committee was instructive regarding the improvements that are needed in order for your record keeping and patient care to meet the minimal standards of this profession.

The Peer Review Committee's report also made prominent mention of your need to improve communication with your patients. The Board requests that you make every effort to do so in order to avoid complaints like these in the future.

I want to make special note of the issues related to when a patient becomes a patient, and termination of the patient-doctor relationship. Your missteps in this area were potentially serious violations, especially given your previous complaint and disciplinary history. Please give special attention to this aspect of your record keeping.

Finally, the Board wishes to thank you for cooperating fully with this inquiry and your expressed wish to address all of these issues.

Sincerely,

Richard McCarthy DC  
President