

Virginia and Colorado Respond to ICA's Request to Help Displaced DCs with Temporary Licenses

Doctors of chiropractic who have had their practices wiped out in the the recent hurricanes may obtain temporary licenses in Virginia and Colorado. These two states were the first to respond to ICA's appeal to State Chiropractic Licensing Boards to use the full extent of their authority to assist doctors of chiropractic whose practices were wiped out during Hurricane Katrina, in obtaining temporary licenses so they can re-establish their professional activities in new locations.

In a letter to all state chiropractic licensing and regulatory boards, ICA wrote:

As I'm sure you are aware many doctors of chiropractic have had their offices destroyed, or at least significantly damaged to the extent that they will be unable to open up for some time. In addition, the financial strain of being closed for an extended period may drive many of them out of business permanently. This will result in a shortage of chiropractic services even after the areas recover from this disaster.

The International Chiropractors Association (ICA) is requesting that every chiropractic state board initiate a program of temporary reciprocity for a one year period to allow displaced doctors of chiropractic to work as associates in facilities in other states. This will allow them to maintain some form of income and provide for their families while helping to ensure that they will be able to return to their home states and restart their practices in a year.

We realize that state laws will impose strict parameters on many aspects of such an effort. There may be circumstances where statutes may have to be altered to accommodate this request. We feel that with such a request coming from the Chiropractic State Board, the respective legislative bodies will react favorably and quickly in this time of crisis. We are also aware that state boards have a great deal of discretion and authority to address special needs, and it is our hope that no licensing body will hold back in the face of such urgent needs, created by circumstances beyond any doctor's control.

First to assist in this unprecedented disaster was the Governor of Virginia, The Hon. Mark Warner, who issued Executive Order 97, directing all possible assistance from his state for hurricane victims. Among the provisions of this order, was a section honoring ICA's request. That provision states:

2. Authorization of the health regulatory boards within the Department of Health Professions to issue, under the direction of the Director of the Department and during the next

120 days, licenses, registrations, and certifications to practice in the Commonwealth, for a period not to exceed one year, to qualified health care practitioners who are displaced residents of Hurricane Katrina-affected states, who hold unrestricted licenses, registrations, or certifications in their resident states, and who may be unable to furnish or have furnished on their behalf complete documentation of their credentials and license status as otherwise required by Virginia law or regulation. The boards shall also

have authority to defer the payment of licensing fees.

The Colorado Board of Chiropractic Examiners has also published an announcement of help to victims of Hurricane Katrina, stating: "We will provide a streamlined application process for those interested in relocating or working in Colorado within any of the professions or occupations licensed by our Division." For more information on this important opportunity see the Colorado Board's website at <http://www.dora.state.co.us/chiropractic/>.

"We want to express ICA's deep gratitude for the efforts of the Colorado Board of Chiropractic Examiners and Virginia Governor Warner," said ICA President John Maltby. "Their leadership and unhesitating response to such an obvious need are shining examples we hope all states will follow in this crisis."

REQUEST FOR DC CATEGORY

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clearinghouse system of the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of The Surgeon General and the Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness.

ICA made a specific request that a chiropractic category be added: "In the present system, there is no specific category for doctors of chiropractic, and we request that the volunteer matrix be amended to include such a category. This would provide greater clarity for all concerned, and provide for a more effective mobilization of needed volunteers," ICA wrote.

ICA has also shared its goal of a specific DC category in this important federal program with a number of key Members of Congress in an effort to

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