

Erik Olson

Our experience with the PLCU:

The Texas Board of Orthotics and Prosthetics was focused on enforcing the Licensure Laws of the State of Texas, but the PLCU's lack of available resources enable non-compliance and licensure violations.

We had a Prosthetist resign on February 27th, 2012. We became aware that he was practicing out of an Orthotic only licensed facility in April, 2012. Furthermore, after looking up the license record on the Texas Department of State Health Services website, that facility's Orthotic Facility License had lapsed.

On or about July 16th, 2012 my business partner spoke with David Olvera (then President of the Texas Board of Orthotics and Prosthetics) regarding these issues. Following a lengthy conversation, David suggested that the Board would investigate this matter directly.

Additional corroborating information was forwarded to Mr. Olvera in the following months (including advertising information) which clearly showed that a Prosthetic practice was occurring out of a non-licensed facility that had never been licensed or credentialed for prosthetic care.

In follow-on conversations, David complained that the PLCU did not have the manpower to investigate the facility. That facility is located exactly 2.7 miles from the Brown-Heatly Building. He reiterated numerous times that his hands were tied due to the lack of resources to do an on-site investigation.

That facility was allowed to renew their Orthotic License and then add a Prosthetic Facility License, although for nine months they were treating the public with no licensure. For almost two years they were seeing prosthetic patients with no Prosthetic License for the facility. To date, there has been no enforcement action whatsoever.

The PLCU's lack of investigatory follow through allowed a situation to persist that clearly put patients at risk and it undermines respect for the Licensure Laws in the State of Texas.

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