

**Posting a Sign to Notify Consumers
About Contact Information for the Veterinary Medical Board.**

As Chair of the Enforcement Committee, Dr. Johnson asked that the topic of consumer notification of the Board's contact information be put on the July Board agenda for discussion under sunset review. Section 138 of the General Business and Professions Code became effective around 1998. The Board discussed it at that time and determined that due to Section 4850 requiring display of the licenses of people working in the premise, the Board was exempt. The recommendation is that the Board discuss whether to move forward with regulations to require a sign or make a recommendation in sunset review that a sign be required.

Another issue related to consumer notification is the exemption of the UCD veterinary premise. We have had a consumer complaint regarding the fact that although the Board can discipline persons who are licensed with the Board who work at the UCD Veterinary Medical Center, the premise itself is not registered and there is little recourse for consumers who have an issue with care. The consumer is asking the Board to at least require UCD to post a sign notifying consumers that the hospital is exempt and there may be little or no recourse for consumers with the Veterinary Medical Board.

Business and Professions Code section 138

Every board in the department, as defined in Section 22, shall initiate the process of adopting regulations on or before June 30, 1999, to require its licentiates, as defined in Section 23.8, to provide notice to their clients or customers that the practitioner is licensed by this state. A board shall be exempt from the requirement to adopt regulations pursuant to this section if the board has in place, in statute or regulation, a requirement that provides for consumer notice of a practitioner's status as a licensee of this state.

The following is a sample of regulations promulgated by the Medical Board based on the requirements in Section 138.

Medical Board of California
Specific Language of Proposed Changes
Notification to Consumers
Draft—3-7-09

1355.4. Notice to Patients

(a) A licensee engaged in the practice of medicine shall provide notice to each patient of the fact that the licensee is licensed and regulated by the board. The notice shall include the following statement and information:

NOTICE
Medical doctors are licensed and regulated
by the Medical Board of California
(800) 632-2322
www.mbc.ca.gov

(b) The notice required by this section shall be provided by one of the following methods:

(1) Prominently posting the notice in an area visible to patients on the premises where the licensee provides the licensed services, in which case the notice shall be in at least 48-point type in Arial font.

(2) Including the notice in a written statement, signed and dated by the patient or the patient's representative and retained in that patient's medical records, stating the patient understands the physician is licensed and regulated by the board.

(3) Including the notice in a statement on letterhead, discharge instructions, or other document given to a patient or the patient's representative, where the notice is placed immediately above the signature line for the patient in at least 14-point type.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 2018, Business and Professions Code; Reference: Sections 138 and 680, Business and Professions Code.