

WAC 246-847-160 Unprofessional conduct or gross incompetency.

The following conduct, acts, or conditions constitute unprofessional conduct or gross incompetency for any license holder or applicant if the conduct, acts, or conditions occurred or existed prior to June 11, 1986:

(1) The commission of any act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty, or corruption relating to the practice of the person's profession, whether the act constitutes a crime or not. If the act constitutes a crime, conviction in a criminal proceeding is not a condition precedent to disciplinary action. Upon such a conviction, however, the judgment and sentence is conclusive evidence at the ensuing disciplinary hearing of the guilt of the license holder or applicant of the crime described in the indictment or information, and of the person's violation of the statute on which it is based. For the purposes of this section, conviction includes all instances in which a plea of guilty or nolo contendere is the basis for the conviction and all proceedings in which the sentence has been deferred or suspended. Nothing in this section abrogates rights guaranteed under chapter 9.96A RCW;

(2) Misrepresentation or concealment of a material fact in obtaining a license or in reinstatement thereof;

(3) All advertising which is false, fraudulent, or misleading;

(4) Incompetence, negligence, or actions in the practice of the profession which result in, or have a significant likelihood of resulting in, harm to the patient or public;

(5) Suspension, revocation, or restriction of the individual's license to practice the profession by competent authority in any state, federal, or foreign jurisdiction, a certified copy of the order or agreement being conclusive evidence of the revocation, suspension, or restriction;

(6) The possession, use, addiction to, prescription for use, diversion, or distribution of controlled substances or legend drugs in any way other than for legitimate or therapeutic purposes, or violation of any drug law;

(7) Violation of any state or federal statute or administrative rule regulating the profession in question, including any statute or rule defining or establishing standards of patient care or professional conduct or practice;

(8) Failure to cooperate with the disciplining authority by:

(a) Not furnishing any papers or documents;

(b) Not furnishing in writing a full and complete explanation covering the matter contained in the complaint filed with the disciplining authority; or

(c) Not responding to subpoenas issued by the disciplining authority, whether or not the recipient of the subpoena is the accused in the proceeding;

(9) Failure to comply with an order issued by the disciplining authority;

(10) Aiding or abetting an unlicensed person to practice when a license is required;

(11) Willful or repeated violations of rules established by any health agency or authority of the state or a political subdivision thereof;

(12) Practice beyond the scope of practice as defined by law;

(13) Misrepresentation or fraud in any aspect of the conduct of the business or profession;

(14) Failure to adequately supervise auxiliary staff to the extent that the consumer's health or safety is at risk;

(15) Engaging in a profession involving contact with the public while suffering from a contagious or infectious disease involving serious risk to public health;

(16) Promotion for personal gain of any unnecessary or inefficient drug, device, treatment, procedure, or service;

(17) Conviction of any gross misdemeanor or felony relating to the practice of the person's profession. For the purposes of this subsection, conviction includes all instances in which a plea of guilty or nolo contendere is the basis for conviction and all proceedings in which the sentence has been deferred or suspended. Nothing in this section abrogates rights guaranteed under chapter 9.96A RCW;

(18) The offering, undertaking, or agreeing to cure or treat disease by a secret method, procedure, treatment, or medicine, or the treating, operating, or prescribing for any health condition by a method, means, or procedure which the licensee refuses to divulge upon demand of the disciplining authority;

(19) Violation of chapter 19.68 RCW;

(20) Interference with an investigation or disciplinary proceeding by wilful misrepresentation of facts before the disciplining authority or its authorized representative, or by the use of threats or harassment against any patient or witness to prevent them from providing evidence in a disciplinary proceeding or any other legal action;

(21) Any mental or physical condition which results in, or has a significant likelihood of resulting in, an inability to practice with reasonable skill and safety to consumers.

(22) Abuse of a client or patient or sexual contact resulting from abuse of the client-practitioner relationship.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130. WSR 91-05-027 (Order 112B), recodified as § 246-847-160, filed 2/12/91, effective 3/15/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130(2) and 18.130.050(1). WSR 86-17-064 (Order PM 610), § 308-171-300, filed 8/19/86. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130(2) and 18.59.100. WSR 85-05-008 (Order PL 513), § 308-171-300, filed 2/11/85.]