



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

Seeking Justice for All

Californians must be notified of doctors on probation under CAOC-backed bill signed by Gov. Brown

SB 1448 will let patients know about doctors' sexual, substance abuse

SACRAMENTO (Sept. 19, 2018) – California patients will be told when their doctor is on probation for a serious offense such as sexual misconduct or substance abuse under a bill supported by Consumer Attorneys of California that has been signed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

Under Senate Bill 1448 by Sen. Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo), doctors placed on probation for specified serious offenses on or after July 1, 2019, will be required to notify patients about their probationary status before the patient's first visit. Notification will be required if the doctor has been placed on probation by a California licensing board for sexual abuse, sexual misconduct or sexual relations with a patient or client; drug or alcohol abuse directly resulting in harm to a patient; drug or alcohol abuse that impairs the ability of the doctor to practice safely; a criminal conviction involving harm to patient safety or health; or inappropriate prescribing resulting in patient harm and five or more years of probation.

SB 1448 addresses the problem of doctors who have histories of sexual assault or other serious misconduct affecting patient safety hiding their misdeeds for years or in some cases even decades without their patients knowing. The recent case against Olympic team doctor Larry Nassar, who was convicted after decades of abusing the athletes under his care, and the recent allegations of sexual abuse by hundreds of former University of Southern California students against gynecologist George Tyndall, highlight the need to protect patients from dangerous doctors.

“It's never made sense that doctors have had to tell their insurance companies, hospitals and clinics when they are put on probation, but not the people who are most at risk – their patients,” CAOC President Lee Harris said. “SB 1448 is a long-overdue fix. Californians have a right to know if their doctor is on probation for serious misconduct.”

The bill affects physicians and surgeons licensed by the Medical Board of California, the California Board of Podiatric Medicine and the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, doctors licensed by the state's Naturopathic Medicine Committee, and practitioners licensed by the state Board of Chiropractic Examiners and the California Acupuncture Board.

Consumer Attorneys of California is a professional organization of plaintiffs' attorneys representing consumers seeking accountability against wrongdoers in cases involving personal injury, product liability, environmental degradation and other causes.

For more information:

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