



Oklahoma State Board of Examiners for Long Term Care Administrators

ATTENTION: ALL LONG TERM CARE ADMINISTRATORS

Please share with your peers as we may or may not have been able to reach everyone...

FOR WIDEST POSSIBLE DISSEMINATION

June 2012

In case you've not been following the changes that have been taking place in our industry, there have been several *substantial* changes within the last year or so that administrators need to be aware of. Primarily, the Oklahoma State Board of Examiners for Long Term Care Administrators (OSBELTCA...commonly pronounced oz-belt-kuh) has had purview over ALL long term care administrator types (nursing homes, ICF/MR, assisted living, residential care and adult day care) since November 1, 2011. The Board was reconstituted with some changes to represent the newly added administrator types. Administrators have been accountable to this Board (and its rules) since November 1st and you really should understand those rules.

The new Board has recently promulgated rules changes (OAC 490, Chapters 1, 10 and 15) that mostly affect the new licensure types (assisted living, residential care and adult day care administrators – becoming “licensed” versus the current “certification” you have been working under) but there are ALSO some important aspects that Certified Assistant Administrators (and even Nursing Home Administrators using Certified Assistants) need to be aware of and become compliant with. These rules will be effective July 1, 2012.

There are important grandfathering issues that affect the new types (and critical timeframes that must be met to be grandfathered) so you will want to learn about those and become compliant. **FAILURE TO DO SO CAN BECOME COSTLY** in terms of fees and would also result in the loss of certification and the requirement to be retrained and tested which is also time consuming (if you're grandfathered, it's at no cost and there's no testing...) to become licensed, so *it's pretty important to your livelihood that you comply with the grandfathering requirements within the allotted timeframe – starting on July 1 and ending on October 1, 2012.* And you probably shouldn't wait until the last minute in case you have any issues with your documentation.

The procedure for getting grandfathered *will be* detailed on our website through a link at <http://www.ok.gov/osbeltca> (look at “Hot Topics” near the bottom of the home page). Applicants to be grandfathered will primarily be working with Ms. Ginger Dean who may be contacted at ginger.dean@osbeltca.ok.gov OR (405)522-1616. Our fax number is also (405)522-1625. We suggest you **do as much as you can by following the instructions** on the website versus calling or emailing as you may otherwise be competing for Ginger's attention with several hundred other potential grandfatherees. Please, do not call us if you've not truly read our instructions and tried to comply; we have tried to simplify the process to the degree possible and will work with you, but each applicant must do their part

to help. The entire process will be accomplished online (there will be a link on our website when the system is activated on July 1) which we know makes a lot of people in the far corners of the state happy to know that they won't have to make a trip to Oklahoma City and stand in a line to be processed.

The new rules are also available for your review on our website along with many other things you may find of interest; and I would also take a moment to point out the existence of a Group of Oklahoma Administrators on Facebook that you could join and share discussions with (free), AND also encourage you to join your professional organization, the American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA, often referred to as "the college") at www.achca.org because this is your professional organization very much like the Bar Association represents attorneys. As a professional, you should want to belong to this group who speaks for long term care administrators...your direct representation as an administrator. There is a new chapter in Oklahoma that would love to have as many long term care administrators as possible to join and participate. Since it's only starting in Oklahoma, it's really a ground floor opportunity for everyone and I think all administrator types need to be represented. The benefits of belonging to this association are pretty impressive and should prove to be helpful to you as a professional.

Sincerely,


GAYLORD Z. THOMAS
Executive Director