

PART 29**UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

(Statutory authority: Education Law, §§ 207, 6502, 6503[3], 6504, 6506, 6507, 6509, 6510, 6527[6], 6532, 6731, 6801, 6803, 6804, 6806, 6807[3], 6808, 6808-b, 6810, 6826, 6902[1], 6909[4], [5], 7206, 7206-a, 7211, 7212, 7401, 7701, 7702, 7708, 8402, 8403, 8404, 8405, 8407)

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Historical Note

Part (§ 29.1) filed Aug. 4, 1971; repealed, new (§§ 29.1-29.13) filed Aug. 2, 1977 eff. Oct. 1, 1977.

§ 29.1 General provisions.

(a) Unprofessional conduct shall be the conduct prohibited by this section. The provisions of these rules applicable to a particular profession may define additional acts or omissions as unprofessional conduct and may establish exceptions to these general prohibitions.

(b) Unprofessional conduct in the practice of any profession licensed, certified or registered pursuant to title VIII of the Education Law, except for cases involving those professions licensed, certified or registered pursuant to the provisions of article 131 or 131-B of such law in which a statement of charges of professional misconduct was not served on or before July 26, 1991, the effective date of chapter 606 of the Laws of 1991, shall include:

- (1) willful or grossly negligent failure to comply with substantial provisions of Federal, State or local laws, rules or regulations governing the practice of the profession;
- (2) exercising undue influence on the patient or client, including the promotion of the sale of services, goods, appliances or drugs in such manner as to exploit the patient or client for the financial gain of the practitioner or of a third party;
- (3) directly or indirectly offering, giving, soliciting, or receiving or agreeing to receive, any fee or other consideration to or from a third party for the referral of a patient or client or in connection with the performance of professional services;
- (4) permitting any person to share in the fees for professional services, other than: a partner, employee, associate in a professional firm or corporation, professional subcontractor or consultant authorized to practice the same profession, or a legally authorized trainee practicing under the supervision of a licensed practitioner. This prohibition shall include any arrangement or agreement whereby the amount received in payment for furnishing space,

(b) a licensee shall not compensate or give anything of value to representatives of the press, radio, television or other communications media in anticipation of or in return for professional publicity in a news item.

(iv) Testimonials, demonstrations, dramatizations, or other portrayals of professional practice are permissible provided that they otherwise comply with the rules of professional conduct and further provided that the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) the patient or client expressly authorizes the portrayal in writing;
- (b) appropriate disclosure is included to prevent any misleading information or imagery as to the identity of the patient or client;
- (c) reasonable disclaimers are included as to any statements made or results achieved in a particular matter;
- (d) the use of fictional situations or characters may be used if no testimonials are included; and
- (e) fictional client testimonials are not permitted;

(13) failing to respond within 30 days to written communications from the Education Department or the Department of Health and to make available any relevant records with respect to an inquiry or complaint about the licensee's unprofessional conduct. The period of 30 days shall commence on the date when such communication was delivered personally to the licensee. If the communication is sent from either department by registered or certified mail, with return receipt requested, to the address appearing in the last registration, the period of 30 days shall commence on the date of delivery to the licensee, as indicated by the return receipt;

(14) violating any term of probation or condition or limitation imposed on the licensee by the Board of Regents pursuant to Education Law, section 6511.

Historical Note

Sec filed Aug 4, 1971; repealed, new filed Aug 2, 1977; amds. filed: Oct 3, 1977; Oct 24, 1978; March 31, 1981; Oct 26, 1981; April 30, 1996 eff June 14, 1996 Amended (b)

§ 29.2 General provisions for health professions.

(a) Unprofessional conduct shall also include, in the professions of:

acupuncture	occupational therapy assistant
athletic training	ophthalmic dispensing
audiology	optometry
certified dental assisting	pharmacy
chiropractic	physical therapist assistant
creative arts therapy	physical therapy
dental hygiene	physician assistant
dentistry	podiatry
dietetics/nutrition	psychoanalysis
licensed practical nursing	psychology
marriage and family therapy	registered professional nursing
massage therapy	respiratory therapy
medicine	respiratory therapy technician
mental health counseling	social work
midwifery	specialist assistant
occupational therapy	speech-language pathology

(except for cases involving those professions licensed, certified or registered pursuant to the provisions of article 131 or 131-B of the Education Law in which a statement of charges of

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Historical Note

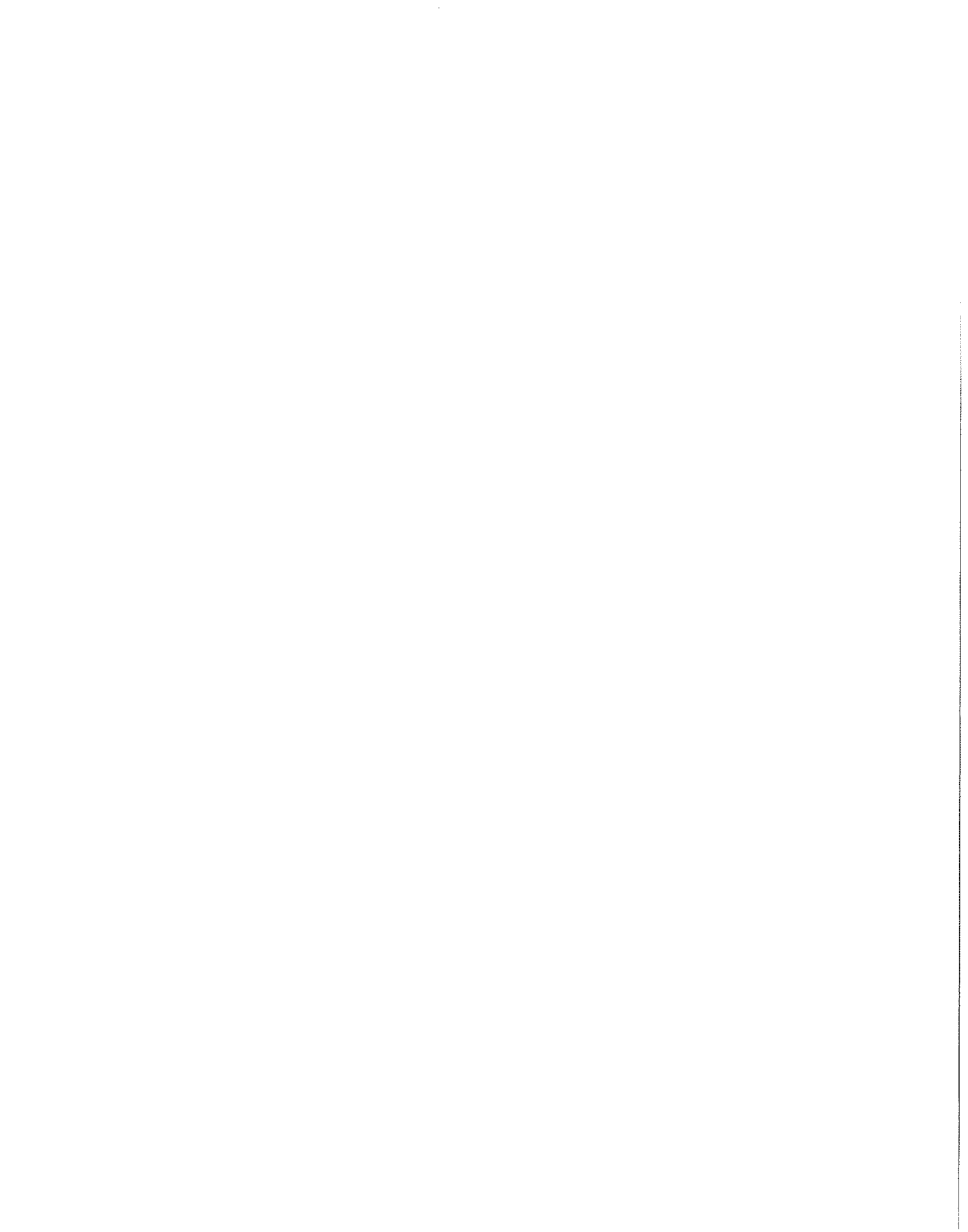
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§ 29.1 General provisions.

(a) Unprofessional conduct shall be the conduct prohibited by this section. The provisions of these rules applicable to a particular profession may define additional acts or omissions as unprofessional conduct and may establish exceptions to these general prohibitions.

(b) Unprofessional conduct in the practice of any profession licensed, certified or registered pursuant to title VIII of the Education Law, except for cases involving those professions licensed, certified or registered pursuant to the provisions of article 131 or 131-B of such law in which a statement of charges of professional misconduct was not served on or before July 26, 1991, the effective date of chapter 606 of the Laws of 1991, shall include:

- (1) willful or grossly negligent failure to comply with substantial provisions of Federal, State or local laws, rules or regulations governing the practice of the profession;
- (2) exercising undue influence on the patient or client, including the promotion of the sale of services, goods, appliances or drugs in such manner as to exploit the patient or client for the financial gain of the practitioner or of a third party;
- (3) directly or indirectly offering, giving, soliciting, or receiving or agreeing to receive, any fee or other consideration to or from a third party for the referral of a patient or client or in connection with the performance of professional services;
- (4) permitting any person to share in the fees for professional services, other than: a partner, employee, associate in a professional firm or corporation, professional subcontractor or consultant authorized to practice the same profession, or a legally authorized trainee practicing under the supervision of a licensed practitioner. This prohibition shall include any arrangement or agreement whereby the amount received in payment for furnishing space,



professional misconduct was not served on or before July 26, 1991, the effective date of chapter 606 of the Laws of 1991):

- (1) abandoning or neglecting a patient or client under and in need of immediate professional care, without making reasonable arrangements for the continuation of such care, or abandoning a professional employment by a group practice, hospital, clinic or other health care facility, without reasonable notice and under circumstances which seriously impair the delivery of professional care to patients or clients;
- (2) willfully harassing, abusing or intimidating a patient either physically or verbally;
- (3) failing to maintain a record for each patient which accurately reflects the evaluation and treatment of the patient. Unless otherwise provided by law, all patient records must be retained for at least six years. Obstetrical records and records of minor patients must be retained for at least six years, and until one year after the minor patient reaches the age of 21 years;
- (4) using the word "Doctor" in offering to perform professional services without also indicating the profession in which the licensee holds a doctorate;
- (5) failing to exercise appropriate supervision over persons who are authorized to practice only under the supervision of the licensed professional;
- (6) guaranteeing that satisfaction or a cure will result from the performance of professional services;
- (7) ordering of excessive tests, treatment, or use of treatment facilities not warranted by the condition of the patient;
- (8) claiming or using any secret or special method of treatment which the licensee refuses to divulge to the State Board for the profession;
- (9) failing to wear an identifying badge, which shall be conspicuously displayed and legible, indicating the practitioner's name and professional title authorized pursuant to the Education Law, while practicing as an employee or operator of a hospital, clinic, group practice or multiprofessional facility, registered pharmacy, or at a commercial establishment offering health services to the public;
- (10) entering into an arrangement or agreement with a pharmacy for the compounding and/or dispensing of coded or specially marked prescriptions;
- (11) with respect to all professional practices conducted under an assumed name, other than facilities licensed pursuant to article 28 of the Public Health Law or article 13 of the Mental Hygiene Law, failing to post conspicuously at the site of such practice the names and the licensure field of all of the principal professional licensees engaged in practice at that site (*i e.*, principal partners, officers or principal shareholders);
- (12) issuing prescriptions for drugs and devices which do not contain the following information: the date written, the prescriber's name, address, telephone number, profession and registration number, the patient's name, address and age, the name, strength and quantity of the prescribed drug or device, as well as the directions for use by the patient. In addition, all prescriptions for controlled substances shall meet the requirements of article 33 of the Public Health Law; and
- (13) failing to use scientifically accepted infection prevention techniques appropriate to each profession for the cleaning and sterilization or disinfection of instruments, devices, materials and work surfaces, utilization of protective garb, use of covers for contamination-prone equipment and the handling of sharp instruments. Such techniques shall include but not be limited to:
 - (i) wearing of appropriate protective gloves at all times when touching blood, saliva, other body fluids or secretions, mucous membranes, nonintact skin, blood-soiled items or bodily fluid-soiled items, contaminated surfaces, and sterile body areas, and during instrument cleaning and decontamination procedures;
 - (ii) discarding gloves used following treatment of a patient and changing to new gloves if torn or damaged during treatment of a patient; washing hands and donning new gloves

prior to performing services for another patient; and washing hands and other skin surfaces immediately if contaminated with blood or other body fluids;

(iii) wearing of appropriate masks, gowns or aprons, and protective eyewear or chin-length plastic face shields whenever splashing or spattering of blood or other body fluids is likely to occur;

(iv) sterilizing equipment and devices that enter the patient's vascular system or other normally sterile areas of the body;

(v) sterilizing equipment and devices that touch intact mucous membranes but do not penetrate the patient's body or using high-level disinfection for equipment and devices which cannot be sterilized prior to use for a patient;

(vi) using appropriate agents, including but not limited to detergents for cleaning all equipment and devices prior a sterilization or disinfection;

(vii) cleaning, by the use of appropriate agents, including but not limited to detergents, equipment and devices which do not touch the patient or that only touch the intact skin of the patient;

(viii) maintaining equipment and devices used for sterilization according to the manufacturer's instructions;

(ix) adequately monitoring the performance of all personnel, licensed or unlicensed, for whom the licensee is responsible regarding infection control techniques;

(x) placing disposable used syringes, needles, scalpel blades, and other sharp instruments in appropriate puncture-resistant containers for disposal; and placing reusable needles, scalpel blades, and other sharp instruments in appropriate puncture-resistant containers until appropriately cleaned and sterilized;

(xi) maintaining appropriate ventilation devices to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation;

(xii) refraining from all direct patient care and handling of patient care equipment when the health care professional has exudative lesions or weeping dermatitis and the condition has not been medically evaluated and determined to be safe or capable of being safely protected against in providing direct patient care or in handling patient care equipment; and

(xiii) placing all specimens of blood and body fluids in well-constructed containers with secure lids to prevent leaking; and cleaning any spill of blood or other body fluid with an appropriate detergent and appropriate chemical germicide.

(b) Unprofessional conduct shall also include, in those professions specified in section 18 of the Public Health Law and in the professions of acupuncture, creative arts therapy, marriage and family therapy, massage therapy, mental health counseling, and psychoanalysis, failing to provide access by qualified persons to patient information in accordance with the standards set forth in section 18 of the Public Health Law. In the professions of acupuncture, creative arts therapy, marriage and family therapy, massage therapy, mental health counseling, and psychoanalysis, qualified persons may appeal the denial of access to patient information in the manner set forth in section 18 of the Public Health Law to a record access committee appointed by the executive secretary of the appropriate State Board. Such record access review committees shall consist of not less than three, nor more than five members of the appropriate State Board.

Historical Note

Sec. filed Aug 2, 1977; amds filed: Oct. 3, 1977; Nov 3, 1977; Aug 3, 1978; Oct 24, 1978; Feb 25, 1987 as emergency measure; April 24, 1987; July 30, 1991; Jan 24, 1992; July 28, 1992; April 28, 1999; May 24, 2005 eff June 9, 2005. Amended (a)-(b)

§ 29.3 General provisions for design professions.

(a) Unprofessional conduct shall also include, in the professions of architecture and landscape architecture, engineering and land surveying:

§ 29.4

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professional education in medicine, or failing to comply with any agreement entered into to aid his or her medical education;

(3) a physician who prescribes or dispenses lenses or frames for the correction of vision shall be subject to the provisions of sections 29.8 and 29.9 of this Part relating to unprofessional conduct in optometry and/or ophthalmic dispensing;

(4) in the conduct of psychological research, failing to undertake reasonable efforts to remove the possible harmful aftereffects of emotional stress as soon as the design of the research permits, or failing to inform prospective research subjects or their authorized representatives fully of the danger of serious aftereffects, if such danger exists, before they are utilized as research subjects;

(5) in the interpretation of the provisions of section 29.1(b)(5) of this Part and in the treatment of sexual dysfunction as well as in other areas of the practice of psychiatry:

(i) immoral conduct shall include any physical contact of a sexual nature between physician and patient; but immoral conduct shall not include the use of films and/or other audiovisual aids with individuals or groups in the development of appropriate responses to overcome sexual dysfunction;

(ii) in therapy groups, immoral conduct shall include activities which promote explicit physical sexual contact between group members during sessions.

Historical Note

Sec. filed Aug. 2, 1977 eff. Oct. 1, 1977

§ 29.5 Special provisions for the professions of dentistry and dental hygiene.

Unprofessional conduct in the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene shall include all conduct prohibited by sections 29.1 and 29.2 of this Part except as provided in this section, and shall also include the following:

(a) Failing to comply with a signed agreement to practice dentistry in New York State in an area designated by the Commissioner of Education as having a shortage of dentists or refusing to repay dental education costs in lieu of such required service, or failing to comply with any provision of a written agreement with the State or any municipality within which the licensee has agreed to provide dental service, or refusing to repay funds in lieu of such service as consideration of awards made by the State or any municipality thereof for his or her professional education in dentistry, or failing to comply with any agreement entered into to aid his or her dental education.

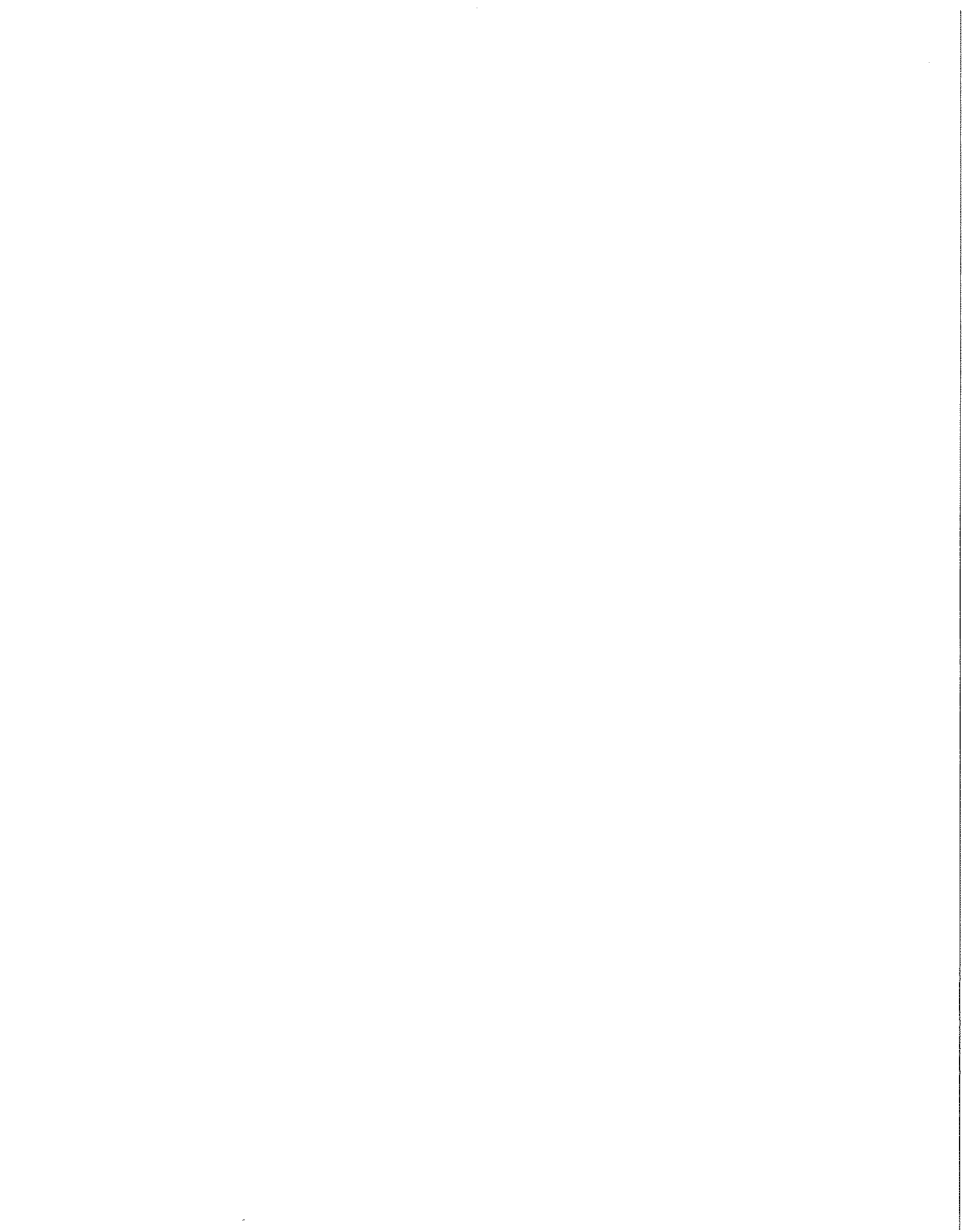
(b) Claiming professional superiority or special professional abilities, attainments, methods or resources, except that a practitioner who has completed a program of specialty training approved by the Board of Regents in a specialty recognized as such by the Board of Regents, or who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the department the completion of the substantial equivalent of such a program, may advertise or otherwise indicate the specialty. A practitioner who has completed all of the requirements for specialty qualification except an examination may advertise or otherwise indicate the additional training which has been acquired. The phrase *practice limited to* shall be deemed a claim of special professional abilities, and may be used only by dentists who have completed specialty training satisfactory to the department or dentists who have restricted their practice to a dental specialty prior to January 1, 1979. This subdivision shall apply in addition to section 29.1(b)(12)(i)(f) of this Part.

Historical Note

Sec. filed Aug. 2, 1977; amds. filed: Oct. 24, 1978; April 28, 1980 eff. May 30, 1980
Amended (b)

§ 29.6 Special provisions for the profession of veterinary medicine.

(a) Unprofessional conduct in the practice of veterinary medicine shall include all conduct prohibited by section 29.1 of this Part except as provided in this section, and shall also include the following:



facilities, equipment or personnel services used by a professional licensee constitutes a percentage of, or is otherwise dependent upon, the income or receipts of the licensee from such practice, except as otherwise provided by law with respect to a facility licensed pursuant to article 28 of the Public Health Law or article 13 of the Mental Hygiene Law;

- (5) conduct in the practice of a profession which evidences moral unfitness to practice the profession;
- (6) willfully making or filing a false report, or failing to file a report required by law or by the Education Department, or willfully impeding or obstructing such filing, or inducing another person to do so;
- (7) failing to make available to a patient or client, upon request, copies of documents in the possession or under the control of the licensee which have been prepared for and paid for by the patient or client;
- (8) revealing of personally identifiable facts, data or information obtained in a professional capacity without the prior consent of the patient or client, except as authorized or required by law;
- (9) practicing or offering to practice beyond the scope permitted by law, or accepting and performing professional responsibilities which the licensee knows or has reason to know that he or she is not competent to perform, or performing without adequate supervision professional services which the licensee is authorized to perform only under the supervision of a licensed professional, except in an emergency situation where a person's life or health is in danger;
- (10) delegating professional responsibilities to a person when the licensee delegating such responsibilities knows or has reason to know that such person is not qualified, by training, by experience or by licensure, to perform them;
- (11) performing professional services which have not been duly authorized by the patient or client or his or her legal representative;
- (12) advertising or soliciting for patronage that is not in the public interest:
 - (i) Advertising or soliciting not in the public interest shall include, but not be limited to, advertising or soliciting that:
 - (a) is false, fraudulent, deceptive or misleading;
 - (b) guarantees any service;
 - (c) makes any claim relating to professional services or products or the cost or price therefor which cannot be substantiated by the licensee, who shall have the burden of proof;
 - (d) makes claims of professional superiority which cannot be substantiated by the licensee, who shall have the burden of proof; or
 - (e) offers bonuses or inducements in any form other than a discount or reduction in an established fee or price for a professional service or product.
 - (ii) The following shall be deemed appropriate means of informing the public of the availability of professional services:
 - (a) informational advertising not contrary to the foregoing prohibitions; and
 - (b) the advertising in a newspaper, periodical or professional directory or on radio or television of fixed prices, or a stated range of prices, for specified routine professional services, provided that if there is an additional charge for related services which are an integral part of the overall service being provided by the licensee, the advertisement shall so state, and provided further that the advertisement indicates the period of time for which the advertised prices shall be in effect;
 - (iii) (a) all licensees placing advertisements shall maintain, or cause to be maintained, an exact copy of each advertisement, transcript, tape or videotape thereof as appropriate for the medium used, for a period of one year after its last appearance. This copy shall be made available for inspection upon demand of the Education Department;

(b) a licensee shall not compensate or give anything of value to representatives of the press, radio, television or other communications media in anticipation of or in return for professional publicity in a news item.

(iv) Testimonials, demonstrations, dramatizations, or other portrayals of professional practice are permissible provided that they otherwise comply with the rules of professional conduct and further provided that the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) the patient or client expressly authorizes the portrayal in writing;
- (b) appropriate disclosure is included to prevent any misleading information or imagery as to the identity of the patient or client;
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- (d) the use of fictional situations or characters may be used if no testimonials are included; and
- (e) fictional client testimonials are not permitted;

(13) failing to respond within 30 days to written communications from the Education Department or the Department of Health and to make available any relevant records with respect to an inquiry or complaint about the licensee's unprofessional conduct. The period of 30 days shall commence on the date when such communication was delivered personally to the licensee. If the communication is sent from either department by registered or certified mail, with return receipt requested, to the address appearing in the last registration, the period of 30 days shall commence on the date of delivery to the licensee, as indicated by the return receipt;

(14) violating any term of probation or condition or limitation imposed on the licensee by the Board of Regents pursuant to Education Law, section 6511.

Historical Note

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§ 29.2 General provisions for health professions.

(a) Unprofessional conduct shall also include, in the professions of:

acupuncture	occupational therapy assistant
athletic training	ophthalmic dispensing
audiology	optometry
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chiropractic	physical therapist assistant
creative arts therapy	physical therapy
dental hygiene	physician assistant
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licensed practical nursing	psychology
marriage and family therapy	registered professional nursing
massage therapy	respiratory therapy
medicine	respiratory therapy technician
mental health counseling	social work
midwifery	specialist assistant
occupational therapy	speech-language pathology

(except for cases involving those professions licensed, certified or registered pursuant to the provisions of article 131 or 131-B of the Education Law in which a statement of charges of