



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF HEALTH LICENSURE AND REGULATION
OFFICE OF HEALTH RELATED BOARDS
665 Mainstream Drive
Nashville, TN 37243
tennessee.gov/health

TENNESSEE BOARD OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Re: Athletic Training Licensure Requirement

I serve as the Chairman for the Board of Athletic Trainers, (Board) for the State of Tennessee. The Board has become aware of several instances in the last few years of school districts, universities, hospitals, and other institutions employing unlicensed individuals to work for months or years as athletic trainers in Tennessee in violation of the law. I am writing on behalf of the Board, and you are receiving this letter because we believe you have employed athletic trainers in the past or might be likely to do so in the future, and we want to make sure you are aware of the licensure requirement for athletic trainers.

The Board enforces laws and rules to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of the public; accordingly, it is the policy of the Board to require strict compliance with the law and to apply the law to preserve the quality of athletic training care provided in Tennessee. In an effort to encourage compliance, the Board would like to make you aware of a few statutes pertaining to the athletic training profession. Please note athletic trainers working in Tennessee must be licensed by this Board unless they meet one of the small number of exceptions specified in the law. T.C.A. § 63-24-101 et.seq. Please also note that having national certification through the Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer or being licensed as an athletic trainer in another state does not allow an individual to work as an athletic trainer in Tennessee unless they fall in one of the narrow exceptions in the law. Additionally, submitting an application for licensure does not permit one to practice. A licensure applicant must refrain from practicing athletic training until he or she receives a license from the Board.

Any person who practices athletic training without a license is guilty of committing a misdemeanor, and any entity who knowingly employs unlicensed persons in the practice of athletic training may be assessed civil penalties by the Board of up to \$1,000 per day an unlicensed person worked. T.C.A. § 63-24-110(c). The Board's policy regarding assessment of such civil penalties is enclosed.

The Board strongly encourages you to evaluate the Tennessee licensure status of all athletic trainers that you employ, contract for, or otherwise utilize. You can easily look up the status of

any individual's license on the Department of Health website at <https://apps.health.tn.gov/Licensure/>.

This letter is being sent to many organizations and businesses through the state, so please view this as a friendly reminder. Your awareness of and attention to this issue will help promote, protect, and improve the health of persons living in, working in, or visiting the State of Tennessee. If you have questions regarding licensure, please contact the Office of Health Related Boards at (615)741-3807 or visit <http://tn.gov/health/topic/AT-board>.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Erdeljac". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph T. Erdeljac