CHAPTER 446

CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINING BOARD

446.01 Definitions. In this chapter:
(1) “Examining board” means chiropractic examining board.
(2) “Practice of chiropractic” means:
(a) To examine into the fact, condition, or cause of departure from complete health and proper condition of the human; to treat without the use of drugs as defined in s. 450.01 (10) or surgery; to counsel; to advise for the same for the restoration and preservation of health or to undertake, offer, advertise, announce or hold out in any manner to do any of the aforementioned acts, for compensation, direct or indirect or in expectation thereof; and
(b) To employ or apply chiropractic adjustments and the principles or techniques of chiropractic science in the diagnosis, treatment or prevention of any of the conditions described in s. 448.01 (10).

History: 1975 c. 383; 1977 c. 418 s. 929 (41); 1985 a. 146 s. 8.
See note to 448.01, citing 68 Atty. Gen. 316.

446.02 Chiropractic regulated. (1) Except as provided in sub. (9), no person may engage in the practice of chiropractic or attempt to do so or hold himself or herself out as authorized to do so, unless such person:
(a) Is licensed by the examining board; and
(b) Meets the requirements of continuing education for license renewal as the examining board may require. During the time between initial licensure and commencement of a full 2-year licensure period new licensees shall not be required to meet continuing education requirements. Any person who has not engaged in the practice of chiropractic for 2 years or more, while holding a valid license under this chapter, and desiring to engage in such practice, shall be required by the examining board to complete a continuing education course at a school of chiropractic approved by the examining board or pass a practical examination administered by the examining board or both.
(2) (a) The examining board shall grant a license to practice chiropractic to a qualified person who submits an application for the license to the department on a form provided by the department, accompanied by satisfactory evidence of completion of the educational requirements established in the rules promulgated under par. (b), passes the examination described under sub. (3) and pays the license fee specified in s. 440.05 (1).
(b) The examining board shall promulgate rules establishing educational requirements for obtaining a license under par. (a). The rules shall require that an application for the license that is received by the department after June 30, 1998, be accompanied by satisfactory evidence that the applicant has a bachelor’s degree from a college or university accredited by an accrediting body listed as nationally recognized by the secretary of the federal department of education, and has graduated from a college of chiropractic approved by the examining board.
(3) Examination shall be in the subjects usually taught in such reputable schools of chiropractic, and shall be conducted at least twice a year at such times and places as the examining board determines. The examination shall include a practical examination of the applicant as prescribed by the examining board. In lieu of its own written examination, the examining board may accept, in whole or in part, the certificate of the national board of chiropractic examiners.

446.03 Reprimand; license revocation, limitation or suspension.
446.04 Unprofessional conduct.
makes his or her last entry or notation in the patient record or for any longer period that is otherwise required by law.

(8) Every practicing chiropractor shall have in effect professional liability insurance. The examining board shall promulgate rules establishing the minimum amount of insurance required under this subsection.

(9) No license under this chapter is required for any of the following:

(a) A student or graduate of a college of chiropractic who practices chiropractic, in a program for the clinical training of students and graduates that is reviewed and approved by the examining board, under the supervision of a chiropractor who is approved by the examining board to supervise the clinical training of the student or graduate and who is licensed under this chapter and is responsible for the student’s or graduate’s practice in an infirmary, clinic, hospital or private chiropractic office that is connected or associated for training purposes with a college of chiropractic approved by the examining board.

(b) An individual who is licensed to practice chiropractic in another state or territory of the United States or who practices chiropractic under the jurisdiction of the U.S. armed forces, as defined in s. 40.02 (57m), federal public health service or U.S. department of veterans affairs.

(c) An individual who is licensed to practice chiropractic in another state or territory of the United States or in another country and who holds a temporary permit that is granted under the rules promulgated under sub. (3r).

(d) A person who performs services that are adjunctive to the practice of chiropractic and that are delegated to the person under sub. (7).

(10) (a) The examining board and the physical therapists affiliated credentialing board acting under s. 448.525 shall jointly promulgate rules that establish the circumstances under which and the extent to which a chiropractor licensed under this chapter may claim to render physical therapy or physiotherapy services within the scope of the practice of chiropractic.

(b) The examining board may promulgate rules relating to the circumstances under which and the extent to which a chiropractor licensed under this chapter may claim to render physical therapy or physiotherapy services within the scope of the practice of chiropractic only as provided under par. (a).


Chiropractors have no duty to refer to doctor patient who isn’t treatable through chiropractic means. Chiropractors aren’t held to medical standard of care. Kerkman v. Hintz, 142 W (2d) 404, 418 NW (2d) 795 (1988).

446.03 Reprimand; license revocation, limitation or suspension. The examining board, by order, may reprimand a licensee or registrant and may deny, limit, suspend or revoke any license or certificate of registration if the licensee or registrant:

(1) Obtained the license or certificate through error or fraud;

(2) Is addicted to alcohol or other drugs;

(3) Is hereafter convicted in a court of competent jurisdiction, either within or without this state, or in federal court, of any violation of any law governing the practice of chiropractic or of any felony, subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322 and 111.335, a certified copy of the record of conviction to be conclusive evidence of such conviction;

(4) Has obtained or sought to obtain anything of value by fraudulent representation in the practice of chiropractic;

(5) Is guilty of unprofessional conduct;

(6) Has continued practice, knowingly having an infectious or contagious disease; or

(7) If the applicant or registrant maintains a professional connection or association with any other person continuing to violate this chapter after 10 days’ notice in writing by the department.


446.04 Unprofessional conduct. Unprofessional conduct includes, without limitation because of enumeration:

(1) Any conduct of a character likely to deceive or defraud the public;

(2) Loaning of a chiropractic license or certificate to anyone;

(3) Use of unprofessional advertising which shall include:

(a) Any advertising statement of a character tending to deceive or mislead the public;

(b) Advertising professional superiority or performance of professional services in a superior manner.


446.05 Procedure for hearings. (1) Subject to the rules promulgated under s. 440.03 (1), the examining board may make investigations and conduct hearings in regard to the conduct of any licensed chiropractor who, it has reason to believe, violated s. 446.02 or 446.03. The person complained against may proceed to review any action of the examining board under ch. 227.

(2) Upon application and satisfactory proof that the cause of such revocation or suspension no longer exists, the examining board may reinstate any license or registration suspended or revoked by it.

History: 1977 c. 418.

446.06 Injunction to enjoin this chapter. If it appears upon complaint to the examining board by any person or it is known to the examining board that any person is violating this chapter, the examining board or the district attorney of the proper county may investigate and may, in addition to any other remedies, bring action in the name of and on behalf of the state against any such person to enjoin such person from such violations.

History: 1981 c. 390 s. 252.

446.07 Penalty. Anyone violating this chapter may be fined not less than $100 nor more than $500, or imprisoned not more than one year or both.