

September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Attention:

Julene Campion  
Human Resources  
Lehigh Valley Hospital  
1730 West Chew Street  
Allentown, Pennsylvania  
18104

Re: Complaint regarding Dr. Debra Esernio-Jenssen

Page 1 of 7

Julene Campion,

I spoke with you previously on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 voicing concerns about the employment of Dr. Debra Esernio-Jenssen after what she did not my son. Dr. Jenssen had similar complaints previously in New York, prior to being employed in Florida. After our concerns came under investigation, Dr. Jenssen fled our state and has now become employed with your hospital. When we spoke, it was stated that my concerns would be forwarded to the Vice President of Medical Staff, John Hart. I did provide you with our attorney's information, at the time, because as a retired Police Officer, my family is under protected status and our information is confidential. Of course, since our complaint is regarding the sexual abuse of a minor, my son, our information is also protected throughout the current investigations of Dr. Debra Esernio-Jenssen. Our attorney is [REDACTED] in Gainesville Florida. They can be reached at [REDACTED]. Our attorney has been advised, in writing, to release any information to you that may be helpful in making a determination on continuing the employment of Dr. Debra Esernio-Jenssen. Although you will find our information throughout these documents, I would appreciate any contact being made through our attorney. I only felt that it may be necessary to send you these documents to ensure our concerns were taken seriously. Please see three attached documents; 1 from the Office of the Inspector General and 2 from the Florida Department of Health. Please note in the preliminary investigation of the Office of Inspector General, on page 4, you will find;

At the conclusion of the review, Ms. Scheuermann determined Dr. Esernio-Jenssen "was not in the right position." UF management concurred and reassigned Dr. Esernio-Jenssen to a non-CPT position.

Thank you for your time.

**Mission:**  
To protect, promote & improve the health  
of all people in Florida through integrated  
state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

June 18, 2014

CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], FL [REDACTED]

RE: Medicine v. Debra Dorothy Esernio-Jenssen  
DOH Case #201402152

Dear [REDACTED],

This letter is to advise you of the status of the complaint filed with the Department of Health against the above referenced health care practitioner.

The complaint has been received in the Prosecution Services Unit for legal review. Our legal staff will review the complaint and information obtained during the Department's investigation. During legal review, the Department may seek additional investigation or expert review of this case. Depending upon the complexity of the case, this process may take several months. Upon gathering all relevant materials needed for analysis, legal staff will make a recommendation to a probable cause panel of the applicable profession. The panel will then decide whether to initiate formal disciplinary proceedings.

This matter is confidential and exempt from public disclosure.

For information regarding the Enforcement regulatory process, the following web address is provided: [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/enforcement/enforce\\_home.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/enforcement/enforce_home.html). If you have additional questions regarding this process, please do not hesitate to contact the Prosecution Services Unit at (850) 245-4444, by TDD at 1-800-955-8771 referencing the DOH case number above, or by mail at Department of Health, Prosecution Services Unit, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-65, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3265.

Sincerely,

Prosecution Services Unit  
Office of the General Counsel

**Florida Department of Health**  
Office of the General Counsel • Prosecution Services Unit  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-65 • Tallahassee, FL 32399-1701  
Express mail address: 2585 Merchants Row – Suite 105  
PHONE: 850/245-4444 •

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**Rick Scott**  
Governor

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State Surgeon General & Secretary

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March 21, 2014

**CONFIDENTIAL**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] FL [REDACTED]

Reference Number: ME 2014-02152  
Subject: DEBRA DOROTHY ESERNIO-JENSSEN

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

Please be advised that the Investigative Services Unit is conducting an investigation on DEBRA DOROTHY ESERNIO-JENSSEN and I am the investigator assigned to your case.

Florida law requires that all information in a complaint remain confidential until 10 days after probable cause is found. Patient names and records are never released to the public.

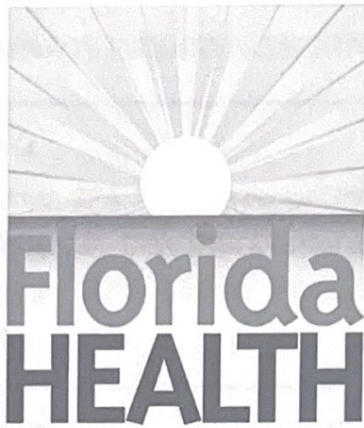
The mission of the Department of Health is to protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, & community efforts. If you have any questions, please call me at 386-418-5325. In addition, if you have any concerns or suggestions about our complaint process, please fill-out our *Customer Concerns or Suggestions* form at [www.floridashealth.com/mqa/survey.html](http://www.floridashealth.com/mqa/survey.html)

Sincerely,

Paige Cook  
Medical Quality Assurance Investigator  
Florida Department of Health

**Florida Department of Health**  
Division of Medical Quality Assurance • Investigative Services  
14101 NW US Highway 441, Suite 700 • Alachua, FL 32615-6669  
PHONE: 386-418-5330 • FAX 386-418-5327

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DATE: May 23, 2014  
TO: James D. Boyd  
VIA: David A. ...  
FROM: Gabe ...  
RE: OIG 14-036

Date of Complaint: June 1, 2013  
Complainant: [Redacted]  
Subject: [Redacted]

**Office of Inspector General**  
**Preliminary Inquiry OIG 14-036**

May 23, 2014

The OIG conducted this preliminary inquiry into the policies and practices of the office. The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) received a complaint from [Redacted] regarding [Redacted] on January 6, 2014. In the complaint, the complainant alleged that the subject of a Civil Protection Team (CPT) investigation and the failure of two OIG employees to reply to [Redacted] that the physician had a criminal conviction, with the failure of the complainant resulting in the alleged violation of [Redacted].

**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
Surgeon General and Secretary of Health

**James D. Boyd, CPA, MBA**  
Inspector General

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH)  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL (OIG)

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PRELIMINARY INQUIRY MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** May 23, 2014  
**TO:** James D. Boyd, CPA, MBA, Inspector General *[Signature]*  
**VIA:** David M. Harlan, Jr., CPA, CIG, Director of Investigations *[Signature]*  
**FROM:** Gilda Goodman, Deputy Director of Investigations *[Signature]*  
**RE:** OIG 14-036

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**Date of Complaint:** January 28, 2014  
**Complainant:** ██████████ Citizen  
**Subjects:** Mary Elizabeth Vickers, Interim Chief of Staff  
Peggy Scheuermann, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Child Protection/Special  
Technology, Division of Children's Medical Services (CMS)  
**Complaint:** Alleged Conduct Unbecoming a Public Employee-Misconduct

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The OIG conducted this inquiry in accordance with the policies and procedures of this office.

The Office of the Chief Inspector General (CIG) forwarded a complaint from ██████████  
██████████ CIG case #201401310002. The OIG received the complaint on February 5, 2014.  
In the complaint, Ms. ██████████ expressed concerns about the conduct of a Child Protection  
Team (CPT) physician and the failure of two DOH employees to notify Ms. ██████████ that the  
physician had a previous complaint, with the failure of this disclosure resulting in the alleged  
victimization of Ms. ██████████ minor child.

Mary Elizabeth Vickers was Director of CMS from October 2012 until October 2013, but is  
currently serving as Interim Chief of Staff. Peggy Scheuermann has served as Bureau Chief  
since September 2004.

According to the CMS website, the Child Protection Team (CPT) program is a medically  
directed, multidisciplinary program that works with local Sheriff's offices and the Department of  
Children and Family Services in cases of child abuse and neglect to supplement investigation  
activities. Child protection teams provide expertise in evaluating alleged child abuse and  
neglect, assessing risk and protective factors, and providing recommendations for interventions  
to protect children and enhance a caregiver's capacity to provide a safer environment when  
possible. Further explanation of the CPT can be found at,

[http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-  
Kids/families/child\\_protection\\_safety/child\\_protection\\_teams.html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/families/child_protection_safety/child_protection_teams.html)

Ms. [REDACTED] complaint was referred to Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) on February 7, 2014 by the OIG. MQA is responsible for the regulation of health practitioners for the preservation of the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The Licensing and Regulation section provides information relating to professional, facility, and permit licensing along with information on enforcement.

**FINDINGS:**

The OIG contacted Ms. [REDACTED] by telephone on February 18, 2014, to discuss her complaint to the OIG. Afterward an e-mail was forwarded to Ms. [REDACTED] amending her complaint to reflect the discussion on the telephone. The complaint was amended to read that she was working with the DOH Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) on her complaint on CPT Medical Director, Dr. Debra Dorothy Esernio-Jenssen, and that Ms. Vickers and Ms. Scheuermann, as agents of the DOH, had knowledge that the Gainesville CPT was under investigation but failed to protect Ms. [REDACTED] minor child. Ms. [REDACTED] added that she was never asked to put anything in writing about her complaint when she spoke to Ms. Vickers and Ms. Scheuermann to ensure her complaint was "filed formally."

After speaking with Ms. [REDACTED] the OIG interviewed Ms. Vickers on April 1, 2014, and learned it was not the Gainesville CPT that had the previous complaint; it was Dr. Esernio-Jenssen. Ms. Vickers explained that Dr. Esernio-Jenssen is not an employee of the DOH, but is employed by the University of Florida (UF) and the CPT has a contractual relationship with the UF to provide services to the CPT.

Ms. Vickers explained that Ms. Scheuermann received information about Ms. [REDACTED] concerns from Amy Butler, NER Family Safety Operations Manager, Department of Children and Families (DCF). Ms. Butler e-mailed Ms. [REDACTED] concerns to Ms. Scheuermann and requested she call Ms. [REDACTED] on January 21, 2014. Ms. Scheuermann notified Ms. Vickers who called Ms. [REDACTED] but Ms. [REDACTED] was busy and they agreed to speak again on January 22, 2014. During the conversation with Ms. Vickers, Ms. [REDACTED] shared the experience she had with Gainesville CPT staff and reported feeling she had been misled about her son's exam by the Gainesville CPT, but according to Ms. Vickers, her complaint was more about Dr. Esernio-Jenssen.

Ms. Vickers and Ms. Scheuermann confirmed to the OIG there was a previous complaint with regard to Dr. Esernio-Jenssen's clinical practices in January 2014, just prior to the complaint from Ms. [REDACTED] that was also in January 2014. However, Ms. Vickers said she was unaware of any other concerns about Dr. Esernio-Jenssen prior to January 2014. Two days after the conversation with Ms. [REDACTED], Ms. Vickers said she resigned from CMS and did not have any further information about the complaint.

Since Ms. [REDACTED] was concerned that Ms. Vickers and Ms. Scheuermann may have had knowledge that Dr. Esernio-Jenssen should not be seeing CPT children, the OIG asked about the first complaint and learned that the first family's complaint about Dr. Esernio-Jenssen was received on January 3, 2014. Ms. Scheuermann explained that she met on January 16-17, 2014 with the UF Department of Pediatrics chairperson and other stakeholders to get feedback on the operation of the Gainesville CPT and to complete a file review. While in Gainesville, Ms. Scheuermann said she decided to have interviews with CPT staff and learned that UF was also going to look into the complaint. (Ms. [REDACTED] appointment was with the Gainesville CPT and Dr. Esernio-Jenssen on January 16, 2014.)

Ms. Scheuermann explained, "as soon as we were made of that, of those concerns, we were on top of it" and the concerns of the first family were not the same as Ms. [REDACTED] their complaint was about Dr. Esernio-Jenssens medical findings of possible abuse because their child had a ruptured spleen.

At the conclusion of the review, Ms. Scheuermann determined Dr. Esernio-Jenssen "was not in the right position." UF management concurred and reassigned Dr. Esernio-Jenssen to a non-CPT position.

Ms. Scheuermann reviewed the conduct of the CPT case coordinator Erica Jones, and determined there was no indication she was not following protocols. Ms. Scheuermann said Ms. Jones did not find fault with Dr. Esernio-Jenssen's methodology because physical examinations are standard protocol in cases involving alleged physical abuse.

In the complaint, Ms. [REDACTED] states that no one asked her to "document anything in writing." The OIG asked if anyone told Ms. [REDACTED] she could file a complaint and Ms. Scheuermann explained, "She had already filed her complaint when she told us about this and we told her we were going to look into it." Additionally, Ms. Butler had referred [REDACTED] complaint to Ms. Scheuermann via e-mail on January 17, 2014. The OIG established that CPT does not have a formal complaint process, but takes complaints verbally or in writing.

**CONCLUSION:**

There is no violation of law, rule, or statute.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

No further action recommended and the Preliminary Inquiry is closed.