



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



August 31, 2010

Miranda Chapman, Military Family Liaison
Naval Submarine Base NOLON
P.O. Box 00
Groton, CT 06349-5000

VIA FACSIMILE AND U.S. MAIL

Dear Ms. Chapman:

I am writing concerning a matter that was brought to the Commissioner's attention by Bob Ross, Executive Director of the Office of Military Affairs. According to a letter from Captain Marc Denno, Commanding Officer of the Naval Submarine Base in New London, some families from the base who are transitioning their children into Connecticut public schools have had difficulty complying with the state requirement for physical examinations. Specifically, the statute requires that health assessments be conducted by Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) who are licensed in Connecticut. Most APRNs who practice at the Branch Health Clinic are licensed in other states. Some school districts apparently have refused to accept a Health Assessment Record unless it is signed by a physician, which has caused delays in enrollment.

In recent years, the State Department of Education (SDE) has advised school nurses that they can accept physicals conducted by an APRN, a Medical Doctor, a Physician Assistant or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from any military base, domestic or overseas. Until a statutory change can be put into effect, you may share this letter with school districts to reassure them of the SDE's position regarding the physical examinations for children in military families. In addition, if any school nurse or nurse's supervisor has any questions or concerns, he or she may contact Stephanie G. Knutson, MSN, R.N., School Health Consultant at (860) 807-2108.

Sincerely,

Laura L. Anastasio, Attorney
Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs

cc: Stephanie G. Knutson, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education
Cheryl Resha, Education Manager, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and
Adult Education
Captain Marc W. Denno, Commanding Officer, Naval Submarine Base New London
Bob Ross, Executive Director, Office of Military Affairs



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE NEW LONDON
GROTON, CONNECTICUT 06349-5000

27 July 2010

Mr. Robert Ross
Executive Director
Office of Military Affairs
State of Connecticut
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106-7106

Dear Mr. Ross,

As discussed during a recent Military Superintendent's Liaison Committee Meeting, I request your assistance in resolving an issue that has come to light with regard to local school physicals being conducted by Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) in Naval Submarine Base New London's Branch Health Clinic.

Local school nurses will not accept the Health Assessment Record (HAR) form required by the State for school enrollment if the signature on the HAR is of an APRN that is not licensed in the State of Connecticut.

From our research and layman's reading of the State of Connecticut Statutes, the issue stems from the General Statute which dictates that each local or regional Board of Education shall require each pupil enrolled in the public schools to have a health assessment pursuant to Chapter 160, Sec. 10-206. The provision in this section states that the assessments may be conducted by an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Registered Nurse licensed pursuant to Chapter 378. Chapter 378 defines licensure in the State of Connecticut and how to obtain such licensure.

APRNs working within Military Treatment Facilities maintain their nursing licensure through the state in which they were initially licensed. Thus, APRNs legally licensed to practice at our Branch Health Clinic are not required to gain Connecticut licensure. Moreover, with APRN's coming from across the United States, rarely do they have a license in the State of Connecticut.

Due to mission requirements, the APRNs at our clinic are largely responsible for such routine actions as school physicals. With local school systems denying enrollment to students with physicals conducted by these APRNs, it forces military students to return to our clinic to obtain a HAR signed by an M.D. (Doctorate of Medicine) or D.O. (Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine). This delays enrollment and causes great consternation among the military family and the local school staff.

Any assistance that you can provide to rectify this issue will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MARC W. DENNO".

MARC W. DENNO
Commanding Officer
Captain, U.S. Navy