

# WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? SUPERVISING FORMS

While each state's regulations and registration forms for physician assistants (PAs) differ, the following images illustrate an all too common situation that we learn about after an adverse outcome.

These registrations show George Washington, MD, as the active physician supervisor registered with the medical board for Aaron Burr, PA. What these don't show is that Aaron left that practice 18 months ago, and is now working in a different system in a different capacity.

## HOW ARE THESE SAMPLE SUPERVISING FORMS TROUBLESOME?

Many states require a physician supervisor to be designated for a PA, and that designation carries with it responsibilities including registration with the state's medical board as well as the potential for co-signing of a certain number or percentage of charts, annual performance assessments, on-site supervision for a designated time period for new PA graduates, and other requirements.

The ability to defend Mr. Burr's practice as appropriately in compliance with his licensure, and Dr. Washington's supervision as also in compliance with his duties is highly problematic. Even if the care in question is defensible, potential allegations of 'practice outside the scope of his licensure' for Burr, and 'inadequate supervision' for Washington will likely need to be addressed to resolve the case.

From a practical standpoint, PAs need to be aware of who is officially listed as their supervisor of record, and that all necessary compliance documentation such as performance assessments, on-site supervision (if applicable for the early transition to a new practice or practice setting), chart review or co-signing if required, is done in a timely fashion. Similarly, the physician supervisor should audit and maintain an active registry of those they supervise and comply with their regulatory requirements.

<b>Name</b>		<b>Public Address</b>	
George Washington		Valley Forge, CO 80000	

**License Information**  
Some Physician Licensees have converted their Active Physician license to an Active Compact Physician License. This is noted below by the status label: Transferred to Compact Physician.

License Number	License Method	License Type	License Status	Original Issue Date	Effective Date	Expiration Date
DR.0000001	Original	Physician	Active	08/28/2003	05/01/2019	04/30/2021

**Supervision**

Relationship	Supervisor/Supervisee	License	Start Date	Relationship Type
Supervises	Aaron Burr	PA.0000002	08/09/2013	Supervisor

**Board/Program Actions**

<b>Discipline</b>
There is no Discipline or Board Actions on file for this credential.

<b>Name</b>		<b>Public Address</b>	
Aaron Burr		Gettysburg, CO 80000	

**Credential Information**

License Number	License Method	License Type	License Status	Original Issue Date	Effective Date	Expiration Date
PA.0000002	Original	Physician Assistant	Active	11/13/2009	02/01/2018	01/31/2020

**Supervision**

Relationship	Supervisor/Supervisee	License	Start Date	Relationship Type
Supervised By	George Washington	DR.0000001	08/09/2013	Supervisee

**Board/Program Actions**

<b>Discipline</b>
There is no Discipline or Board Actions on file for this credential.

In our experience, one needs a system to regularly trigger the necessary actions and updates. A comprehensive up-to-date listing of the various state-by-state requirements is available at [www.ama-assn.org/sites/ama-assn.org/files/corp/media-browser/public/arc-public/state-law-physician-assistant-scope-practice.pdf](http://www.ama-assn.org/sites/ama-assn.org/files/corp/media-browser/public/arc-public/state-law-physician-assistant-scope-practice.pdf)