

## IOWA BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC

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IN RE:

CHIROPRACTIC MANIPULATION

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INFORMAL GUIDANCE

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### BACKGROUND

The Iowa Chiropractic Society (hereinafter ICS) filed a Petition for Declaratory Ruling on December 12, 2008, seeking clarification of the definition of chiropractic manipulation, as set forth in 645 Iowa Administrative Code 43.1, to include spinal manipulation or the movement of a joint of the patient's spine beyond its normal range of motion but without exceeding the limits of anatomical integrity when the technique is being used by the health care practitioner to treat a joint dysfunction or neuromusculoskeletal disorder. Prior to final disposition by the Board, ICS withdrew its Petition and asked the Board to issue informal guidance.

### INFORMAL GUIDANCE

ICS seeks informal guidance on whether "spinal manipulation" is included within the definition of "chiropractic manipulation" contained within 645 Iowa Administrative code 43.1. Pursuant to Board rule, "chiropractic manipulation" is defined as, the care of an articular dysfunction or neuromusculoskeletal disorder by manual or mechanical adjustment of any skeletal articulation and contiguous articulations.

It is the Board's belief that spinal manipulation or the movement of a joint of the patient's spine beyond its normal range of motion but without exceeding the limits of anatomical integrity when the technique is being used to treat a joint dysfunction or neuromusculoskeletal disorder is included within the definition of chiropractic manipulation in 645 IAC 43.1. **The Board's understands that spinal manipulation may be within the scope of practice of other licensed health care practitioners.**

### CONCLUSION

If ICS becomes aware of specific factual situations in which the practice of chiropractic manipulation is being performed by persons not licensed as chiropractors, ICS should file a complaint with the Board. Questions regarding whether the performance of a specific type of spinal manipulation actually constitutes chiropractic manipulation would be complex and fact specific. A complaint must provide specific evidence that attests to an infraction. Once a complaint is received by the Board, an investigation can be commenced to determine that nature and scope of the manipulations actually being performed. Iowa Code 272C.3(1)(c).

Any person engaging in the practice of chiropractic without proper licensure may be restrained by permanent injunction and may be guilty of a simple misdemeanor. Iowa Code 147.83, 147.86.

This informal guidance is advisory in nature only.

Issued this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009.

Iowa Board of Chiropractic

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Kraus DC". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "S" and "K".

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Dr. Steven Kraus, Board Chair