



*A confidential Solution
for chemically impaired
health care professionals.*

PURPOSE

To monitor chemically-dependent licensed professionals in a manner that promotes confidentiality for the licensed professional while assuring the safety of his or her patients.

BACKGROUND

Substance abuse is one of today's most serious and troubling issues -- and licensed professionals are not immune. The stress of a profession and the demands of a busy schedule both contribute to a growing problem of licensed professionals impaired by the abuse of drugs and/or alcohol.

Traditionally, identified cases of substance abuse by licensed professionals are referred to the Utah licensing boards for public disciplinary action. Such action could result in the suspension or loss of a professional license, loss of dignity and self-esteem, and loss of professional standing and income.

There is a better way to deal with this problem.

The Utah Department of Commerce's Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing has established the Utah Recovery Assistance Program (URAP) as an alternative to formal disciplinary action.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- protection for the safety of participants' clients
- protection for the livelihood and professional licensure of the participant
- confidentiality - a private agreement instead of public action
- incentives and support to help participants remain substance-free

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Participation depends on the circumstances related to the individual's chemical dependency and their willingness to become substance free. Participants sign a contract in which they agree to:

- abstain from using drugs or alcohol
- receive professional help for chemical dependency
- undergo random drug screenings
- meet periodically with the Professional Recovery Diversion Committee for progress reports
- comply with other terms as determined on a case-by-case basis

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

The recovery assistance program is generally available for individuals in licensed professions who have a personal substance abuse problem that has not previously resulted in official licensure action and has not caused harm to another person.

PARTICIPATION

If you have a problem with drugs or alcohol, if you have a patient with a professional license who needs help, or if you know of another licensed professional who needs assistance, please contact URAP.

You will receive information on what is expected of participants, how the division ensures confidentiality, and what can be expected if participants successfully comply with the conditions that are agreed upon.

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