

-112-

**STATE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS**

**In re: Request for Declaratory Ruling by Jack A. Vitaz, D.C.,  
dated March 15, 1988**

**DECLARATORY RULING**

**I. Procedural Summary**

In a letter dated March 15, 1988, Jack A. Vitaz, D.C. ("Petitioner") requested a declaratory ruling from the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners on the following questions:

- "A. May a chiropractor employ modalities utilizing surface-dwelling tacks in preparation for chiropractic treatment?
- B. May a chiropractor provide weight-loss counseling in preparation for chiropractic treatment?"

Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4-176, the Board determined to grant the petitioner's request for a declaratory ruling. The Board further determined that, as permitted by the statute, it would issue its ruling without conducting a contested case hearing.

**Conclusions**

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 20-28(b)(3) provides that a chiropractor may "[t]reat the human body by manual, mechanical, electrical or natural methods, or by use of physical means, including light, heat, water or exercise in preparation for chiropractic adjustment or manipulation ...." The Board interprets this section as permitting a chiropractor to employ modalities utilizing surface dwelling instrumentalities in

preparation for chiropractic treatment. The Board is satisfied, however, that the instrumentalities referred to in the Petitioner's request for declaratory ruling are not surface dwelling but are, indeed, tacks which pierce the skin, however slightly.

The Board also interprets Conn. Gen. Stat. § 20-28(b)(3) as allowing a chiropractor to provide weight-loss counseling in preparation for chiropractic treatment as such counseling constitutes treatment of the human body by "natural methods". See also Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 20-27(b) and 20-28(a) which provide that a chiropractor must, as a pre-condition to licensure, pass a written examination covering, among other subjects, dietetics.

#### Ruling

It is the ruling of the Board that:

- 1) A chiropractor may employ modalities utilizing surface-dwelling instrumentalities in preparation for chiropractic treatment.
- 2) A chiropractor may provide weight-loss counseling in preparation for chiropractic treatment.

STATE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

5-25-89  
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May 25, 1989

By: Marino R. Passero D.C.  
Marino R. Passero, D.C.  
Its Chairman