



NEWS RELEASE

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CHECKING THE LICENSE JUST BECAME EASIER

Updated search feature now houses licensing data from 31 entities

SACRAMENTO – The message from the California Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) has long been “Check the License” – a message that’s not likely to change any time soon.

But checking the license just got easier. DCA is proud to unveil our new license search feature, which houses license data for nearly all of DCA’s boards and bureaus in one convenient location at <https://search.dca.ca.gov>.

DCA administers more than 3.5 million licenses in 250 license types. Nearly all license types – including accountants, barbers, chiropractors, dentists, optometrists, pest control applicators, pharmacists, physical and mental health professionals, security service people, and veterinarians – will be represented in the license search.

The license search was developed using existing state resources. Data in the tool is updated in real time as boards and bureaus approve or change the status of licenses. Consumers will be able to quickly determine if a license is current, expired, or subject to disciplinary actions like probation or revocation. Consumers will also be able to see supporting documentation that accompanies disciplinary actions, such as administrative actions, court judgements, reprimands, and more.

“Our goal is to provide California consumers with the information needed to make informed decisions about the people they do business with,” said Jason Piccione, Chief of DCA’s Office of Information Services (OIS). “We hope consumers will find the license search to be a worthy tool in their arsenal.”

It was a challenging road for Piccione’s technology team. OIS established a core engine of microservices to merge the data from different systems of record. This core engine will be the heart of DCA’s growing digital ecosystem. Over the course of the next few years, as the remaining boards and bureaus undergo business modernization, their data will be added into the search database.

“The new license search furthers our mission of consumer protection by providing consumers with up-to-date information,” said Director Dean R. Grafilo. “I am proud of the work put into the search and look forward to future tools to be developed to help inform consumers when making decisions.”

The license search became available in 2017. At that time, data from 18 boards and bureaus was included. But the centralized license search was a hit regardless. Over 2 billion searches have been performed since the site went live.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS (DCA): *DCA promotes and protects the interests of California consumers while ensuring a competent and fair marketplace. Consumers can file complaints against licensees by calling (800) 952-5210 or online at www.dca.ca.gov.*

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