

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1700
Oakland, California 94612
Tel (510) 286 -7100 Fax (510) 286-0687



March 5, 2026

Western Orthopaedic Group PC
Christopher Armstrong, Agent for Service of Process
13120 Philadelphia St.
Whittier, CA 90601

NOTICE OF PROVIDER SUSPENSION – WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Dear Western Orthopaedic Group PC:

The Administrative Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) is required by Labor Code section 139.21(a)(1)(D) to suspend you from participation in the California workers' compensation system because you are controlled by an individual [Christopher Armstrong] who has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor described in subparagraph (A) of Labor Code section 139.21(a). Per Labor Code section 139.21(a)(3), an entity is controlled by an individual if: (1) the individual is or was an officer or director of the entity; (2) is or was a shareholder with a 10 percent or greater interest in the entity; or (3) held de facto ownership of the entity or de facto control consistent with the rights and duties of an officer or director of the entity. See *Villanueva v. Teva Foods* (2019) WCAB Case No. ADJ9332041, 84 Cal. Comp. Cases 198 [significant panel decision]. Enclosed are copies of the documents relied upon by the Administrative Director as the basis for taking this action.

Your suspension will start 30 calendar days after the date of mailing of this notice, unless you submit a written request for a hearing, which will stay the suspension pending the outcome of the hearing. Your request must be made within 10 calendar days of the date of mailing of this notice. If you do not request a hearing within the 10-day time limit, you will be suspended from participation in the California workers' compensation system pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 8, section 9788.2(b).

Your request for a hearing must contain:

- Your current mailing address;
- The legal and factual reasons as to why you do not believe Labor Code section 139.21(a)(1) is applicable to you;
- Your original signature or the original signature of your legal representative; and
- A valid email address for subsequent service of pleadings and/or correspondence.

The scope of the hearing is limited to whether or not Labor Code section 139.21(a)(1) is applicable to you. The Administrative Director is required to suspend you unless you provide proof in the hearing that Labor Code section 139.21(a)(1) does not apply.

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Western Orthopaedic Group PC

Your original request for a hearing and one copy of the request must be filed with the Administrative Director. Additionally, you must also serve one copy of the request for a hearing on the DIR Anti-Fraud Unit. This may be completed either by regular mail or via email to: AntiFraudUnit@dir.ca.gov.

The mailing address for the Administrative Director is:

Hearing Request
Administrative Director
Division of Workers' Compensation
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1700
Oakland, CA 94612

And/or if needed:

Hearing Request
Department of Industrial Relations
Office of the Director – Anti-Fraud Unit
1515 Clay Street, Suite 701
Oakland, CA 94612

The original and all copies of the request for hearing must have a proof of service attached. A sample proof of service, containing all necessary elements, can be found on the DWC website at <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/DWCPropRegs/Provider-Suspension-Procedure/Provider-Suspension-Procedure.htm>, under the category "Court Forms," and then "Proof of Service." The Administrative Director is required to hold your hearing within 30 days of the receipt of your written request. The hearing will be conducted by a hearing officer appointed by the Administrative Director. You will be notified shortly after the receipt of your request of the date and time of the hearing.

For more information about the suspension procedure, please refer to Provider Suspension Regulations, California Code of Regulations, title 8, sections 9788.1 - 9788.4, which can be found on the DWC website at <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/DWCPropRegs/Provider-Suspension-Procedure/Clean-Version/Text-of-Regulations.doc>.

Sincerely,

/S/ Nicole Richardson
Nicole Richardson
Acting Administrative Director
Division of Workers' Compensation

March 5, 2026
Western Orthopaedic Group PC

Encls:

- Felony Complaint: *The People of the State of California v. Christopher Armstrong, et al.*, Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. BA486407, filed 4/6/2020
- Minute Order – Change of Plea Hearing: *The People of the State of California v. Christopher Armstrong*, Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. XCNBA486407-01, dated 4/25/25
- Western Orthopaedic Group PC CA Secretary of State Statement of Information, filed 10/26/2015
- Western Orthopaedic Group PC CA Secretary of State Statement of Information, filed 12/02/2015
- Western Orthopaedic Group PC CA Secretary of State Business Search
- Declaration of Louis Andrew in Support of Notice of Provider Suspension, dated 2/10/2026
- Proof of Service (Certificate of Service by Mailing)