

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 29, 2014

Contact: Communications Office
(850) 245-4111

JOINT UNLICENSED ACTIVITY INVESTIGATION LEADS TO TALLAHASSEE ARREST

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Health's (DOH) Tallahassee and Pensacola Unlicensed Activity (ULA) Unit announced that a joint investigation with the Tallahassee Police Department, Leon County Sheriff's Office, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement has led to the arrest of Xiaoyan Tian for the alleged unlicensed practice of massage therapy, a third degree felony punishable by up to one year in jail.

The joint operation was conducted at the Health Center, located at 3832 Killearn Court in Tallahassee, on August 27, 2014. Tian, an unlicensed massage therapist, attempted to perform a massage on an undercover officer and was arrested. Tian was also issued a cease and desist notice, along with a citation.

The Department has several resources to combat unlicensed activity:

- Consumers are encouraged to use the Department's website www.flhealthsource.com where they can conveniently view the license information of their health care practitioner.
- Complaints may be filed anonymously by completing and mailing the complaint form on the Florida Department of Health's Web site or calling 1-877-HALT-ULA.

The Department's ULA program protects Florida residents and visitors from the potentially serious and dangerous consequences of receiving medical and health care services from an unlicensed person. The Department's Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) investigates and refers for prosecution all unlicensed health care activity complaints and allegations. The Unlicensed Activity Unit works in conjunction with law enforcement and the state attorney's offices to prosecute individuals practicing without a license. In many instances, unlicensed activity is a felony-level criminal offense. More importantly, receiving health care from unlicensed people is dangerous and could result in further injury, disease or even death.

Working in conjunction with 22 boards and six councils, MQA regulates seven types of facilities and 200-plus license types in more than 40 healthcare professions. MQA evaluates the credentials of all applicants for licensure, issues licenses, analyzes and investigates complaints, inspects facilities, assists in prosecuting practice act violations, combats unlicensed activity and provides credential and discipline history about licensees to the public. Visit <http://www.flhealthsource.com> for additional information about MQA.

The Department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts. During 2014, the Department is recognizing 125 years of public health in Florida with educational opportunities and events. Please visit www.FLHealth125.gov for more information.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](https://twitter.com/HealthyFla) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HealthyFla). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit www.floridahealth.gov.

###