

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWC Prevails in Judgment Against Career Advanced Medical Clinic and Training School

AUSTIN — The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has prevailed in its efforts to protect nursing students from the false promises of a Dallas-area career school. Career Advanced Medical Clinic and Training, also known as Career Advanced, CATS Group Inc. and Career Advanced Tutoring Services and its owner, Edlyne Charles, have been ordered to pay \$121,000 in civil penalties for violations of the Texas Education Code, including failure to obtain a certificate of approval or exemption as required, and ordered to pay \$25,000 for the State’s attorneys’ fees. The judgment was obtained by the Texas Office of the Attorney General which handled the case.

As part of the judgment, CATS and Charles are prohibited from operating a career school in Texas without a certificate of approval issued by TWC; maintaining, advertising, soliciting for, or conducting any classes in Texas without a notice of exemption from TWC; operating a career school without registering all representatives to TWC; collecting tuition from students for programs which are not approved by TWC; and soliciting students for any nursing classes, training, workshops, or career development with misrepresentations and/or misleading statements.

“These unlicensed operations exploit vulnerable individuals with false promises of nursing licenses at a time when nurses are in high demand,” said TWC Chairman Tom Pauken. “This will serve as a warning to any other schools considering offering unlicensed, unapproved programs.”

Nurse training schools must obtain a certificate of approval from TWC, and all nursing courses must be approved by the Texas Board of Nursing in order for students to be eligible to take nurse licensing examinations in Texas.

“Nursing career schools must obtain TWC certification and Board of Nursing course approval,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “We want to make sure these types of schools do not take advantage of students looking to join the health care industry.”

A career school traditionally trains students for a field in a business, trade, or a technical or industrial occupation, or for avocational or personal improvement. A cease and desist order was issued to CATS and Charles when TWC had reason to believe the school was not in compliance with the Texas Education Code. Cease and desist orders are upheld by the TWC Commissioners after the school is unable to provide a successful appeal.

“The need for nurses in Texas and around the country has led to an increase in the number of students seeking health care careers,” said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. “These unlicensed schools take advantage of students who are paying large sums of money in the hope of improving their lives.”

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TWC staff monitors career school certification compliance, and can impose sanctions and/or an administrative penalty of up to \$1,000 per day per violation for noncompliance. The Office of the Attorney General enforces cease and desist orders and can seek to collect civil penalties of up to \$1,000 per day for each violation. Pursuing such cases is the function of TWC's Regulatory Integrity Division, which is responsible for enforcing all regulatory statutes within the jurisdiction of the agency, encompassing career schools, child labor, unemployment insurance and workforce board sanctions.

Prospective career school students can access a list of schools with current certificates of approval on the TWC Directory of Licensed Institutions on the Career Schools and Colleges Web site page at <http://propschools.texasworkforce.org>.

For more information, prospective students can call the TWC Career Schools Division at (512) 936-3100 or e-mail career.schools@twc.state.tx.us. Those wishing to contact the Texas Board of Nursing may direct their e-mail questions concerning approved nursing education programs to webmaster@bon.state.tx.us, call (512) 305-6816 or visit its Web site at www.bon.state.tx.us.

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The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the services it offers in coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.