



C A L I F O R N I A

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ANNUAL REPORT

ON

**ACCUSATIONS PROSECUTED FOR DEPARTMENT
OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS CLIENT AGENCIES**

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE SECTION 312.2

JANUARY 1, 2024

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
BACKGROUND.....	1
Licensing Section and Health Quality Enforcement Section	1
Department of Consumer Affairs Client Agencies.....	2
Investigation Process	3
Administrative Adjudication Process.....	3
MEASURES REPORTED	4
METHODOLOGY	9
Case Management System	9
Data Presentation	9
CALIFORNIA BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY	11
CALIFORNIA ACUPUNCTURE BOARD	12
CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD	13
CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION	14
BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR	15
BOARD OF BARBERING AND COSMETOLOGY.....	16
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES.....	17
CEMETERY AND FUNERAL BUREAU	18
BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS.....	19
CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD	20
COURT REPORTERS BOARD OF CALIFORNIA	21
DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA.....	22
DENTAL HYGIENE BOARD OF CALIFORNIA	23
BUREAU OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND SERVICES	24
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.....	25
LICENSED MIDWIVES PROGRAM (MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA)	26
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA.....	27
CALIFORNIA BOARD OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE	28
CALIFORNIA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	29

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY	30
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA.....	31
CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY.....	32
PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD OF CALIFORNIA	33
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT BOARD OF CALIFORNIA.....	34
PODIATRIC MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA.....	35
BUREAU FOR PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION	36
BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS	37
PROFESSIONAL FIDUCIARIES BUREAU.....	38
CALIFORNIA BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY.....	39
BUREAU OF REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS.....	40
BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING	41
RESPIRATORY CARE BOARD OF CALIFORNIA.....	42
BUREAU OF SECURITY AND INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES.....	43
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY & HEARING AID DISPENSERS BOARD	44
STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL BOARD	45
VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD.....	46
BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS	47
CONCLUSION.....	48
APPENDIX.....	49

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of the Attorney General enforces laws that safeguard California consumers for our Department of Consumer Affairs licensing clients. This public protection mission includes the fair and impartial enforcement of laws to ensure justice, safety, and liberty for all. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 312.2, the Office of the Attorney General reports annually by January 1 on the public protection work of the Licensing Section and Health Quality Enforcement Section's representation for agencies within the Department of Consumer Affairs. This is the seventh annual report by the Office of the Attorney General covering Fiscal Year 2022-23. It provides information concerning disciplinary accusation referrals received and adjudicated for each Department of Consumer Affairs client agency represented by the Licensing Section and the Health Quality Enforcement Section of the Office of the Attorney General.

In Fiscal Year 2022-23, 57% of the legal work performed by the Licensing Section and Health Quality Enforcement Section was for the prosecution of accusations, which are the focus of this report. During the fiscal year, 2,551 accusation referrals were received from client agencies. All matters were adjudicated. However, 5% of accusation referrals to the Office of the Attorney General were rejected, and 11% required further investigation.

The Office of the Attorney General adjudicated 2,352 accusation referrals during Fiscal Year 2022-23. The accusations adjudicated were referred to this office in Fiscal Year 2022-23 or in a prior fiscal year. Multiple adjudications can occur when more than one licensee is included within one matter, each with different adjudication dates and types. Alternatively, multiple adjudications may occur when a client agency exercises its discretion to reject an original adjudication. Of the total adjudications, 58% were by stipulated settlement, 26% by default, 13% by administrative hearing, and 3% resulted from the withdrawal of accusations by the agencies.¹

BACKGROUND

Licensing Section and Health Quality Enforcement Section

The Licensing Section and the Health Quality Enforcement Section of the Office of the Attorney General's Civil Law Division specialize in California professional and vocational licensing law. The two sections represent 36 Department of Consumer Affairs licensing oversight agencies that issue multiple types of professional and vocational licenses. The Licensing Section and the Health Quality Enforcement Section provide legal representation to these agencies in many kinds of licensing matters to protect California consumers and enhance the quality of the professions and vocations. Liaison deputies also regularly consult with agency staff to advise them on jurisdictional, legal, and programmatic issues. Each section's legal staff also provide training for the Department of Consumer Affairs Division of Investigation, agency investigators, and agency staff.

Both sections prosecute licensing matters, including accusations (license disciplinary charges), which comprise 57% of their combined caseload. The balance of matters consists of:

- Statements of issues — appeal hearings when a license application has been denied.

¹ This report's information is provided against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic in Fiscal Years 19-20, 20-21, and 21-22.

- Interim suspension petitions — hearings before the Office of Administrative Hearings for immediate suspension of a license.
- Injunction proceedings — brought in superior court to stop unlicensed practice.
- Post-discipline matters — when a licensee petitions for reduction of penalty or reinstatement of a revoked license.
- Citations — appeal hearings when a citation and/or fine has been issued.
- Penal Code section 23 petitions — seeking a license restriction during the pendency of a criminal proceeding.
- Subpoena enforcement actions — to obtain records needed for the investigation of complaints.
- Judicial review proceedings — superior court review of final administrative decisions.
- Appeals — usually from superior court review proceedings.
- Civil litigation related to license discipline — defending agencies in civil lawsuits brought in state or federal courts.
- Third-party subpoenas — to obtain records in litigation from non-party client agencies.

Business and Professions Code section 312.2 requests data only for the prosecution of accusation matters by the two sections. Accusations are the primary component of the enforcement program for each licensing agency. The legal services in other types of licensing matters handled by the sections are not included in this report, except where accusations are combined with petitions to revoke probation or statements of issues.

Department of Consumer Affairs Client Agencies

The 36 Department of Consumer Affairs agencies represented by the Licensing Section and the Health Quality Enforcement Section each have different licensing laws, programs, and processes unique to their practice areas. A few agencies issue only one type of license, but most issue multiple license types. As a result, agencies differ in how they refer accusation matters to the Office of the Attorney General. Some agencies refer one matter for each licensee. Others refer multiple licensees involved in the same or related acts for which discipline will be sought in a single accusation. Nearly half of client agencies represented by the Licensing Section file a single accusation naming all licensees involved in the events underlying the disciplinary action. None of the agencies represented by the Health Quality Enforcement Section file a single accusation against multiple licensees. Instead, a separate accusation is filed against each licensee. When multiple licensees are involved in the same events, the accusations may be consolidated for hearing. Any agency may also refer additional investigations to this office for prosecution while an initial accusation matter is pending, and these subsequent investigations are counted as additional *accusation referrals* in this report.

There are also other differences in how client agencies respond to and participate in legal matters. Some agencies have higher default rates, and some have higher rates of representation by counsel in their accusation matters. The applicable burden of proof varies based on the type of professional, vocational, or business license. Generally, when there are specific educational and testing requirements to obtain a license, disciplinary charges must be proved by clear and convincing evidence to a reasonable certainty. Most accusation matters brought by Department of Consumer Affairs licensing agencies are subject to this burden of proof, but a few license types are subject to a lower burden of proof, i.e., preponderance of evidence. Generally, these are licenses that permit operation of a business at a specific location, such as an automotive repair dealership or pharmacy.

Currently, 19 Department of Consumer Affairs agencies are required to file their accusations within a prescribed statute of limitations, which generally ranges from one to five years, but may be longer in specific circumstances. All Department of Consumer Affairs client agencies are entitled to recover their costs of investigation and prosecution from respondents. The data included in this report are consistent with each client's licensing programs and practices to the extent possible. However, as a result of variances among agencies, data are not typically comparable to each other in any meaningful way.

Investigation Process

Agencies also differ in how they investigate their cases. Most commonly, agencies investigate using their own staff, including inspectors, sworn and unsworn investigators, investigator assistants, or analysts. Certain kinds of cases must be referred to the Department of Consumer Affairs Division of Investigation, consistent with Complaint Prioritization Guidelines developed pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 328. The Medical Board and the Board of Podiatry prioritize their complaints under Business and Professions Code section 2220.05 and are excluded from the requirements of section 328. All agencies strive to investigate complaints efficiently and rely on the Attorney General's staff for counsel, as needed.

Administrative Adjudication Process

If the investigation reveals evidence that a licensee has violated the agency's practice act, the agency refers the matter to the Office of the Attorney General to initiate a legal proceeding to revoke, suspend, limit, or condition the license, which is called an *accusation*. (Gov. Code, § 11503.)

Upon receipt, a deputy attorney general reviews the transmitted evidence to determine its sufficiency to meet the requisite burden of proof and for any jurisdictional issues. If the evidence is insufficient and circumstances suggest additional avenues for evidentiary development, the deputy may request further investigation from the agency. When evidence is insufficient and further investigation is not recommended, and/or legal issues prevent prosecution, the Office of the Attorney General declines prosecution and the case is rejected.

Based on sufficient evidentiary support, a deputy attorney general prepares an accusation to initiate the agency's adjudicative proceeding. In some cases, when the accusation is being prepared, a deputy attorney general may request supplemental investigation. The accusation pleading is sent to the agency for signature by the executive director, executive officer, or other designated *complainant* for the agency. The accusation is *filed* when the complainant signs it. When charged in an accusation, a respondent has a right to an adjudicative hearing under the California Administrative Procedure Act (Gov. Code, §11500 et seq.). Once served with the accusation, the respondent must file a *notice of defense* within fifteen days, or is in default. Once the notice of defense has been received, a hearing is scheduled with the Office of Administrative Hearings. If no notice of defense is received or a respondent fails to appear at their hearing, then a default is prepared for presentation to the client agency.

The deputy attorney general prosecutes the accusation case before the Office of Administrative Hearings. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the case is submitted to the administrative law judge who presided over the hearing. The administrative law judge prepares a proposed decision and sends it to the agency for its board or committee's voting and decision. A stipulated settlement, which can

include a public reprimand, probation, stipulated license surrender, or revocation, can occur at any time and is the most common method of adjudication of accusation matters.

The agency itself, through the board or committee, makes its decision in each accusation case. The agency can accept or reject a settlement, and if rejected, the proceedings will continue. After an administrative hearing, the agency can accept the proposed decision issued by the administrative law judge. However, the agency may opt to reduce or increase the penalty or reject the proposed decision and order the hearing transcript. After review of the transcript and the evidence, the agency can then adopt the proposed decision or issue its own decision. Most cases are resolved when the agency accepts a stipulated settlement or proposed decision. But if not, additional proceedings ensue, which take more time.

Even after an agency's decision is issued, it may not be final. A respondent may exercise the right to petition for reconsideration and, if granted by the agency, the decision will be reconsidered. This can also happen if an agency decides a case based upon the default of a respondent for failure to file a timely notice of defense or failure to appear at a duly noticed hearing. Upon petition by the respondent, the agency can vacate the default decision and additional proceedings are conducted. Each of these types of *post-submission* events will lengthen the processing of a case and require further adjudication.

Once the agency's decision has been rendered, it is still subject to judicial review in administrative mandamus and appellate proceedings. In very few cases, judicial review under Civil Procedure Code section 1094.5 results in remand to the agency to conduct further administrative proceedings or reconsider its decision. In these cases, the final decision of the agency may be delayed by months or even years.

MEASURES REPORTED

The text of Business and Professions Code section 312.2 is set forth in its entirety in the attached appendix. We provide the following interpretation of terms and description of the manner in which data were gathered for each of the reporting metrics in subdivisions (a)(1)--(a)(7) and (b)(1)--(b)(6).

(a)(1) The number of accusation matters referred to the Attorney General.

Accusation matter means an investigation of one or more complaints that an agency has referred to the Office of the Attorney General. This office will review evidence and, if appropriate, prosecute the matter through the disciplinary process as an accusation.

Accusation matters are counted by each investigation report received that bears a distinct investigation number. Some agencies represented by the Licensing Section request that more than one respondent be named and prosecuted in a single accusation, in which case the investigation number is counted as an accusation matter for each respondent. Multiple investigations may be referred during the time that the Office of the Attorney General is prosecuting the agency's initial accusation referral, which can span different fiscal years. Each investigation received during the reporting period is counted for each respondent to which it pertains. Each accusation matter referred is counted in the fiscal year it is received. Multiple accusation matters may be consolidated, amended into, and combined into one accusation signed by a client.

(a)(2) The number of accusation matters rejected for filing by the Attorney General.

Rejected for filing describes the determination, made by a deputy attorney general with a supervisor's approval, that an accusation should not be filed. An accusation can be rejected for many reasons, including: (1) the evidence submitted is insufficient to meet the burden of proof to sustain a cause for discipline under the agency's applicable practice act; (2) the events in question are not within the statute of limitations; and (3) disciplinary action is not supported by law or public policy. When prosecution is declined, the investigative file is returned to the client agency and the case is closed in the Office of the Attorney General.

A rejection for filing during the reporting period is counted once for each respondent to which the rejection pertains, without regard to the number of investigations referred to the Office of the Attorney General for consideration.

(a)(3) The number of accusation matters for which further investigation was requested by the Attorney General.

Further investigation requested describes an instance in which a deputy attorney general determines that the evidence in the investigation is insufficient to meet the burden of proof, but that there are avenues available to augment the evidence and support a cause for discipline under the agency's applicable practice act. With supervisory approval, the deputy may request further investigation from the agency, the Division of Investigation, or internally at the Office of the Attorney General. When further investigation is requested in a matter handled by the Licensing Section, the file remains open pending receipt of supplemental investigation and is documented accordingly. In the Health Quality Enforcement Section, the file is returned to the client agency and the matter is closed. The file is reopened if the matter is rereferred to the Office of the Attorney General with additional evidence.

Each request for further investigation made during the reporting period is counted in each matter, and is not necessarily associated with the number of referrals received in the matter, or the number of respondents to which the further investigation may pertain. There may be only one request for further investigation in a matter that contains more than one respondent or more than one investigation. There may also be more than one further investigation request made pertaining to a single respondent in a matter with only one referral.

(a)(4) The number of accusation matters for which further investigation was received by the Attorney General.

Further investigation received describes the additional investigation received as a result of further investigation requested, as described above. Very rarely will an agency refer a matter back to the Office of the Attorney General with an *additional* investigation and request reconsideration of a previous decision not to prosecute (i.e., rejection). If the matter is accepted for prosecution, this is also recorded as further investigation received. *Additional investigation received* is distinguished from a *new* referral of an accusation matter from a client agency, which is counted in subdivision (a)(1), but is not counted in (a)(4).

Each supplemental investigation received during the reporting period is counted in each matter and is not necessarily associated with the number of referrals received in the matter or the number of respondents to which the further investigation may pertain.

(a)(5) The number of accusations filed by each constituent entity.

Accusation means the initial accusation filed in a matter to initiate proceedings to revoke or suspend a license against one or more respondents, and any subsequent amended accusation filed in the matter. Accusations may be amended during the pendency of a case for a variety of reasons, most commonly because the client agency refers an additional investigation of a new complaint and the accusation is amended to add new causes for discipline based on the new investigation. *Filed* means the accusation or amended accusation is signed by the agency's designee, known as the complainant, who is usually the executive officer or executive director of the agency. The accusation is filed on the date the document is signed.

Each accusation or amended accusation filed during the reporting period is counted and reported under subdivision (a)(5).

(a)(6) The number of accusations a constituent entity withdraws.

On occasion, the complainant *withdraws* the accusation after it has been filed, terminating the prosecution of the accusation matter. A common reason for an accusation to be withdrawn is the death of the respondent against whom the accusation is filed. In other cases, the evidentiary basis for the matter may change during litigation, evidence received from a respondent in the course of discovery may lead to re-evaluation of the merits of the case, or the client agency may direct the complainant to withdraw the accusation after a board vote.

A withdrawal of an accusation is counted once for each respondent named in an accusation.

(a)(7) The number of accusation matters adjudicated by the Attorney General.

Adjudication means that the work of the Office of the Attorney General has been completed and the case will be brought before the agency's decision maker for its final decision. There are four types of adjudicative events: (1) a default decision and order is prepared and sent to the agency because a respondent did not file a notice of defense or failed to appear at a duly noticed administrative hearing;

(2) a stipulated settlement is signed by a respondent and sent to the agency, which considers the acceptance of the disposition of the matter for that respondent; (3) the submission of the case at the conclusion of an administrative hearing to an administrative law judge to prepare a proposed decision, and the decision is sent to the agency for its consideration; and (4) withdrawal of an accusation by the complainant, which terminates the matter. An adjudicative event for each respondent named in an accusation is necessary before the matter is fully adjudicated. Every adjudicative event that occurs during the reporting period is counted.

Multiple adjudicative events can also occur in cases with only a single respondent. This happens when an agency does not accept a stipulated settlement, does not adopt a proposed decision submitted by an administrative law judge, grants reconsideration of its decision, or when a superior court judge remands the matter to the agency for further consideration and the Attorney General's Office reopens the matter for additional handling consistent with the court order.

(b)(1) The average number of days from the Attorney General receiving an accusation referral to when an accusation is filed by the constituent entity.

The date that each accusation referral is received in the Office of the Attorney General is documented. The calculation of the average reported for subdivision (b)(1) begins on the date of receipt of the first accusation referral in each matter and ends on the date the complainant signs the initial accusation. Amended accusations received after the client agency's initial referral are not included in the average.

(b)(2) The average number of days to prepare an accusation for a case that is rereferred to the Attorney General after further investigation is received by the Attorney General from a constituent entity or the Division of Investigation.

Prepare an accusation in subdivision (b)(2) is different from *filing an accusation* in subdivision (b)(1). An accusation is *prepared* (i.e., the preparation is based on a deputy attorney general's familiarization with the technical subject matter issues, thorough review of the evidence and expert reports to determine chargeable causes for discipline, then drafting, and supervisory review of the accusation) by the assigned deputy and then sent to the complainant at the agency to be reviewed, approved, and signed.

Rereferred means the date when supplemental investigation has been received by the Office of the Attorney General in response to a request for further investigation, or, in rare cases, following rejection of an accusation matter.

The calculation of the average reported for subdivision (b)(2) begins on the date each initial accusation referral was received in the Office of the Attorney General – including time for initial review of the matter, request for further investigation, further investigation conducted, receipt of the supplemental investigation by the Office of the Attorney General from the agency, re-review by the deputy, and the deputy preparing the accusation – and ends on the date the deputy sends the prepared accusation to the complainant for review and filing in each matter. The average may also include the review of additional referrals received while further investigation is being conducted on the initial referral.

Notably, the matters that required further investigation before preparation of an accusation reported in subdivision (b)(2) are included in the average number of days to file accusations reported in subdivision (b)(1). As a consequence, delays in *preparing* accusations for cases that required further investigation generally will increase the average number of days to *file* the agency's accusations (reported in subdivision (b)(1)).

(b)(3) The average number of days from an agency filing an accusation to the Attorney General transmitting a stipulated settlement to the constituent entity.

Settlements are negotiated according to authorization provided by the complainant based on the agency's published disciplinary guidelines. A stipulated settlement is provided to the agency's decision maker who decides whether to accept the settlement as its disposition of the case against the respondent.

The calculation of the average reported for subdivision (b)(3) begins on the date of filing for the initial accusation in each matter, and ends on the date the stipulated settlement for each respondent is sent to the agency for its consideration.

(b)(4) The average number of days from an agency filing an accusation to the Attorney General transmitting a default decision to the constituent entity.

If a respondent fails to send a notice of defense to the assigned deputy attorney general or agency within 15 days after service of the accusation, or fails to appear at a duly noticed administrative hearing on the accusation, the respondent is in default. The agency can opt to present the case to an administrative law judge without participation by the respondent, who has defaulted. However, most often the agency requests that the deputy prepare a default decision and order for the agency's decision maker to consider issuing as its final decision against the respondent. Many agencies have delegated authority to their executive officers to adopt default decisions as a matter of course, without consideration by the board itself.

The calculation of the average reported for subdivision (b)(4) begins on the date each initial accusation in a matter is filed, and ends on the date of transmission of the default decision and order to the agency for each respondent.

(b)(5) The average number of days from an agency filing an accusation to the Attorney General requesting a hearing date from the Office of Administrative Hearings.

After a notice of defense has been received from each respondent named in an accusation, the deputy attorney general assigned to the matter is responsible for coordinating with opposing counsel, unrepresented respondents, prosecution witnesses, and the Office of Administrative Hearings to determine a hearing date when everyone is available. The deputy attorney general prepares a request to set the hearing based on this coordination and sends it to the Office of Administrative Hearings to calendar the hearing.

The calculation of the average reported for subdivision (b)(5) begins on the date the initial accusation in each matter is filed, and ends on the date the request to set a hearing is sent to the Office of Administrative Hearings. Infrequently, a request to set a hearing is done more than once in a case,

usually because a continuance has been granted. Only the first request to set a hearing in a case is included in calculating the average.

(b)(6) The average number of days from the Attorney General's receipt of a hearing date from the Office of Administrative Hearings to the commencement of a hearing.

When the Office of Administrative Hearings receives the request to set hearing sent by the deputy attorney general, the hearing date is set on its calendar and the parties are informed of the hearing date. Unless an intervening motion for a continuance is granted by an administrative law judge, the hearing will commence on that date and, depending on the length of the hearing and intervening factors, may conclude on the same day or at a later date.

The calculation of the average reported for subdivision (b)(6) begins on the date the deputy attorney general receives notice from the Office of Administrative Hearings that the hearing date has been set, and ends on the date the hearing actually commences. When motions to continue hearings are granted, the commencement of hearings are delayed, and the average number of days will increase as a consequence.

METHODOLOGY

Case Management System

This report is based on data entered by legal professionals in ProLaw, the case management system of the Office of the Attorney General. Each matter received from a client by the Licensing Section and the Health Quality Enforcement Section is opened in this system. Rules for data entry have been created by the sections and are managed by the Case Management Section of the Office of the Attorney General, which dictates the definitions, dating, entry, and documentation for each data point. Section-specific protocols, business processes, and uniform standards across all professionals responsible for data entry ensure the consistency, veracity, and quality of the reported data. The data entered has been verified to comply with established standards. The data markers in administrative cases have been used to generate the counts and averages in this report. Every effort has been made to report data in a transparent, accurate, and verifiable manner. The Office of the Attorney General continues to improve its technology, systems, and protocols, and to integrate these improvements into its business routines and operations.

Data Presentation

The information required to be reported by Business and Professions Code section 312.2 has been organized separately for each constituent entity in the Department of Consumer Affairs represented by the Licensing Section and the Health Quality Enforcement Section of the Office of the Attorney General.

Each entry includes the number and types of licenses issued by the agency, which were taken from the 2022 Annual Report of the California Department of Consumer Affairs, containing data from Fiscal Year 2021-22, or otherwise verified by the licensing agency. The report can be found online at: www.dca.ca.gov/publications/annual_reports.shtml.

Each client agency is unique and should not be compared to others. The following DCA website contains links for further information: www.dca.ca.gov/about_us/entities.shtml.

Any applicable statute of limitations has been included for each client agency's entry, as well as the frequency of agency accusations naming more than one respondent.

Table 1 on the entry for each agency provides the *counts* for various aspects of accusation matters as requested under subdivision (a) of Business and Professions Code section 312.2, such as the number of accusation referrals received and the number of accusations filed [subds. (a)(1) and (a)(5)]. The numbers listed are related to the number of captured events and do not reflect distinct accusation matters or respondents.

Table 2 provides metrics required under Business and Professions Code subdivision (b) of section 312.2, which are based on accusation matters adjudicated during the year as reported under subdivision (a)(7). We have included the mean, median, standard deviation, and number of values in the data set. The average expresses the central or typical value in a set of data, which is most commonly known as the arithmetic mean. The central value in an ordered set of data is the median. Compared to the median, the mean is more sensitive to extreme values, or *outliers*, and the number of values. When the mean and median are nearly equivalent, that is a likely indicator that there are few extreme values in the data set. However, when there is a large difference between the mean and median, it is likely that extreme values are skewing the data. The standard deviation (SD) for a data set reflects dispersion. A low SD indicates that data points tend to be close to the mean, while a high SD indicates that data points are spread out over a wider range of values.

The individual client agency entries that follow have been organized in alphabetical order for convenience.

OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

The Osteopathic Medical Board of California regulated 15,583 licenses and permits in Fiscal Year 2021-22, with two types of licenses — Osteopathic Physician and Surgeon, and Postgraduate Training License. Complaints received by the board are investigated by the Department of Consumer Affairs Division of Investigation, Health Quality Investigation Unit. The statute of limitations to file an accusation is generally three years from discovery of the act or omission charged in the accusation.

The tables below show data for Fiscal Year 2022-23.

Table 1 – Business and Professions Code Section 312.2, Subdivision (a)	
Number of –	Count
(1) accusation matters referred to the Attorney General.	23
(2) accusation matters rejected for filing by the Attorney General.	0
(3) accusation matters for which further investigation was requested by the Attorney General.	4
(4) accusation matters for which further investigation was received by the Attorney General.	7
(5) accusations filed.	22
(6) accusations withdrawn.	2
(7) accusation matters adjudicated by the Attorney General.	22

Table 2 is based on the adjudicated accusation matters reported under Business and Professions Code section 312.2, subdivision (a)(7) in Table 1.

Table 2 – Business and Professions Code Section 312.2, Subdivision (b)				
Average number of days for adjudicated accusation matters –	Mean	Median	SD	Count
(1) from receipt of referral by the Attorney General to when an accusation is filed.	101	62	126	22
(2) to prepare an accusation for a case that is rereferred to the Attorney General after further investigation is received.	299	294	212	3
(3) from the filing of an accusation to when a stipulated settlement is sent to the agency.	307	258	138	16
(4) from the filing of an accusation to when a default decision is sent to the agency.	88	70	46	3
(5) from the filing of an accusation to the Attorney General requesting a hearing date.	164	118	106	9
(6) from the Attorney General's receipt of a hearing date to the commencement of a hearing.	313	313	0	1

CONCLUSION

This is the seventh annual report by the Office of the Attorney General pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 312.2, which became effective on January 1, 2016. The Attorney General's Annual Reports on Accusations Prosecuted for Department of Consumer Affairs Client Agencies, including the prior six reports, are available on the Attorney General's website oag.ca.gov/publications.

We anticipate that this historical accumulation of reports will continue to facilitate collaboration among the Office of the Attorney General, Office of Administrative Hearings, and Department of Consumer Affairs, all of which join in responsibility for protection of the public through efficiency in adjudicating accusation matters. If you have any questions regarding this report, or if you would like additional information, please contact Jonathan L. Wolff, Chief Assistant Attorney General, at (415) 510-3749.

APPENDIX

Business and Professions Code section 312.2 states:

- (a) The Attorney General shall submit a report to the department, the Governor, and the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature on or before January 1, 2018, and on or before January 1 of each subsequent year that includes, at a minimum, all of the following for the previous fiscal year for each constituent entity within the department represented by the Licensing Section and Health Quality Enforcement Section of the Office of the Attorney General:
 - (1) The number of accusation matters referred to the Attorney General.
 - (2) The number of accusation matters rejected for filing by the Attorney General.
 - (3) The number of accusation matters for which further investigation was requested by the Attorney General.
 - (4) The number of accusation matters for which further investigation was received by the Attorney General.
 - (5) The number of accusations filed by each constituent entity.
 - (6) The number of accusations a constituent entity withdraws.
 - (7) The number of accusation matters adjudicated by the Attorney General.
- (b) The Attorney General shall also report all of the following for accusation matters adjudicated within the previous fiscal year for each constituent entity of the department represented by the Licensing Section and Health Quality Enforcement Section:
 - (1) The average number of days from the Attorney General receiving an accusation referral to when an accusation is filed by the constituent entity.
 - (2) The average number of days to prepare an accusation for a case that is rereferred to the Attorney General after further investigation is received by the Attorney General from a constituent entity or the Division of Investigation.
 - (3) The average number of days from an agency filing an accusation to the Attorney General transmitting a stipulated settlement to the constituent entity.
 - (4) The average number of days from an agency filing an accusation to the Attorney General transmitting a default decision to the constituent entity.
 - (5) The average number of days from an agency filing an accusation to the Attorney General requesting a hearing date from the Office of Administrative Hearings.

- (6) The average number of days from the Attorney General's receipt of a hearing date from the Office of Administrative Hearings to the commencement of a hearing.
- (c) A report to be submitted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.