



TO: Candidates participating in the ABPS Examination and Certification process  
FROM: Keith E. Brandt, M.D., Executive Director  
SUBJECT: ABPS Code of Ethics and Standards of Ethical Behavior  
DATE: August 2025

---

The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc. is committed to upholding its mission to promote safe, ethical, efficacious plastic surgery to the public by maintaining high standards for the education, examination, certification, and continuous certification of plastic surgeons as specialists and subspecialists. The Board requests that you read the ABPS Code of Ethics and Professionalism, which is available on the Board's website, [ABPS Code of Ethics and Professionalism](#).

The Officers and Directors of the Board call your attention to the pledge required of all candidates at the time of initial application for examination and certification in plastic surgery. Your completed application will be available on your Written Exam tab on the Board's website. The pledge reads:

I HEREBY make application to The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc. (the Board) for examination leading to the issuance to me of a Certificate of Qualifications as a Specialist in Plastic Surgery, all in accordance with and subject to the Board's rules regulations and policies, including the dispute resolution and appeal policy. I enclose the Registration Fee. I HEREBY agree to submit the additional Examination Fees as stated in the Booklet of Information. I HEREBY agree that prior or subsequent to examination the Board may investigate my standing and reputation as a physician, including my reputation for complying with the standards of ethics of the profession.

**I understand and agree that:**

(1) falsification of any part of the Application or of my Resident Registration and Evaluation of Training Form; or (2) the submission of any falsified documents or information to the Board; or (3) the use of any falsified Board documents or the submission of any such documents to other persons; or (4) the giving or receiving of aid in the examinations as evidenced either by observation at the time of the examination or by analysis of my answers and those of one or more other participants in that examination; or (5) the unauthorized possession, reproduction, or disclosure of any material, including, but not limited to examination questions or answers before, during, or after the examination; or (6) the offer of any financial or other benefit to any director, officer, employee, proctor, or other agent or representative of the Board in return for any right, privilege or benefit which is not usually granted by the Board to other similarly situated candidates or persons; or (7) the failure to maintain the moral, ethical and professional standing satisfactory to the ABPS and the failure to agree to participate in the dispute resolution and appeal policy of ABPS, may be sufficient cause for the Board to bar me permanently from all future examinations, to terminate my participation in the examination, to invalidate the results of my examination, to withhold my scores or Certificate, to revoke my Certificate, and/or to take other appropriate action.



I HEREBY pledge myself to the highest ethical standards in the practice of medicine and Plastic Surgery and am in good ethical standing in my community. I understand and agree that in the consideration of my application my ethical and professional qualifications will be reviewed and assessed by the Board; that the Board may make inquiry of the persons named in my application and of such other persons as the Board deems appropriate with respect to my ethical and professional qualifications; that if information is received which could adversely affect my application, I will be so advised and given an opportunity to rebut such allegations, but I will not be advised as to the identity of the individuals who have furnished adverse information concerning me; and that all statements and other information furnished to the Board in connection with such inquiry, my application or my admissibility to the examinations shall be confidential, and not subject to examination by me or by anyone acting on my behalf.

#### **Examination Security Reminder:**

Candidates must also agree not to divulge any questions or content of any ABPS examination to any individual or entity during the application process (as noted above) and at the testing center. Candidates agree that a violation of the Confidentiality Agreement can result in the Board seeking, in a court of law, the recovery of costs and civil damages, which could be substantial, as well as other actions by the Board. It is of great importance for the Board to ensure the confidentiality of all Examination content and to promote a culture of ethical behavior by its candidates and diplomates.