



ABPS CODE OF ETHICS

Section 1. Preamble

The Board requires the ethical behavior of candidates, diplomates, directors, advisory council members, examiners, consultant question writers and directors of the Board in fulfilling their professional responsibilities to patients, colleagues, and the public. Unethical or illegal physician behavior that comes to the attention of the Board through external or internal sources will be subject to review and judgment about compliance with these standards. If a violation has been judged to occur, then the individual will be afforded the benefit of the appeals process of the Board. With the exception of private letters of reprimand, disciplinary actions of the Board, including delay in progression through the examination process, suspension or revocation of certification will be placed in the public domain and will not be maintained in confidence.

Diplomates (or candidates, where applicable) of the Board are expected to act in accord with the *General and Specific Principles of the Code of Ethics* in all contacts with patients, peers and the general public. Further, candidates and diplomates are individually responsible and accountable for their actions and words, as well as the use of their names by any individual or entity. Candidates and diplomates shall be subject to disciplinary action if their words, deeds or actions are deemed not in accord with these principles.

I. The essential purposes of the Board are:

The purposes for which The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc.® was founded and for which this Board is organized are:

- A. To establish requirements for the qualification of applicants who request a certificate of their knowledge in the field of plastic surgery in its broadest sense.
- B. To conduct qualifying examinations of approved candidates who seek certification by the Board.
- C. To issue certificates of qualification to those who meet the Board's requirements and pass the respective examinations.
- D. To protect the independence and integrity of the Board.
- E. To do and engage in any and all lawful activities that may be incidental or reasonably related to any of the foregoing purposes, and to have and exercise all powers and authority now or hereafter conferred upon not for profit corporations under the laws of the State of Illinois.

The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc.®



II. The mission statement of the Board:

The mission of The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc. is to promote safe, ethical, efficacious plastic surgery to the public by maintaining high standards for the education, examination, certification and maintenance of certification of plastic surgeons as specialists and subspecialists.

Section 2. General Principles

- I. The principal objective of the medical profession is to render services to humanity with full respect for human dignity. Physicians should merit the confidence of patients entrusted to their care, rendering to each a full measure of service and devotion.
- II. Physicians should strive continually to improve medical knowledge and skill, and must make available to their patients and colleagues the benefits of their professional attainments. Physicians have an affirmative duty to disclose new medical advances to patients and colleagues.
- III. The honored ideals of the medical profession imply that the responsibilities of the physician extend not only to the individual but also to society. Activities, which have the purpose of improving both the health and well being of the individual and the community, deserve the interest and participation of the physician.
- IV. Surgeons are expected to provide competent and scientifically sound medical and surgical services with compassion and respect for human dignity as well as the rights and privacy of their patients.

Section 3. Specific Principles

Preamble

Candidates applying for examination or diplomates participating in the Maintenance of Certification program of The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc.® pledge themselves to the highest ethical standards in the practice of medicine and plastic surgery and attest that they are in good ethical standing in their community. Candidates and diplomates also attest that they understand and agree that in the consideration of their application that their ethical and professional qualifications will be reviewed and assessed by the Board; that the Board may make inquiry of the persons named in the application and of such other persons as the Board deems appropriate with respect to their ethical and professional qualifications; that if information is received which could adversely affect the application, they will not be advised as to the identity of the individuals who have furnished adverse information concerning the candidate or diplomate. All statements and other information furnished to the Board in connection with such inquiry, the application or a candidate's or diplomate's admissibility to the examinations shall be confidential and not subject to examination by the candidate or by anyone acting on the candidate's behalf.



Section 3. Specific Principles, continued

- I. Candidates applying for examination or diplomates participating in the Maintenance of Certification program of The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc.® attest by signature on the Application that they understand and agree that:
 - A. The failure to maintain the moral, ethical and professional standing satisfactory to the ABPS; and
 - B. The falsification of any part of the Application or the Resident Registration and Evaluation of Training Form; or
 - C. The submission of any falsified documents or untruthful information to the Board; or
 - D. The use of any falsified Board documents or the submission of any such documents to other persons or entities; or
 - E. The giving or receiving of aid in the examinations as evidenced either by observation at the time of the examination or by analysis of answers; or
 - F. 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
 - G. 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
 - H. The failure to voluntarily participate in any Board investigation or to respond to any written inquiry from the Board; or
 - I. The failure to establish an appropriate physician-patient relationship in preoperative and postoperative evaluation and obtain an informed consent prior to a surgical procedure;

May be sufficient cause for the Board to bar the candidate or diplomate permanently from all future examinations, to terminate the candidate's or diplomate's participation in the examination, to invalidate the results of the candidate's or diplomate's examination, to withhold the candidate's or diplomate's scores or certificate, to revoke the diplomate's certification or to take other appropriate actions.



Section 3. Specific Principles, continued

- II. Any diplomate (or candidate, where applicable) of the Board will be subject to review by the Ethics Committee and the Board and/or disciplinary action including suspension and revocation of certification if at any time the Board determines, in its sole judgment, that the diplomate holding the certificate was not properly qualified to receive it, or for other just and sufficient reasons, including, but not limited to:
- A. The diplomate or candidate did not possess the necessary qualifications and requirements to receive the certificate at the time it was issued;
 - B. The diplomate or candidate possesses character deficiencies or evidences unethical behavior including but not limited to false, fraudulent or deceptive communications that fail to maintain the dignity and professionalism appropriate to a plastic surgeon certified by The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc;
 - C. The diplomate or candidate was convicted of a felony;
 - D. The diplomate or candidate misrepresented his or her status with regard to Board Certification, including any misstatement of fact about being Board Certified in any specialty or subspecialty;
 - E. The diplomate or candidate engaged in conduct resulting in discipline by any medical licensing authority or in a revocation, suspension qualification or other limitation of his or her license to practice medicine in any jurisdiction;
 - F. The diplomate or candidate engaged in conduct resulting in the expulsion, suspension, disqualification or other limitation from membership in a hospital or in a local, regional, national or other organization of his or her professional peers;
 - G. The diplomate or candidate resigns from any organization while under investigation by that organization for unethical behavior;
 - H. The diplomate or candidate fails to inform the Board in a timely manner that the individual's right to practice medicine has been limited, suspended, terminated, or otherwise affected in any state, province, or country for violation of a medical practice act, other statute or governmental regulation or, the candidate or diplomate has been disciplined by any medical licensing authority, professional organization or by a plastic surgery specialty society;



Section 3. II Specific Principles, continued

- I. The diplomate or candidate fails to approve all advertisements before dissemination or transmission and to retain a copy or record of all such advertisements in their entirety for one year after its dissemination. The candidate or diplomate shall be held personally responsible for any violation of the ABPS Code of Ethics incurred by a public relations, advertising or similar firm which he or she retains, or any entity that advertises on the candidate's or diplomate's behalf;
- J. The diplomate or candidate fails to respond to or comply fully and openly with requests for information from the Board.

Section 4. Enforcement

Any candidate, diplomate, board director, examiner, advisory council member or consultant question writer charged with a violation of any ethical standard established by the Board herein may be subject to review by the Ethics Committee and the full Board and disciplinary measures, as defined by The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc. including revocation of certification.

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