

American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc.®



DISCIPLINE POLICY

Any Diplomate of the Board shall be subject to disciplinary action including certificate revocation or suspension if at any time the Board determines, in its sole judgment that the Diplomate holding the certificate was in some respects not properly qualified to receive it or the Diplomate holding the certificate is no longer qualified to retain it.

REASONS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The Board may discipline a Diplomate for just and sufficient reason including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Violation of the Board's Code of Ethics
2. Conviction of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude
3. The Diplomate did not possess the necessary qualifications and/or meet the Board's requirements to receive the certificate at the time it was issued;
4. The Diplomate misrepresented his or her status with regard to Board certification, including any misstatement of fact about being Board certified in any specialty or subspecialty;
5. The Diplomate engaged in conduct resulting in any discipline by any credentialing body and/or by any medical licensing authority or in a revocation, suspension, qualification and/or other limitation of his or her license to practice medicine in any jurisdiction;
6. The Diplomate engaged in conduct resulting in the expulsion, suspension, disqualification and/or any other limitation from membership in a local, regional, national or other organization of his or her professional peers, or from a hospital staff.
7. Resignation from any organization while under investigation.

The Board may impose, without limitation, any or all of the following sanctions. This list is not intended to be exhaustive of the possible sanctions the Board may impose.

1. Revocation of Certification
2. Suspension of Certification

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3. Delayed admissibility to any of the examination processes of the Board.
4. Private Letter of Inquiry and/or reprimand.

The Diplomate will be given written notice of the reasons for the Board's action by registered or certified mail to the last address that the holder has provided to the Board. Discipline is final upon the mailing of the notification.

Individuals may appeal the decision imposing discipline by complying with the Appeals Policy. Failure to appeal the Board decision imposing discipline within 60 days will result in loss of appeal rights. An individual must prove that the decision being appealed was arbitrary and capricious and that there was no material basis for the decision or that there was a complete absence of facts to support the Board decision imposing discipline.

SUSPENSION

The Board may suspend ABPS certificates if a diplomate's medical license is suspended in any state. The Board adopted the specific Certification Suspension Policy within the Discipline Policy and includes the following:

- Certificate suspension may run concurrent with state suspension;
- "Suspended" Certification status will be reported on the ABPS website;
- It is the diplomate's responsibility to report when state medical license is reinstated;
- The diplomate must continue MOC participation under the Special Circumstances Policy*

*Lifetime certificate holders are not required to participate in MOC, but "suspended" status will be reported on the ABPS website. If a Lifetime certificate holder is suspended for two years or more, then the Re-Entry process is required to regain active certification. Failure to complete the Re-Entry process will result in continued suspended status.

A Diplomate with a suspended certificate may request reinstatement of a suspended certificate by providing documentation to the Board that the prior state medical license action has been removed.

REVOCAION

The Board may revoke ABPS certificates if a diplomate's medical license is revoked in any state. The Board adopted the following Revocation policy within the discipline policy in 1999.

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A Diplomate with a revoked certificate may request reinstatement once they have established a full and unrestricted license in all the states in which they are licensed. If the diplomate's certificate has been revoked for more than two years they must complete the Re-Entry process. The Board will consider reinstatement after completion of the Re-Entry process and receipt of documentation confirming a full and unrestricted license. The diplomate must then enter the Maintenance of Certification in Plastic Surgery process

REPORTING STATE MEDICAL BOARD ACTION TO THE PUBLIC

Consumers may verify certification history and certification status through the consumer search function (*Is Your Plastic Surgeon ABPS Certified?*) on the Board's website.

If the ABPS has information of a state medical board action against a diplomate's medical license, this information will be reported to the public. A "has license action" alert will be added to the diplomate's certification status. Consumers may also be directed to the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) to obtain additional information regarding the state medical board action.

DEFINITIONS OF ABPS BOARD CERTIFICATION STATUS

CERTIFIED: Diplomate has met the Board's residency training requirements in an accredited institution in the U.S. or Canada and the Diplomate successfully completed both Written and Oral examinations in plastic surgery. To maintain ABPS Board certification, the diplomate must complete professionalism requirements, self-assessment activities, practice improvement activities and an examination every 10 years as required by the Maintenance of Certification program.

EXPIRED: Certification has lapsed. The diplomate has not met the requirements to continue certification.

RETIRED: Diplomate is no longer in the active practice of plastic surgery.

REVOKED: Certification is no longer valid due to action taken by the ABPS.

SUSPENDED: Certification is suspended due to suspension of medical license by a state medical board. Length of certificate suspension may be concurrent with medical license suspension.

LICENSE ACTION: A State Medical Board has taken disciplinary action against the diplomate's medical license. Consumers are advised to contact the individual state medical board for details via the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) service, www.docinfo.org.

Approved as Revocation Policy November 12, 1999

Revised as Discipline Policy May 2007

Revised November 2015; November 2016 final 11-29-16