

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE

POLICY 92-001\*  
(Amended May 8, 2013)

ISSUANCE OF PRESS RELEASES

The Board of Registration in Medicine's mission is to serve the public by ensuring that only qualified physicians are licensed to practice medicine and to support an environment which maximizes the high quality of health care in the Commonwealth. The Board considers the responsibility of informing the public when it takes certain actions against a physician to be a critical part of its mission. At the same time, the Board is cognizant of the need to not unnecessarily harm a physician's reputation. In seeking a balance, the Board has adopted the following policy of informing the press about its actions:

- The Board will issue a press release when it imposes final disciplinary action.
- The Board will issue a press release when there is a Summary Suspension only at the time of the initial Board vote.
- The Board retains the right to issue a press release on matters other than final disciplinary action.
- Press releases will be in a simple format that will state any findings and sanction, and provide some information about the practitioner's practice location (city or town) and specialty. The press release will not diverge significantly from the language found in the Board's final decision.
- The Executive Director, or designee, and an officer of the Board, or designee, will review all press releases prior to release.
- The Board may waive the issuance of a press release in extraordinary circumstances as determined by the Board.

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\* Policy 92-01 was initially adopted on 7/22/1992. It was amended on 12/2/1992; 11/20/1996 and 6/20/2012.