COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE

POLICY 2022-02

POLICY ON DECEASED PHYSICIANS

January 20, 2022

The Board of Registration in Medicine (Board) hereby adopts this policy in order to implement efficient and consistent procedures upon receipt of primary source documentation that a licensed physician has died.

For purposes of this policy, primary source documentation shall include a death certificate from the Massachusetts Registry of Vital Statistics or comparable government agency in another state. It shall also include information received through a data exchange between the Board and the Registry of Vital Statistics and between the Board and the Social Security Administration.

Upon primary source documentation that a licensed physician has died, the board authorizes staff to:

1. Update the physician’s license status to “Deceased.”
2. Remove the physician’s profile from the publicly accessible profile website in accordance with GL c112, s5, paragraph 7.
3. Close any pending investigation against the deceased physician.
4. Issue an order dismissing any pending Statement of Allegations against the deceased physician.
5. Issue an order terminating any pending Agreement between the Board and the Physician.

In the event that a pending investigation, complaint or Statement of Allegations arises from a consumer complaint, board staff shall also provide notice to the complainant that the matter has been closed or dismissed. The notice shall inform the complainant that the closure or dismissal of the matter is due to the death of the physician and is not a reflection of the merits of the matter.

Actions taken to close or dismiss any investigation, complaint or Statement of Allegations pursuant to this policy shall not serve as precedent with respect to the facts alleged in the investigation, complaint or statement of allegations. The final decision and order dismissing a Statement of Allegations pursuant to this policy shall state that the reason for dismissal is the death of the Respondent.