



## ABP Corporate Policy Misrepresenting Board Status

### INDIVIDUALS POSING AS BEING CERTIFIED BY THE ABP

The following steps will be taken if the ABP becomes aware of an individual claiming to be certified by the ABP in any specialty or subspecialty when the record cannot support the claim:

1. Obtain evidence from the individual(s) and/or entity(-ies) to whom the individual claimed to be certified.
2. Credentials Committee will review the materials cited in #1 above. If the Credentials Committee determines the individual has, either directly or indirectly, falsely claimed to be certified the individual may be subject to the ABP's Disciplinary Policy at the Credentials Committee's discretion.
3. The individual will be informed by letter (return receipt requested) and, if appropriate, given the opportunity for an appeal as described in the ABP's Appellate Review Procedure.
4. The State Licensing Board may be notified of any actions taken against individuals once the individual is informed. In certain instances, the Credentials Committee may choose to notify other relevant organizations such as credentialing bodies, hospitals, and managed care organizations of any action taken against an individual.
5. Other circumstances will be handled on an individual basis, including the option of directing the ABP lawyer to make a demand against the individual and/or assert a legal claim.

### BOARD STATUS: TIME-LIMITED ELIGIBILITY, "BOARD ELIGIBLE"

The ABP's Time-Limited Eligibility for Initial Certification Examinations policy establishes a 7-year limit to the time that can elapse between a pediatrician's completion of training and achievement of certification. Once the 7-year period of eligibility ends, an applicant for certification must complete an additional period of supervised practice in order to regain eligibility to apply for certification.

**Following expiration of the time limit period, a candidate must cease and desist from making any representation of board eligibility.** Any violation of this rule is considered a breach of ethical standards of medical practice and may subject the individual to ABP's Disciplinary Policy.

A candidate's eligibility for board certification does not equate with acceptance for an examination. Acceptance to take an examination requires the review of an individual's credentials by the ABP, which does not occur until a formal application is submitted. Candidates who require documentation of their eligibility for board certification may submit a signed release form and the ABP will provide a letter stating the individual's certification status; if an application for an initial certifying exam has been submitted; if an acceptance to take an initial certifying exam has been granted and when that acceptance expires.

If an individual has not yet applied for the examination, the ABP will be unable to verify satisfactory



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completion of training and suggests individuals seek this verification from the general pediatrics or subspecialty fellowship training program they completed.

If an inquiry is made to the ABP regarding the status of an individual, the response will be only whether the individual is or is not certified. Upon receipt of a signed ABP release form from the candidate, information may be released regarding the individual's certification history and whether an individual's application to take a general or subspecialty certifying exam was accepted and when the acceptance expires.