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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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## CBPL Clarifies Investigative Process & Medical Board Meeting Agenda

**Monday, November 15, 2021 (Juneau, AK)** – Recent news media have generated dozens of letters to the State Medical Board regarding COVID-19 treatment practices. The Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing (CBPL) – in partnership with the State Medical Board – is issuing this informational statement to clarify processes and expectations surrounding the board’s investigations and upcoming meeting this Friday, November 19.

Licensing boards may only act on violations of state laws. They adhere to the Administrative Procedures Act in receiving, investigating, and responding to allegations of practice that may fall short of Alaska statutes and regulations. Every case is deliberated individually. Given the context of current COVID-19 treatment concerns, it is important to note current state law under AS 08.64 regarding the practices of providers licensed by the State Medical Board; particularly the grounds for imposition of disciplinary sanctions under AS 08.64.326.

The investigative process utilized by all licensing boards is posted on [CBPL's Investigations website](#). While boards welcome comments on jurisdictional matters from the public, details of investigations are not made available to the public until a final determination of the board, after an investigation, has been conducted. Additionally, CBPL cannot launch an investigation against a professional licensee without a complaint being filed against a specific provider or providers.

Each board takes complaints about potential violations of state statutes and regulations seriously. CBPL encourages anyone with complaints about medical practice to report them in detail to [investigations@alaska.gov](mailto:investigations@alaska.gov). Inquirers may initiate a complaint packet by requesting contact through the [CBPL Investigations website](#). If the division does not receive adequate information to pursue an investigation of a violation of state law, the board cannot take further action.

The State Medical Board is holding a regular meeting to address several agenda items this Friday, November 19. The board has set aside one hour for public comment during the meeting. The deadline to be included in this meeting packet or to register for public comment is 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 16. Registration for the meeting is required and has been posted on the [State Medical Board's website](#). The number of individuals who may wish to speak on this topic is not yet known, and speakers who wish to provide comments will be allotted an equitable segment of available time on the agenda unless it is impossible to hear from every person in the scheduled hour. Due to the heavy agenda and limited time available for members to conduct all necessary business

during the meeting, the board strongly encourages the public to submit written comments in place of speaking during the public comment period.

The board will continue to accept all comments from the public at [medicalboard@alaska.gov](mailto:medicalboard@alaska.gov). Correspondence received after the meeting deadline will be forwarded to the board after the meeting. The public comment period is designed for the board to actively listen; participants should not expect the board to respond to public comments during the meeting or to act on COVID-related complaints, investigations, or regulations at this meeting.

*The State Medical Board is housed within the Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing (CBPL), Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED). For more information on DCCED, visit [www.commerce.alaska.gov](http://www.commerce.alaska.gov). For more information on the State Medical Board, visit [www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/StateMedicalBoard](http://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/StateMedicalBoard). For more information on CBPL Investigations, visit [www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/Investigations](http://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/Investigations).*

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