



Alaska State Medical Board

Board News Bullets

Topic: "Informed Consent" Web Site Created by Senate Bill 30

Under the new provisions of a bill signed into law this past summer, physicians who terminate a pregnancy are required to direct patients to view information contained in a Web site. Sounds easy, doesn't it?

Unfortunately, the Web site does not yet exist. Now what? Obviously, until the Web site is completed and available for viewing, physicians cannot refer patients to something that doesn't exist. However, staff members at the Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Social Services, are working hard to complete the Web site.

For its part of the project, the medical board has sent a letter to all obstetrics and gynecology specialists in the state asking for volunteers to serve on a committee to approve the information displayed on the Web site. It is hoped the committee will be in place and schedule their first meeting by early December 2004. The Division of Public Health and the board are moving quickly to get the Web site information up and running so physicians can meet the requirements of law. After the committee has reviewed the Website information, regulations must be put forward for comment and approval—then the Website will be operational.

In addition to the creation of a new Web site of information, under Section 6 of the bill, physicians are also required to provide information to the state registrar regarding any induced termination of a pregnancy. The necessity to report is not new, as that has been a requirement of Alaska Statute 18.50.245 for some time now. What is different is that the new statute requires physicians report that patients have been provided a written copy of the information contained in the Web site, the Web site that is under construction.

Officially, representatives from the Department of Law have advised us that since the Web site is not available, this requirement of SB 30 cannot be met at this time. Accordingly, until the regulations are adopted and Web site is available, all that is required is that physicians continue to meet the requirements of AS 18.50.245 by submitting the required information related to the induced termination of pregnancy. As soon as the Web site is available, we have been advised that the Division of Public Health will provide a form to be used by physicians in providing the additional information as required by SB 30.

We will keep you posted here of future developments, and as always, you are welcome to contact our offices at any time.

Questions about the information contained in this Bullet?

Please contact the board's staff at 907/269-8163 or license@commerce.state.ak.us

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