



BoardNews

Bullets 6

Topic: Licensure is a Privilege, Not a Right

*"The credentialing system in the United States and Canada is based on the premise that the general public lacks the information and expertise necessary to determine by itself which practitioners in certain occupations and professions have the necessary qualifications and character to provide competent and trustworthy services."**

The Alaska State Medical Board takes seriously its authority to grant a license to practice medicine in this state. The licensing process is the means by which the board executes its mandate to protect the public.

The licensing process takes time; a permanent application with no issues or problems, is usually completed within eight weeks. A locum tenens application or a resident permit application will typically take a minimum of four weeks to complete.

The board urges employers, hospitals, and clinics to require that potential physicians whom you wish to employ have obtained their Alaska license **before** you make financial obligations in recruiting that physician. Please do not schedule patients until you see the license!

*Benjamin Shimberg, The Chauncey Group International, Lawrenceville, New Jersey, and Citizaen Advocacy Center, Washington DC, 2000

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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