

Alaska State Medical Board

Policies and Procedures

Applications and Licensing		Section 2
Subject:	<i>Applicant with Substance Abuse History</i>	
Implemented:	June 3, 1992	
Updated:	April 6, 2006; August 4, 2016	
<p><u>June 3, 1992</u> The board drafted the following guidelines for use when considering an application for licensure from an applicant with a history of chemical dependency or substance abuse.</p> <p>If an applicant has a license in another jurisdiction that is currently under probation or has other license restrictions that serve to monitor his/her substance abuse recovery program, that physician is automatically subject to conditions on his/her Alaska license. The license conditions will be based on the Alaska State Medical Board's standard memorandum of agreement (MOA) and will take into account the physician's treatment, subsequent recovery activities, and aftercare monitoring.</p> <p><u>April 6, 2006</u> Historically, the board's position is to require that an individual demonstrate a couple years of documented sobriety before they are given the opportunity to have their license restored under the terms of an MOA. Addiction is a compelling disorder and recovery is a long road. The board wants to see that record of recovery before they consider restoring the license, even under the conditions of an MOA. When the board decides to return a license, they include terms in the MOA such as a structured practice environment (for example, individuals with addiction problem should not be in solo practice, or in an area where there are no other practitioners.) The board wants to be sure that there are support resources available for the individual to stay sober and have the ability to document that to the board's satisfaction.</p> <p><u>August 4, 2016:</u> Applicants that have a history of substance abuse or DUI charges/convictions within the past five (5) years will be referred to the Alaska State Medical Association's Physician Health Program for evaluation and recommendation before the Board will consider the application. Applicants may also be required to appear for a full Board interview, at the discretion of the Board.</p>		