

Alaska State Medical Board
Board Issued Guidelines

Subject:	<i>Patient Neglect / Termination of Patient-Physician Relationship</i>
Implemented:	April 3-4, 1997
<p>The board adopted two sections from the AMA's Code of Medical Ethics, 4th Edition, as its position on patient abandonment:</p> <p>8.11 Neglect of Patient Physicians are free to choose whom they will serve. The physician should, however, respond to the best of his or her ability in cases of emergency where first-aid treatment is essential. Once having undertaken a case, the physician should not neglect the patient.</p> <p>8.115 Termination of the Physician/Patient Relationship Physicians have an obligation to support continuity of care for their patients. While physicians have the option of withdrawing from a case, they cannot do so without giving notice to the patient, the relatives, or responsible friends sufficiently long in advance of withdrawal to permit another medical attendant to be secured.</p>	