

North Carolina Medical Board Definitions

Annulment:

Retrospective and prospective cancellation of the practitioner's authorization to practice.

Conditions:

A term used to indicate restrictions, requirements, or limitations placed on the practitioner.

Consent Order:

An order of the Board stating an agreement between the Board and the practitioner regarding the annulment, revocation, suspension, or surrender of authorization to practice, or the conditions placed on authorization to practice, or other action taken by the Board relative to the practitioner. (A method for resolving a dispute without a formal hearing.)

Denial:

Decision denying an application for practice authorization or reconsideration of a Board action.

Dismissal:

Board action dismissing a contested case.

Inactive Medical License:

To be "active," a medical license must be registered on or near the physician's birthday each year. By not registering his or her license, the physician allows the license to become "inactive." The holder of an inactive license may not practice medicine in North Carolina. Licensees will often elect this status when they retire or do not intend to practice in the state. (Not related to the "voluntary surrender" noted below.)

NA:

Information not available or not applicable.

NCPHP:

North Carolina Physicians Health Program.

Public Letter of Concern:

A non-disciplinary letter in the public record expressing the Board's concern about a practitioner's behavior or performance. Concern has not risen to the point of requiring a formal proceeding but should be known by the public. If the practitioner requests a formal disciplinary hearing regarding the conduct leading to the letter of concern, the letter will be vacated and a formal complaint and hearing initiated.

Reentry Agreement:

Arrangement between the Board and a practitioner in good standing who has been "inactive" and has been out of clinical practice for two years or more. Permits the practitioner to resume active practice through a reentry program approved by the Board to assure the practitioner's competence.

RTL:

Resident Training License. (Issued to those in post-graduate medical training who have not yet qualified for a full medical license.)

Revocation:

Cancellation of authorization to practice. Authorization may not be reissued for at least two years.

Stay:

Full or partial stopping or halting of a Board disciplinary action, such as suspension, on certain stipulated grounds or conditions.

Summary Suspension:

Immediate withdrawal of authorization to practice prior to the initiation of further proceedings, which are to begin within a reasonable time. (Ordered when the Board finds the public health, safety, or welfare requires emergency action.)

Suspension:

Withdrawal of authorization to practice for a stipulated period or indefinitely.

Temporary/Dated License:

License to practice for a specific period. Often accompanied by conditions contained in a Consent Order. May be issued as an element of a Board or Consent Order or after the expiration of a previously issued temporary license.

Voluntary Surrender:

The practitioner's relinquishing of authorization to practice pending or during an investigation. Surrender does not preclude the Board bringing or continuing to move forward on charges against the practitioner. (Not related to the "inactive" medical license noted above.)