

Can I submit a complaint anonymously?

Yes, this is possible. However, it may not be the best choice, for a variety of reasons. This brochure walks through the pros and cons of withholding your name when filing a complaint against a licensed North Carolina physician or PA.

Fast facts about filing an anonymous complaint

Q: Does NCMB accept anonymous complaints?

A: Yes.

Q: What information must be submitted with an anonymous complaint?

A: NCMB needs the correct spelling of the licensee's full name (first and last), the relevant date or dates, and a description of the alleged misconduct. If this is not provided, NCMB generally will not be able to investigate.

Q: Can NCMB guarantee that the medical professional who is the subject of the complaint will not learn who reported them?

A: No. NCMB does not reveal any identifying information about a complainant, but the licensee may be able to guess the identity from the details he or she is asked to respond to.

For example, if the person filing the complaint is the patient involved in the reported issue, it will not be possible to be anonymous because a patient name must be provided to the licensee in order for them to respond.

Q: If I file an anonymous complaint, will I know if action is taken against the licensee I reported?

A: If a complaint results in public action, it will be posted to the licensee's public information page on NCMB's website. Otherwise, anonymous complainants are not notified. Complainants who do not request anonymity receive a "closure letter" that notifies them of the resolution of the case, whatever the outcome.

So, should I file a complaint anonymously?

Pros:

- May prevent licensee from learning who complained
- May prevent adverse consequences, such as retaliation or loss of employment

Cons:

- If sufficient information is not provided with complaint, NCMB may not be able to investigate
- Anonymous complainants forfeit the right to be notified of outcome
- Licensee still may be able to determine who complained based on the facts of the case



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