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## **Board vs. Malpractice:**

Differences between disciplinary and malpractice actions are significant.

- Boards may discipline a licensee for incompetence, but cannot provide money to the complainant to pay for any harm that was done.
- In a malpractice action in a court, a judge or a jury may award money damages to the complainant if the physician is found to be negligent.

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## **Locate Physicians, Administrative, Licensing, & Disciplinary Information:**

- Online at:

MD

[http://www.docboard.org/me/me\\_home.htm](http://www.docboard.org/me/me_home.htm)

DO

<http://www.maine.gov/osteo/>

- By Contacting the Consumer Assistant  
Toll Free in Maine at (888) 365-9964

# **Contact Us:**

## **Board of Licensure in Medicine**

137 State House Station, Augusta ME 04333

Phone (207) 287-3601 Fax (207) 287-6590

TTY/TB: 1-800-437-1220

[http://www.docboard.org/me/me\\_home.htm](http://www.docboard.org/me/me_home.htm)

## **Board of Osteopathic Licensure**

142 State House Station, Augusta ME 04333

Phone (207) 287-2480 Fax (207) 287-3015

TTY/TB: 1-800-437-1220

<http://www.maine.gov/osteo/>

## **Consumer Assistant**

Phone (207) 287-3608 or

Toll Free in Maine (888) 365-9964

TTY/TB: 1-800-437-1220

## **Other Professional Licensing Boards**

Dept. of Professional & Financial Regulation

Licensing & Enforcement Division

Phone (207) 624-8603 Fax (207) 624-8637

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# **Consumer's Guide**

*to the Licensing, Regulating &  
Disciplining of Physicians in Maine*



## **Maine Boards of Medical & Osteopathic Licensure**

*“For the protection of the health,  
safety and welfare of the public”*

## Board History:

For over 100 years, it has been Maine law that a physician must be licensed to practice medicine in our State. Through licensure, the State ensures that all practicing physicians have an appropriate level of education and training and that they abide by recognized standards of professional conduct.

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## Board Functions:

Protect the public by:

- Licensing Physicians & Physician Assistants
  - Investigating Complaints, Providing Guidance, or Imposing Discipline
  - Providing information to the Public
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## Licensure Qualifications:

- Education and Training requirements
  - Comprehensive written examination
  - Good professional ethics and practices
  - Renewal of license every two years including participation in Continuing Medical Education (CME)
  - Verification of all information provided to ensure credentials
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## How to File a Complaint:

Anyone may file a complaint. It must be in writing or by e-mail. Either a letter or a complaint form may be used. Forms are available online or by calling.

The Consumer Assistant, (888) 365-9964, is available to answer questions and guide you through the process

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## Complaint Process:

Upon receipt, the Board sends a copy of the complaint to the licensee. The licensee has 30 days to respond in writing. A copy of this response is provided to the complainant, unless doing so would jeopardize their health.

The complaint, response, and investigative materials are reviewed approximately 3 months after receipt of the complaint.

Based on its review the Board determines if grounds for disciplinary action exist.

- If no, the complaint is closed. *See Possible Results of a Complaint*
- If yes, the complaint remains open pending further Board action. *See Possible Results of a Complaint*

The complainant is notified of the outcome in writing.

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## Some Grounds for Discipline:

- Alcohol/Substance Abuse
  - Conviction of a Crime
  - Fraud & deceit in obtaining a license
  - Inappropriate Prescribing
  - Incompetence or Unprofessional Conduct
  - Violation of Law, Rule, or Board Order
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## Possible Results of a Complaint:

- Closure with no action
  - Closure with a Letter of Guidance (non-disciplinary)
  - Disciplinary Action which may include: warning; censure; reprimand; fine; education; specific conditions of probation; Consent Agreement; suspension; or loss of license.
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## The Boards Cannot Help With:

- Other Health Care Professionals (e.g. RN, LCSW, DDS, DMD, PT)
  - Hospitals, Clinics, or Nursing Homes
  - Medical Malpractice
  - Billing or Fee Disputes
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