



Introduction

Medical Commissioners are appointed by the Governor to promote patient safety and to enhance the integrity of the profession through licensing, discipline, rulemaking and education, which demands the highest degree of confidence from practitioners and the public in general. It is, therefore, the obligation of Commissioners to conduct themselves with utmost integrity, professionalism and ethical behavior. This Code of Conduct provides guidance on how the Commission and individual Commission members are expected to conduct themselves.

Policy

1. Commission members will:

- Demonstrate politeness, honesty, integrity, professionalism and ethical behavior in all aspects of their duties and in their relations with fellow Commission members, staff, service providers, and other constituents;
- Abide by all policies and decisions of the Commission;
- Refer to policies and decisions of the Commission in a respectful manner with the media or other external parties; and
- Participate in Case Reviews and other activities as required to include conference calls, formal hearings and special committees on a regular basis.

2. Ethics

In addition to the requirements under RCW 42.52, Ethics in Public Service, the Commissioners will:

- Make fair and objective decisions;
- Strictly maintain confidentiality;
- Avoid improper ex parte contacts;
- Recuse themselves and proactively disclose when there is a real or potential conflict of interest, or the appearance of such a conflict;
- Protect the integrity of those who appear before the Commission; and
- Support the decisions of the Commission in public.

3. Meeting Conduct

When participating in a Commission meeting, Commissioners will:

- Actively prepare for each meeting by thoroughly reviewing all meeting materials in advance;
- Attend and participate in all scheduled meetings unless otherwise excused. If a Commissioner misses more than two meetings in a row, or more than two in a year, discussion with the Chair will be undertaken to evaluate the ability of the Commissioner to serve as a full-time member; and
- Complete written case reviews on the assessment form in a timely manner and be prepared to present at scheduled meetings.

- Electronic summaries will be submitted within the time frame designated.

Review

The Executive Committee shall review this governance policy at least every three years to ensure that it remains relevant and appropriate.

Reaffirmed: March 14, 2025

Supersedes: CG2015-001