



WARNING: Don't Go Into the Medical Board of California Alone

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The first a physician may know that a patient or family has complained to the Medical Board of California (MBC) about medical care may be when the physician receives a request to appear before a MBC hearing.

At other times, the request to appear may be generated by a report to the MBC of a closed professional liability claim because the indemnity paid exceeded \$30,000.

Just as a physician would not try to represent himself or herself in a case in Superior Court, in this instance the physician also needs legal guidance. The Cooperative of American Physicians, Inc. recommends that physicians avail themselves of legal representation. Outcomes from such appearances can be severe and the physician's medical license may be at risk. The cost for such guidance may cause hesitation, but it should not. As a Cooperative of American Physicians member, you have \$25,000 of MEDefense coverage for legal costs when medical care is being defended before the MBC.

To report a request for appearance, physician members should call NAS Insurance at 818-382-2030 immediately upon receipt of the request for appearance or an inquiry regarding the care. As appropriate, NAS will suggest legal counsel to the physician from a panel of attorneys.

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