Georgia Composite Medical Board Update

Bill Bostock, DO
Chair

- Disclosures to Learners

None of the content controllers for this activity have any relevant financial relationships to disclose with ineligible companies.

- Learning Objectives

1. Understand the governance aspects and daily operations of the Georgia Composite Medical Board.
2. Gain an understanding of the licensure process including renewals and inactive options.
3. Explore common board related questions such as complaints and rule enforcement.
4. Review the current continuing medical education requirements required for licensure.

Composition of the Board

Georgia Composite Medical Board

Sixteen Board Members

- 15 appointed by the Governor
  - Four-year terms
  - 13 physicians (11 MDs, 2 DOs)
    - Licensed and actively practicing in GA
  - 2 consumers
    - No ties to the practice of medicine
- 1 physician assistant (non-voting)
  - Appointed by the Board

Number of active licenses in Georgia

Georgia Composite Medical Board

Licensing & regulating authority for **61,591** licensees as of **September 5, 2023**:

• Physicians	42,396
• Resident Physicians	3,054
• Physician Assistants	6,848
• Respiratory Care Professionals	6,439
• Cosmetic Laser Practitioners	1,387
• Acupuncturists	296
• Pain Management Clinics	231
• Orthotists and Prosthetists	217
• Clinical Perfusionists	190
• Genetic Counselors	533
• Auricular Detoxification Technician	0

Also, the approving authority for APRN prescribing and vaccine protocols

Board Committees

- Advisory committee for each licensed profession and for APRN prescribing protocols
  - Recommends Board actions to approve or deny license applications and on other profession-specific matters
- Wellness Committee
  - Recommends Board actions concerning impaired licensees
- Investigative Committee
  - Recommends Board actions on enforcement matters
- Rules Committee
  - develops rules that impact licensure

Applying for a License & Renewing licenses

Georgia Composite Medical Board

Applying online is the quickest and easiest way to get licensed and for renewal.

Go to: **gcmb.mylicense.com/egov**

Submit your application online today!

Applying for a License

Georgia Composite Medical Board

Most applications are completed within **90 days** of the date the physician submits the application.

In addition to the completed application and the $500 non-refundable application fee, the applicant must provide some other documentation.

Licensure Process

Georgia Composite Medical Board

Supporting documentation may include:

- CV or Resume
- Affidavit of Applicant
- Citizenship Affidavit
- Verifiable Document / Photo ID
- Malpractice Questionnaire
- Medical School Transcript
- Residency Training Verification Form
- Licensing Exam Score Transcript
- Reference Forms
- NPDB Self-Query
- State Verifications
- Explanations to Application Questions
- Other Documents

Licensure Process

Georgia Composite Medical Board

Common reasons for the Physician Licensure Committee to review an application include:

- Multiple unsuccessful attempts to pass the USMLE Step 3
- Out of clinical practice
- Record of a conviction
- Record of impairment issue
- Discipline by school, residency program, licensing board, or other entity
- Malpractice settlements/payouts
- Other more unique issues

License Renewal Info and Fees

- Your license expires at the end of your birth month, usually every two years
- A **‘courtesy’** renewal notice is emailed 60 days before the license expiration date with notification that an on-line renewal is available on the Board’s website

- Renewal fee is currently $230
- Late Renewal is $455

Continuing Medical Education (CME)

- 40 hours of CME over the two-year licensure cycle
- Three hours should be in opioid prescribing if you have a DEA (one-time requirement)
- NEW: Two hours should be in professional boundaries and physician sexual misconduct (one-time requirement)
- DEA: New training for registration

Inactive License

- A person who wishes to maintain his/her license but does not intend to practice may apply for inactive status, prior to the expiration of a license by submitting fee ($200) and application.

- Reinstatement from inactive status, fee ($300)

Licensee Details

Please see below for details for the licensee you selected.

Name: William Kevin Bostock **Designation:** DO

Lic #: 26458 **Profession:** Physician **Subtype:** Full

Status: Active **Issued:** 8/8/1984 **Expires:** 3/31/2025

Specialties

Specialty/Subspecialty	Certifying Board	Primary Specialty?
Family Medicine	ABFM	Y

Disclaimer: Please note that many valid certifying specialty boards do not participate in the American Board of Medical Specialties (1-866-ASK-ABMS or www.abms.org) and actual verification of a physician's board certification is best accomplished by contacting the individual certifying specialty board.

Practice Address

Street Address: 1439 Jesse Jewell Pkwy
Med Park 2
Gainesville GA 30501

County: Hall

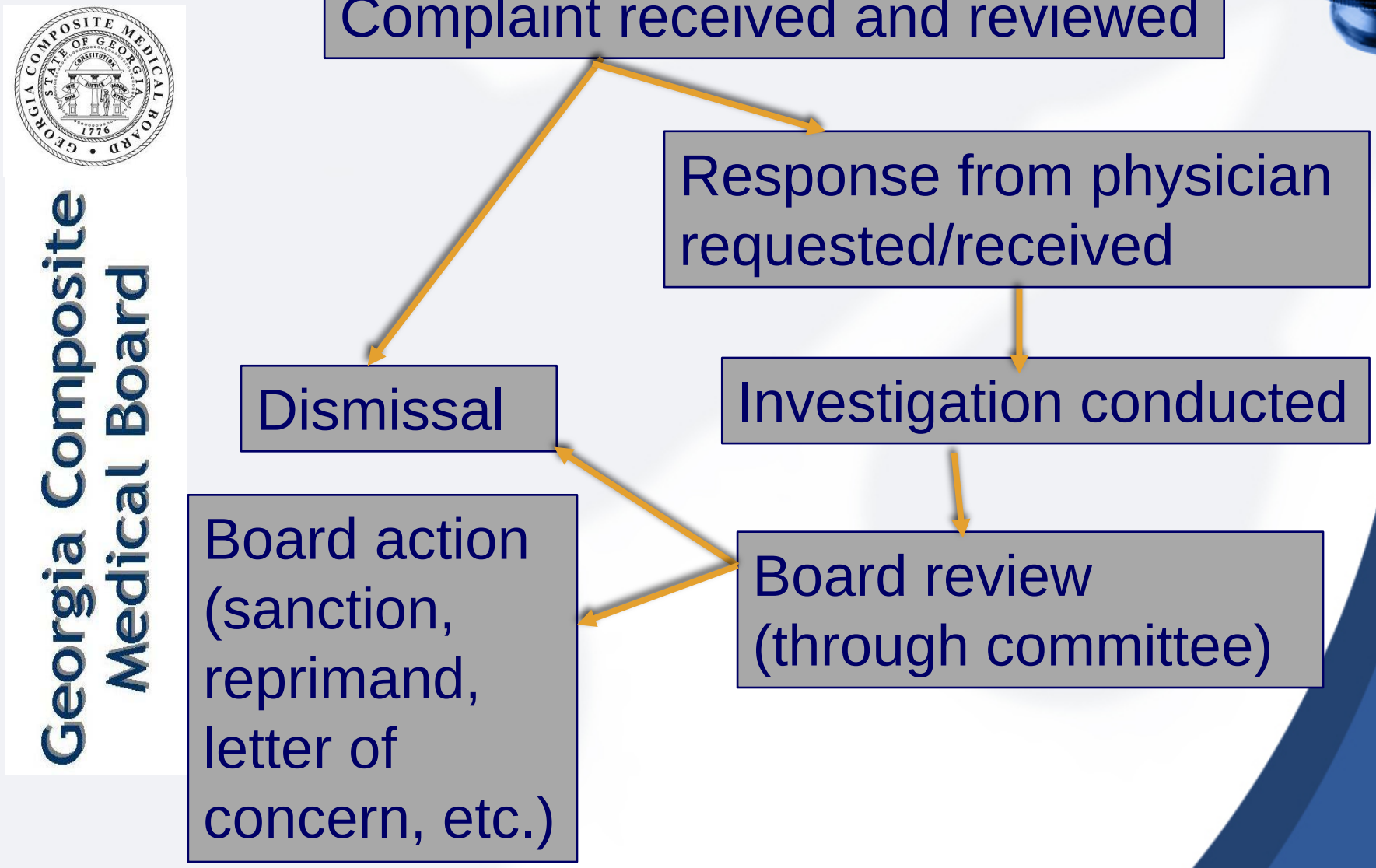
Country: United States

Related Licenses

Common Board Questions

The Complaints Process

Georgia Composite Medical Board



Enforcement of Board Rules

Georgia Composite Medical Board

The Board is authorized to take a variety of actions, including these most common actions:

- Private letter of concern (non-disciplinary)
- Private reprimand (often with requirements such as additional specific CME)
- Private consent order with conditions such as monitoring, drug/alcohol rehabilitation, etc.
- Public consent order, often with a reprimand, practice restrictions, fines, etc.
- Suspension and/or revocation of license

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)

- **Who is required to register in the Georgia PDMP?**

- Individuals with a DEA number must register in the PDMP including physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, licensed pharmacist delegates, dentists, optometrists, podiatrists, nurses with prescriptive authority, and medical residents/interns with prescriptive authority.

Telemedicine

Rule 360-3-.07 “Practice Through Electronic or Other Such Means”

Addresses the use of technology relating to telemedicine. The rule states that a physician, PA or APRN can examine a patient using technology **or** peripherals that are equal or superior to an examination done personally by a provider within that provider's standard of care.

Protect your License

Your Medical License is Valuable!

Georgia Composite Medical Board

- Your license grants you the privilege – not the right – to practice medicine.
- Other than your integrity and your ethics, your license is perhaps your most valuable asset.
- Protect it!
  - Be cautious
  - Be thorough
  - Remember that your patients' lives depend on you

The State of Georgia

License No. 98765

This is to Certify That

John Quincy Doe, MD

has met all the requirements prescribed by the laws of the State of Georgia and the Georgia Composite Medical Board as required by an Act of the General Assembly of 1913, as amended by an Act of 2009, and is hereby licensed to practice

Medicine and Surgery in Georgia

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our names and caused the official seal of the Board to be affixed this 2nd day of April, 2015

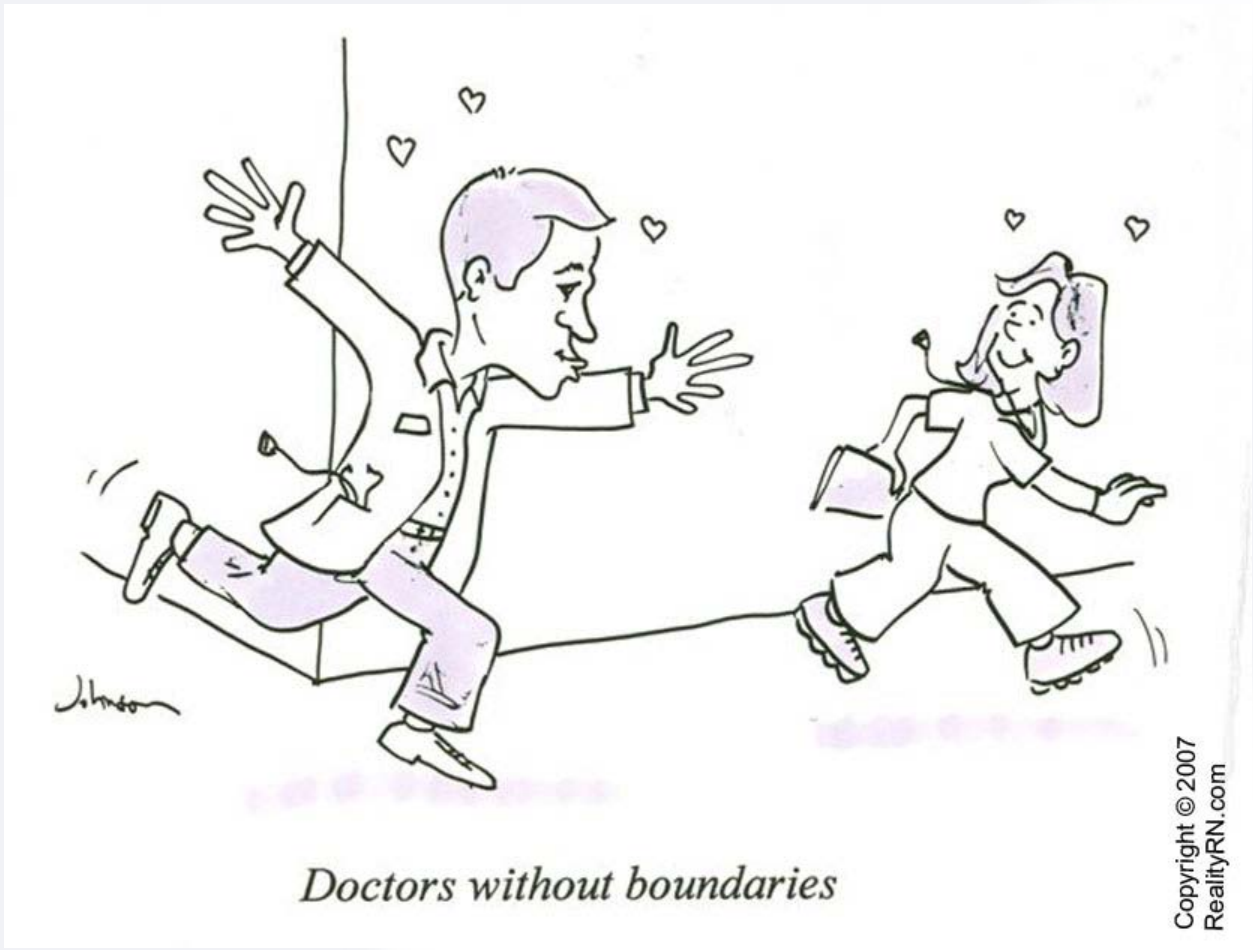
Marcus Wells, MD
Chairperson

Executive Director

How Licensees Get Into Trouble

Georgia Composite Medical Board

Boundary violations



Boundary Violations

Georgia Composite Medical Board

REMEMBER:

- According to Rule 360-3-.02(8), committing any act of sexual intimacy, abuse, misconduct, or exploitation of any individual related to the physician's practice is unprofessional conduct regardless of consent!
- This rule applies also to former patients where the physician did not terminate the patient relationship in writing at least two years before the romantic or sexual relationship began.

Boundary Violations

Georgia Composite Medical Board

- It is ALWAYS the physician's responsibility to maintain appropriate boundaries – no matter how difficult or boundary-testing the patient is
- Crossing boundaries by a physician is ALWAYS a power differential
- If you are unable to maintain appropriate boundaries, refer the patient for competent help or counsel
- As of January 2022: Physicians must complete two hours of CME regarding sexual misconduct and professional boundaries

How Licensees Get Into Trouble

Georgia Composite Medical Board

- Practicing below minimum standards
- Not updating profile on board website
- Not signing death certificates
- Not reading the rules
- Not using a chaperone (document!)
- Not releasing medical records

How Licensees Get Into Trouble

Georgia Composite Medical Board

Practicing below minimum standards

How Licensees Get Into Trouble

Georgia Composite Medical Board

Poor recordkeeping

How Licensees Get Into Trouble

Georgia Composite Medical Board

Poor communication with patients

How Licensees Get Into Trouble

Georgia Composite Medical Board

Inappropriate prescribing

Prescribing

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According to Rule 360-3-.02, unprofessional conduct includes:

- Prescribing controlled substances for a known or suspected habitual drug abuser or other substance abuser in the absence of substantial medical justification
- Prescribing controlled substances for personal use or for your spouse, children, siblings, or parents except for documented emergencies

Pain Clinic Requirements

- A pain management clinic is any medical practice that advertises services in the treatment of pain, uses the word “pain” in the name of the clinic or practice, or has more than 50% of its annual patient population for chronic, non-terminal pain using Schedule II or Schedule III controlled substances. Each pain management clinic location must be licensed individually.

How Licensees Get Into Trouble

Georgia Composite Medical Board

Impairment due to drug/alcohol use

Professional Health Program

Georgia Composite Medical Board

- Program to help licensees deal with wellness or impairment issues without first dealing with the Board's disciplinary process
- Most common referral is for help with an addiction illness
- Referral sources: Family members, colleagues, friends, and the licensee

Ga Physician Health Program

Georgia Composite Medical Board

Click www.gaphp.org to learn how your support can make a difference for your colleagues, friends, and Georgia's patients, or contact Georgia PHP by phone at 1-855-MY-GAPHP or by email to info@gaphp.org.

How did the Board assist with the pandemic?

- The Board issued 2,449 Emergency Practice Permits to practitioners from outside of Georgia as well as retired physicians that wanted to practice during this health care emergency

- The permits expired after 90 days or at the end of the state of emergency

Friendly Reminders

Georgia Composite Medical Board

- Do not work on an expired license.
  - This constitutes practicing medicine without a license
- Use a chaperone when examining the breast and/or genitalia no matter the gender
- Effective communication with patients prevents complaints and could reduce risk of malpractice actions or Board sanctions
- **Document, document, document!**

OPEN YOUR MAIL & EMAILS!!!!

- The Board does not send junk mail.
- Make sure your email is up to date – renewal notices and other important Board correspondence come through email.
- Please respond to all inquiries from the Board.

Become a Peer Reviewer!

Georgia Composite Medical Board

- The Board needs physician peer reviewers to assist in its investigative review process.

For additional Board information:

Georgia Composite Medical Board

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East Tower, 11th Floor

Atlanta, GA 30334

404-656-3913

medbd@dch.ga.gov