



State Medical Board of

**Ohio**

# SEXUAL BOUNDARIES IN HEALTH CARE FOR PATIENTS

**Sexual misconduct** - *conduct that exploits the licensee-patient relationship in a sexual way, whether verbal or physical, and may include the expression of thoughts, feelings, or gestures that are sexual or that reasonably may be construed by a patient as sexual.*

## Your provider should:

- explain every step of the exam
- provide you with a gown and/or drape if your exam requires you to undress
- allow you to undress in private and knock before re-entering the room

You have the right to: ask for a chaperone at any time ◦ ask questions if you are unclear about anything the provider is doing ◦ end the exam at any time

## Red flags

Pay attention to red flags and instincts



Example: if you are seeing a health care professional for a sore throat, it is unlikely you will need an examination of your genitals or need to remove your clothing

## Examples of misconduct

- Inappropriate touching/advances
- Questions about unrelated sexual history or preferences
- Failing to provide privacy and proper draping
- Exchanging sexual favors for treatment



## Report

If misconduct occurs, contact local law enforcement immediately

## File a complaint

Go to [med.ohio.gov](http://med.ohio.gov) and click the "File a complaint" button

The Medical Board has authority over the provider's license to practice

## Look up

Disciplinary history of Medical Board-licensed providers is available at [elicense.ohio.gov](http://elicense.ohio.gov) and any US physician or PA at [docinfo.org](http://docinfo.org)

Complaints to the Medical Board are important ◦ Complaints and investigations are confidential per Ohio law

For complete rule information: [codes.ohio.gov/oac/4731-26-01v1](http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/4731-26-01v1)