

Definition of Board Actions

POLICY: It is the policy of the Board of Licensure in Medicine that the Board adopts the following definition of Board actions, in ascending order of degree or intensity:

Discipline as Warning

Counsel or advice to be careful or to stop doing something.

Discipline as Reprimand

A rebuke given for having done something wrong; scolding, reproof.

Discipline as Censure

Severe criticism; official expression of disapproval or condemnation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 8, 2013

REVISION DATE: June 14, 2021 Typographical errors in the policy document were corrected.

HISTORY: The Board recognizes that some confusion existed regarding the weight of certain words describing actions taken by the Board. This policy is intended to bring clarity to actions taken by the Board.

Below are comments on the rationale of the nomenclatures.

A note on “sanction”

1. Authoritative permission or approval that makes a course of action valid. Support or encouragement, as from public opinion or established custom.
2. A penalty, specified or in the form of moral pressure, that acts to ensure compliance or conformity. To penalize, especially for violating a moral principle or law.

[**Word history:** Occasionally, a word can have contradictory meanings. Such a case is represented by *sanction*, which can mean both “to allow, encourage” and “to punish so as to deter.” From the beginning two fundamental notions of law were wrapped up in it: law as something that permits or approves and law that forbids by punishing.]

Letter of Guidance

Offer education and express concern about an activity to make sure it is carried out appropriately, but without implying any sort of discipline.