

07:02 Patient Abandonment

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance in determining whether actions by an occupational therapy practitioner constitutes patient abandonment and thus lead to possible discipline against a practitioner's license for unprofessional conduct.

07:021 Inadequate Patient Care

Patient Abandonment may occur when a licensee fails to provide adequate patient care. Patient safety is the key factor in determining the licensee's responsibility in a given situation.

07:022 Determination of Patient Abandonment

Examples of **abandonment** may include but not be limited to:

1. Leaving the employment site during an assigned shift while on duty for the shift without properly advising appropriate personnel;
2. Leaving an emergency patient care situation where the action would be overtly dangerous to the patient, based on the standard of actions of a reasonable and prudent practitioner;
3. Inattention to, or the leaving of a client in acute distress, without proper notification of supervisor and appropriate arrangement for continuity of care;
4. Sleeping while on duty;
5. Insufficient observation (frequency of contact) with a client;
6. Failing to report for an assignment where the practitioner is the sole provider of care (e.g. home health care) and failing to notify his/her supervisor and/or employer.

07:023 Determination of Employment Issues

Examples of **employment issues** which are not considered by the Board to constitute patient abandonment:

1. Failure to work beyond her/his scheduled shift;
2. Refusal to work in an unfamiliar, specialized, or "high tech" area when there has been no orientation or educational preparation, or employment experience;
3. Refusal to report to work;
4. Failure to return from a schedule leave of absence;
5. Resigning from a position and not fulfilling the remaining posted work schedule;
6. Ending the employer-employee relationship without providing the employer with a period of time to obtain replacement staff for that specific position (such as resigning without notice).

Providing appropriate and adequate personnel to care for patients is the responsibility of the employer.