

**North Carolina  
Industrial Commission  
MINUTES**

**MEDICO LEGAL GUIDELINES**


In its continuing effort to foster relations between the medical and legal professions and per frequent discussions among Advisory Council members and the Industrial Commission in this regard, the Commission adopts the following portion of the Medico Legal Guidelines promulgated by a joint committee of the North Carolina Medical Society and the North Carolina Bar Association.

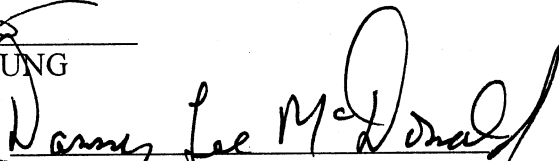
The relationship between a physician and an attorney should be based upon mutual respect, courtesy, and understanding. Medical testimony is generally indispensable in legal cases to prove or disprove the nature or extent of injuries or other legally relevant medical conditions. Therefore, when accepting a patient, a physician also accepts the incidental obligation to cooperate in any legal proceedings in which the patient may become involved. When attorneys make inappropriate or inconsiderate demands on physicians, they cause animosity between the professions. Without mutual cooperation by physicians and attorneys, their patients/clients become the unfortunate victim of professional ill will.


As a medical witness, the physician's role is to provide information, not to advocate a position. The attorneys serve as the advocates. The medical witnesses, the court, and the attorneys should show mutual respect and consideration to each other.

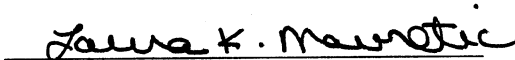
This the 4 day of March 2008.

  
PAMELA T. YOUNG  
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COMMISSIONER

  
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