

Civil Litigation Involving Health Care Workers Inappropriate During COVID-19 Pandemic

The following is from Lawrence John, MD, president of the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED):

“In these unprecedented times, PAMED calls on Chief Justice Thomas Saylor to temporarily suspend depositions of, and all required appearances for, doctors, nurses and other health care professionals as was recently done by the New Jersey Supreme Court.

We are not minimizing any plaintiff’s allegations against a practitioner, nor are we seeking dismissal of any claims. We are simply asking the court to recognize that lives are at stake and we need all available health care professionals focused on patient care.

Financial implications of law firms should not take precedence over this health crisis that we are all confronting. Practitioners are stressed, scared, and being asked to perform in unimaginable situations, all while worrying about their own health and safety.

At this time, practitioners should not be taking time away from caring for people to meet with lawyers, prepare for depositions, and be questioned about a case that is not at the forefront of their minds right now.

The more practitioners who can focus on helping patients during this pandemic, the better the commonwealth can weather this storm.”

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