

REGISTRATION POLICY

Name Requirements

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to articulate the College's standards on the name requirements of its registrants. The aim is to ensure that there are no discrepancies or confusion surrounding the identity of those practicing medicine in British Columbia.

Background

Section 7-1 of the College Bylaws provides that a registrant must only carry on the practice of medicine in their proper name.

Section 2-2(2)(a) of the College Bylaws requires that an applicant for any class of registration, except for emergency registration, provide satisfactory evidence of identification, experience, good professional conduct and good character to the registration committee.

Definitions

legal name An individual's first name, middle name, and last or surname and is the name given at birth or that which has subsequently been acquired, i.e. through marriage.

proper name The legal name in which the physician will carry on the practice of medicine, in accordance with section 7-1 of the College Bylaws. A registrant's proper name must be identical to that which appears on their government-issued identification document, i.e. birth certificate or passport.

Policy

When first registering with the College, an individual must provide evidence of their full legal name in the form of two government-issued identification documents, one of which must have been issued by a Canadian authority, unless otherwise specified by the College in exceptional circumstances. These identification documents will be verified by the College and kept on the registrant's file.

The first identification document must either be the individual's birth certificate or passport. This document will contain all the possible given names that an individual may select as their proper name for the purpose of carrying on the practice of medicine.

The second identification document may include one of the following:

- Birth certificate
- Passport
- Canadian citizenship certificate
- Permanent resident card
- Driver's licence
- Healthcare card
- Military identity card
- Certificate of Indian status
- Work permit issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- Study permit issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada

In the event of a discrepancy between the name which appears on a physician's government-issued identification document and medical diploma, the College will register the physician under the name which appears on the government-issued identification document.

A registrant requesting a change to the name under which they wish to practice medicine must provide evidence to the College of their legal name change. A registrant who has not legally changed their name may apply to the College to choose a different proper name. Such a request must be made in writing and, unless otherwise specified by the College in exceptional circumstances, be accompanied by a government-issued identification document showing the given name(s) and surname(s) under which the registrant wishes to practice. Other supporting documents may be requested at the College's discretion.

Effective November 16, 2022