

(1) Adverse decisions by the College affecting individuals who have not been elected to Diplomate status, including denial of eligibility to take the certification examination and denial of certification of an individual, and adverse decisions by the College as to recertification of Diplomates shall be governed exclusively by this Section 4-03(f). Except as to recertification, adverse decisions by the College affecting members, including revocation of certification and other disciplinary action shall be governed exclusively by Section 10-02.

(2) In the event of an adverse decision by the College to which this Section 4-03(f) applies, the Executive Vice President shall advise the affected person in writing of the decision within 30 days and shall specify the procedure for seeking reconsideration of the adverse decision. An affected person desiring to obtain reconsideration of the adverse decision must adhere to the following procedures:

a) Grounds for reconsideration or review:

The affected person may petition for reconsideration or review of the decision of the College on the grounds that the College ruled erroneously by, among other things:

- 1) Disregarding the established criteria of the College for certification or recertification;
- 2) Failing to follow stated procedures; or
- 3) Failing to consider relevant evidence and documentation presented.

b) Petition for reconsideration:

1) The affected person may petition the Board of the College to reconsider a decision by filing with the Executive Vice President of the College a written petition for reconsideration which shall include a statement of the grounds for reconsideration and documentation, if any, in support of the petition.

2) Such petition must be received by the Executive Vice President of the College within 30 days of the date on which the College mailed notice of its adverse decision.

3) The affected person may, at the discretion of the Board, be invited to appear at a regular meeting of the Board. The petitioner shall bear the personal costs of travel and subsistence, and any legal or professional costs associated with preparation and presentation of the petition.

4) The Board will meet in executive session to consider the petition for reconsideration and the Board's determination thereof will be submitted by mail to the petitioner within 30 days of the Board's decision.

5) Upon completion of steps 1) through 4) above, if the affected person is not satisfied with the Board's decision, the affected person may request mediation by the ABVS of the AVMA, in which case the Chairperson of the ABVS will convene a meeting of the parties in dispute or their representatives. The meeting will be held at the office of the AVMA, and will be chaired by the Chairperson of the ABVS. The parties in dispute will be guided to reach an equitable resolution of any outstanding grievances. The College and the aggrieved party will each bear their respective expenses of mediation, including travel and subsistence, and will share the expenses of the ABVS representatives.

6) The ABVS shall serve in an advisory capacity only; final authority relating to disputes, as outlined in this Section, shall be vested in the Board of the College, which shall render its final decision within 30 days of the mediation meeting.