



**POSITION STATEMENT OF  
MONTANA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
ON  
TERMINATION OF THE PHYSICIAN-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP  
ADOPTED DECEMBER 14, 2015**

The MMA supports the position that Physicians have an ethical obligation to support continuity of care for their patients. In those situations where a physician may withdraw from a case, it is best practice to give notice to the patient, the relatives, or responsible friends in advance and to offer a physician's name as an alternative. Fulfilling these obligations may be challenging if the physician does not have access to the medical records.

If the physician is not the owner or in control of the patient's medical records, whatever entity is in control of the medical records should assume the responsibility to notify patients that their physician is no longer available, who will be assuming that role and where they can access their medical records if they chose an alternative physician.

Reference: 8.115 Code of Medical Ethics of the American Medical Association