

Resolution 26-311
Exemption Of Physicians' Personal Home Addresses From Public Records For Physicians
Providing Psychiatric Care
Capital Medical Society

1 Whereas, Any licensed medical provider who treats patients with psychiatric illness — including but
2 not limited to psychiatrists, family physicians, internists, surgeons, and all other licensed medical
3 providers — is exposed to a significantly elevated risk of patient-directed violence, stalking,
4 harassment, and intimidation, given the complex and sensitive nature of psychiatric care and the
5 unique vulnerabilities of the patients they serve; and
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7 Whereas, The personal residential addresses of physicians are currently accessible as public
8 records in Florida, which creates a significant and documented safety risk for physicians and their
9 families, particularly those who treat individuals suffering from serious mental illness, personality
10 disorders, or other conditions that may involve impaired judgment, paranoia, aggression, or
11 delusional thinking; and
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13 Whereas, Florida Statute § 119.071 already recognizes the need to protect the personal addresses
14 of certain public officials, law enforcement officers, judges, and others whose safety may be
15 compromised by public disclosure, establishing a legal precedent for such exemptions in the
16 interest of personal safety; and
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18 Whereas, The American Medical Association and numerous state medical associations have
19 recognized physician safety as a public health priority, and psychiatric care providers are
20 disproportionately represented among victims of patient-perpetrated violence and threats; and
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22 Whereas, The disclosure of a physician's personal home address creates a foreseeable risk not only
23 to the physician, but also to the physician's spouse, children, and other household members who
24 bear no professional relationship to the patient; and
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26 Whereas, Protecting the personal home addresses of physicians providing psychiatric care will not
27 impede access to medical records, professional licensing information, or office contact information,
28 all of which shall remain publicly available, and therefore the exemption is narrowly tailored to
29 protect personal safety without limiting meaningful public accountability; and
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31 Whereas, The Florida Medical Association is committed to advocating for the safety, well-being, and
32 professional integrity of Florida's physicians and the patients they serve; now, therefore, be it
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34 **RESOLVED**, That the Florida Medical Association seek legislation amending Chapter 119, Florida
35 Statutes, to exempt the personal residential addresses of all physicians licensed under Chapter 458
36 or 459, Florida Statutes, who participate in any way in the management or treatment of patients with
37 psychiatric or mental illness from disclosure under the Florida Public Records Law.

Fiscal Note:

Description	Amount	Budget Narrative
300 Staff hours	\$60,000	Can be accomplished with current staff
Total	\$60,000	\$0 added to the operating budget

Fiscal notes are an estimate of the cost to implement a given Resolution. All Resolutions that are adopted by the House of Delegates will be referred to the FMA Committee on Finance and Appropriations for fiscal consideration.

Reference Committee: III – Legislation and Miscellaneous