

## Terminating the Physician/Patient Relationship

### Sample termination letters

When a physician decides to dismiss a patient, the patient should be notified in writing. The letter should be printed on office letterhead and sent by first-class mail and by certified mail with a return receipt requested. It should be marked "Personal and Confidential". The template letter should be carefully reviewed to ensure that all its elements are relevant to the individual patient's situation. A blank authorization to release medical records should be enclosed.

#### Termination of the physician-patient relationship

Date  
[patient address]

Certified receipt # \_\_\_\_\_  
Also sent first-class mail

Dear [patient name]:

Please be advised that I (and/or \_\_\_\_\_ Group) will no longer be able to treat you as a patient. The termination of our physician/patient relationship will be effective in 30 days from the date of this letter. Your medical condition requires continuing physician supervision, and it is important for you to select another physician as soon as possible.

Contact your insurance plan, the county medical society, or another suitable entity of your choice for names of other physicians. Upon written authorization, a copy of your medical record will be sent to your new physician. A release form is enclosed.

Sincerely,  
[physician name]

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#### Confirmation of patient-terminated relationship

Date  
[patient address]

Certified receipt# \_\_\_\_\_  
Also sent first-class mail

Dear [patient name]:

This letter is sent to confirm your decision to discontinue care with me. Your medical condition requires physician supervision, and it is important for you to select another physician as soon as possible. I will be available to you until [30 days from date of letter].

Please contact your insurance plan, the county medical society, or another suitable entity of your choice for names of other physicians. Upon written authorization, I will provide a copy of your medical record to your new physician. A release form is enclosed to expedite the process.

Sincerely,  
[physician name]

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## **Non-payment notice/warning**

Date  
[patient address]

Certified receipt # \_\_\_\_\_  
Also sent first-class mail

Dear [patient name]:

It has come to my attention that you have received several letters regarding your outstanding account. If there has been a problem or if you are unhappy with the care that you have received in this practice, please contact me to discuss the situation. You are important to us, and I hope we can resolve any issues you have.

My business manager is also available to discuss payment of your account or to implement payment arrangements if they are needed. Should we not hear from you within 30 days, I believe that it would be mutually beneficial to terminate the physician/patient relationship so that you may locate a new physician.

I hope that we will hear from you in the near future.

Sincerely,  
[physician name]

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## **Termination for non-payment**

Date  
[patient address]

Certified receipt # \_\_\_\_\_  
Also sent first-class mail

Dear [patient name]:

On [date], I sent you a letter requesting that you contact the business manager or me regarding any problems that may have occurred resulting in non-payment of your account. In the letter, I stated that it would be necessary to terminate our physician/patient relationship if we did not hear from you. Since we have not heard from you, please be advised that I will no longer be able to treat you as a patient. The termination of our relationship will be effective in 30 days from the date of this letter.

A release form is enclosed for your written authorization.

Please contact us with the name of your new physician so we may forward your records to his or her office. At that time, your account will be closed.

Sincerely,  
[physician name]