

1 **PA Compact Commission**

2 **Title of Rule:** Joint Investigations

3 **History of Rule:** Drafted May 28, 2026

4 **Reason for Rule:** To establish the process for joint investigations.

5 **Effective Date:**

6 **Chapter 5:** Joint Investigations

7 **Authority:** Section 6: Adverse Actions

8 Section 7: Establishment of PA Compact Commission

9 Section 9: Rulemaking

10 All citations are to the Compact Model Language

11 **5.0 Purpose:**

12 This Rule addresses the Compact Commission’s responsibility to develop and implement a
13 process for joint investigations. This Rule will become effective upon adoption by the PA
14 Compact Commission as provided in Section 9 of the PA Compact.

15
16 **5.1 Definitions:**

17 (a) **"Adverse Action"** means any administrative, civil, equitable, or criminal action permitted by
18 a State's laws which is imposed by a Licensing Board or other authority against a PA
19 License or License application or Compact Privilege such as License denial, censure,
20 revocation, suspension, probation, monitoring of the Licensee, or restriction on the
21 Licensee's practice.

22 (b) **"Compact"** means the PA Licensure Compact.

23 (c) **"Compact Privilege"** means the authorization granted by a Remote State to allow a
24 Licensee from another Participating State to practice as a PA to provide Medical Services
25 and other licensed activity to a patient located in the Remote State under the Remote
26 State's laws and regulations.

27 (d) **"Confidential and filed under seal"** means all information and documents required to be
28 shared in compliance with the Compact shall be transmitted confidentially and may not be
29 discoverable in civil litigation, re-disclosed voluntarily or pursuant to a public records
30 request, or produced pursuant to civil or criminal subpoena, except that such information
31 may be used for the purpose of investigating and taking disciplinary action and may be
32 disclosed as part of any public disciplinary action resulting from the investigation.

33 (e) **"Data System"** means the repository of information about Licensees, including but not
34 limited to License status and Adverse actions, which is created and administered under the
35 terms of this Compact.

- 36 (f) **“Investigative Information”** means information, records, or documents received or
37 generated by a Licensing Board pursuant to an investigation.
- 38 (g) **“Joint Investigation”** means an investigation conducted jointly by two or more Participating
39 States.
- 40 (h) **“Licensee”** means an individual who holds a License from a State to provide Medical
41 Services as a PA.
- 42 (i) **“Minor Infraction”** means conduct which does not relate to the delivery of health care
43 services, does not adversely affect public health and safety and, in the judgement of the
44 participating state is not likely to result in a report to the NPDB
- 45 (j) **“Participating PA”** means a PA who has applied for or holds a Compact Privilege.
- 46 (k) **“Participating State”** means a State that has enacted this Compact.
- 47 (l) **“PA”** means an individual who is licensed as a physician assistant in a State. For purposes
48 of this Compact, any other title or status adopted by a State to replace the term "physician
49 assistant" shall be deemed synonymous with "physician assistant" and shall confer the
50 same rights and responsibilities to the Licensee under the provisions of this Compact at the
51 time of its enactment.
- 52 (m) **“PA Licensure Compact Commission,” “Compact Commission,” or “Commission”**
53 mean the national administrative body created pursuant to Section 7.A of this Compact.
- 54 (n) **“Qualifying License”** means an unrestricted License issued by a Participating State to
55 provide Medical Services as a PA.
- 56 (o) **“Remote State”** means a Participating State where a Licensee who is not licensed as a PA
57 is exercising or seeking to exercise the Compact Privilege.
- 58 (p) **“Significant Investigative Information”** means Investigative Information that a Licensing
59 Board, after an inquiry or investigation that includes notification and an opportunity for the
60 PA to respond if required by State law, has reason to believe is not groundless and, if proven
61 true, would indicate more than a minor infraction.
- 62 (q) **“State”** means any state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the United States.

63

64 **5.2 Joint Investigations**

- 65 (a) Participating States may conduct a joint investigation of a participating PA.
- 66 (b) If a participating State seeks to initiate a joint investigation, it may obtain a list of all other
67 participating States where the PA holds Compact Privileges or a Qualifying License from
68 the Compact Commission or the Data System.
- 69 (c) States participating in a Joint Investigation shall designate a lead investigative state.
- 70 (d) The lead investigative state shall direct the investigation and update the other members
71 of the joint investigation upon any significant developments in the joint investigation.
- 72 (e) The lead investigative state may request the other States participating in the joint
73 investigation to conduct investigatory tasks in their own states.
- 74 (f) A non-lead investigative state may continue its own investigation but shall keep the lead
75 investigative state apprised of its investigatory actions and shall coordinate its actions
76 with the lead investigative state.
- 77 (g) States participating in the joint investigation shall share investigative, litigation, or
78 compliance materials in furtherance of the investigation.

- 79 (h) During a joint investigation, a Participating State may request that another Participating
80 State issue a lawful subpoena on behalf of the joint investigation or assist in the
81 enforcement of a lawful subpoena issued by the joint investigation. States participating in
82 the joint investigation shall cooperate with lawful requests from another participating
83 state.
- 84 (i) A Participating State may elect to withdraw from a joint investigation at any time,
85 however upon doing so it shall share with the remaining members of the joint
86 investigation any investigative information, litigation, and compliance materials in its
87 custody and control which were obtained or generated during the course of the joint
88 investigation.
- 89 (j) If a joint investigation results in Significant Investigative Information, the lead
90 investigative state shall be responsible for making a report to the Compact Commission
91 on behalf of all participants in the joint investigation.
- 92 (k) Any adverse action resulting from a joint investigation shall be reported to the Compact
93 Commission by the Participating State which took the adverse action. The compact
94 privilege will be revoked or removed pursuant to Section 4.B.