

American Society of Aerospace Medicine Specialists (ASAMS)

EXPERT WITNESS POSITION STATEMENT

Definition of an Aerospace Medicine Specialist

ASAMS defines the term “Aerospace Medicine Specialists” as a licensed physician in good standing with board certification recognized by the American Board of Preventive Medicine or the American Osteopathic Board of Preventive Medicine. Full membership in ASAMS requires certification by either of these Boards.

Expert Testimony

As a member of ASAMS the aerospace medicine specialist has an ethical obligation to provide expert assistance in legal, administrative, and legislative proceedings and to testify in hearings or trials as an expert witness when appropriate. The aerospace medicine physician must clearly understand that the role of the medical expert witness is to provide credible information that helps all concerned in understanding complex medical or scientific issues. ASAMS members serving as expert witnesses should have experience in the area in which they testify. The aerospace medicine physician has an obligation to thoroughly review the medical facts and testify to their content fairly, honestly, and impartially; to be familiar with the standards of Aerospace Medicine practice prevailing at the time of the occurrence; and neither to condemn performance that clearly falls within generally accepted practice standards or to endorse/condone performance that clearly falls outside of such standards.

Conduct of the expert witness

The physician expert must demonstrate adherence to the strictest of personal and professional ethical standards. Truthfulness is essential and misrepresentation of a personal theory or opinion as scientific doctrine may be harmful to the individual parties, the profession, and the public. The expert shall testify honestly, fully and impartially to his or her qualifications regarding the medical or other scientific issues involved in the case. The medical expert must strive to avoid even the slightest appearance of impropriety or partiality. The expert must conduct themselves with professional decorum and avoid personal attacks, insult, or deprecatory remarks directed at other witnesses or parties.

Conflicts of Interest

The aerospace medicine physician’s judgment and practice must not be affected by economic interest in, commitment to, or benefit from professionally-related commercial enterprises or other actual or potential conflicts of interest. The aerospace medicine physician has an ethical responsibility to fully disclose competing relationships that may result in a conflict of interest. Further, the aerospace medicine physician has the duty to identify and consider all the rights of and benefits/harms to not only the individual patient but also of the employer and the public at large.