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The globally recognized standard
of excellence in sonography

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Discipline Policies

of the

American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography

www.ardms.org

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Violations and Sanctions	1
1.1 Grounds for Discipline.....	1
1.2 Sanctions	2
2. Disclosure of Legal/Disciplinary Violation	3
3. Investigation and Discipline Review Process.	4
3.1 Discipline/Review Bodies.....	4
3.2 Initial Investigation and Action	5

ARDMS DISCIPLINE PROCESS

An Applicant, Candidate, Individual or Registrant may be subject to discipline and/or sanctions for specified violations of ARDMS policies, procedures and/or requirements for eligibility for certification and/or recertification, in accordance with policies and procedures established by the Board of Directors.

1. **Violations and Sanctions.** All disciplinary investigation, action, and sanction (if applicable) will be noted in the Applicant/Candidate/Individual/Registrant's ARDMS record. In the event that allegations are received pertaining to a person who has not yet applied for ARDMS certification, an ARDMS record will be created to store allegations so that the individual is given an opportunity to respond to such allegations at the time of application.

1.1 Grounds for Discipline. The following may be grounds for discipline:

- 1.1.1 Engaging in fraud, misrepresentation, deception or concealment of a material fact in connection with obtaining or renewing ARDMS certification or recertification on one's behalf or on behalf of another, or representing oneself as having an ARDMS credential or being ARDMS registered when that is not the case. This includes, but is not limited to, altering or falsifying in any way any eligibility documentation relating to ARDMS examinations or any document or material issued by ARDMS.
- 1.1.2 Engaging in fraud, misrepresentation, deception or concealment of a material fact in connection with obtaining or renewing certification, recertification, or licensure through another organization, agency, or entity on one's behalf or on behalf of another. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - a) altering or falsifying in any respect eligibility documentation in an attempt to obtain approval for examination, certification, recertification, accreditation, reaccreditation or licensing through a state licensing board, state or federal agency, national professional association or accrediting body; and/or
 - b) altering or falsifying in any respect any document issued by a state licensing board, state or federal agency, national professional association or accrediting body; and/or
 - c) indicating that an individual is certified or registered with a state licensing board, state or federal agency, national professional association or accrediting body when that is not the case.
- 1.1.3 Subverting or attempting to subvert the ARDMS examination process, including, but not limited to:
 - a) Engaging in conduct that violates the security of examination materials, such as removing or attempting to remove examination materials from an examination room, or having unauthorized possession of information concerning a current, future or previously administered examination.

- b) Disclosing information concerning any portion of a current, future or previously administered examination.
 - c) Conduct that in any way compromises ordinary standards of test administration, such as communicating with another Candidate during an examination, copying another Candidate's answers, permitting another Candidate to copy one's answers, or possessing unauthorized materials.
 - d) Impersonating a Candidate or permitting or otherwise assisting an impersonator to take the examination on another's behalf or on behalf of another.
- 1.1.4 Having been convicted of a crime, including a felony, gross misdemeanor or misdemeanor, other than a speeding or parking violation. Being convicted of a crime includes, but is not limited to, being found guilty, pleading guilty, or pleading nolo contendere (no contest).
 - 1.1.5 Having been arrested or involved in a criminal proceeding, including, but not limited to, a military court-martial, where a finding or verdict of guilty is made or returned but where the adjudication of guilt is withheld, deferred or not entered or the sentence is suspended or stayed; or entering into a pretrial diversion activity.
 - 1.1.6 Having been found guilty or having plead guilty in a military court-martial.
 - 1.1.7 Having been the subject of disciplinary action by a state licensing board, state or federal agency, national professional association, or accrediting body on grounds related to the public health or the provision of diagnostic medical sonography or vascular technology services.
 - 1.1.8 Failure to report to ARDMS within fourteen (14) days involvement in any of the situations described in Sections 1.1.1 through 1.1.8. Such failure includes, but is not limited to, a failure by an Applicant, Candidate, Individual or Registrant who has previously undergone the disciplinary process to immediately report to ARDMS any additional situations described in 1.1.1 through 1.1.8 except as provided by Section 2 (Disclosure of Legal/Disciplinary Violations).
 - 1.1.9 Failure to cooperate in a timely matter with ARDMS in investigations of alleged grounds for discipline as described in this section, including the collection of relevant information. ARDMS will apply a rebuttable presumption that an individual who takes longer than thirty (30) days to respond to a request from ARDMS has not acted in a timely matter.
- 1.2 Sanctions. Violation of the provisions of Section 1.1 (Grounds for Discipline) may result in one or more of the following sanctions:
- 1.2.1 Permanent revocation of certification.
 - 1.2.2 Temporary revocation of certification for a specified period of time, after which time the individual must re-earn certification after meeting all specific conditions

imposed by the Hearing Panel including, but not limited to, petitioning for reinstatement of the individual's eligibility to apply for ARDMS examination(s).

- 1.2.3 Suspension of certification for a specified period of time, after which time the individual may, after meeting any specific conditions imposed by the Hearing Panel, petition for reinstatement of the certification. [*Refer to Section 1.2.10 for conditions.*]
- 1.2.4 Suspension of certification for a specified period of time, after which time and after meeting any specific conditions imposed by the Hearing Panel, the individual's certification will automatically be reinstated.
- 1.2.5 Probation, resulting in maintaining certification subject to fulfillment of specific conditions within or during a specified period of time.
- 1.2.6 Censure, resulting in a public and formal announcement of disapproval.
- 1.2.7 Reprimand, resulting in a private expression of disapproval.
- 1.2.8 Permanent ineligibility for certification, meaning that the individual is barred permanently from becoming certified.
- 1.2.9 Temporary ineligibility for certification, meaning that the individual is barred from becoming certified for a specified period of time, after which time the individual may become certified after meeting any specific conditions imposed by the Hearing Panel including, which may include, petitioning for reinstatement of the individual's eligibility for certification.
- 1.2.10 For the purpose of the sanctions described above, "specific conditions" may include, but are not limited to: (a) re-examination; (b) educational requirements; (c) monitoring; (d) supervision; (e) counseling; (f) participation in an appropriate treatment process or program; (g) reports to ARDMS; (h) psychiatric or psychological evaluations; (i) continuation or renewal of professional education under a practitioner approved by the Hearing Panel, and (j) being required to petition for reinstatement of a credential and/or eligibility for certification.
- 1.2.11 All sanctions, except for Reprimand (Section 1.2.7), will be announced publically, as described in Section 3.2.9 (Disclosure of Sanction). All sanctions, except for Reprimands, will be disclosed in response to inquiries, as described in Section 3.2.9 (Disclosure of Sanction).

2. Disclosure of Legal/Disciplinary Violations. Applicants, Candidates, Individuals and Registrants are required to disclose to ARDMS their involvement in any of the situations described in 'Grounds for Discipline' Sections 1.1.1 through 1.1.8, with the exception of the following:

- a) Disciplinary actions taken by a state licensing board, state or federal agency, national professional association, or accrediting body for failure to satisfy certification/licensure renewal requirements during the renewal period, provided the certification/licensure was later renewed successfully without additional investigatory or disciplinary action.

- b) Disciplinary actions taken by a state licensing board, state or federal agency, national professional association, or accrediting body for selecting a retired certification/licensure status designation for a non-sonography imaging modality with the organization while continuing to practice in the field of sonography.
- c) Legal matters previously disclosed to the ARDMS that have undergone ARDMS disciplinary review that have been expunged from the individual's criminal record provided that documentation verifying the expungement has been provided to ARDMS.
- d) Offenses that occurred while a juvenile and that were processed through the juvenile judicial system.

3. Investigation and Discipline Review Process.

3.1 Discipline/Review Bodies. Upon receiving information pertaining to a discipline matter ARDMS Staff will proceed in accordance with Section 3.2 “Initial Investigation and Action.” The following entities are charged with reviewing the findings of any ARDMS Staff investigation, hearing, appeal and resolution of discipline matters:

- 3.1.1 Discipline Review Committee (DRC). The Discipline Review Committee will be comprised of three members: the chair of the Board of Directors, the chair of the Certification Committee and one member of the Board of Directors as appointed by the chair of the Board of Directors and shall include at least two sonographers and one physician. The members will not have had any prior involvement in the cases presented and will not have any personal or professional conflict of interest relative to the cases. Should any member of the Committee have had prior involvement or a personal/professional conflict relative to the cases presented, the Committee member shall be recused. The chair of the Board of Directors will then temporarily appoint an alternate member to serve on the Committee; the alternate will be selected from a pool of alternates previously appointed by the chair of the Board of Directors, which may include past members of the ARDMS Board of Directors from the preceeding five years.
- 3.1.2 Discipline Hearing Panel (DHP). The Discipline Hearing Panel will be comprised of three members of the Board of Directors appointed by the chair of the Board of Directors. The members will not have had any prior involvement in the cases presented and will not have any personal or professional conflict of interest relative to the cases. Should any member of the Hearing Panel have had prior involvement or a personal/professional conflict relative to the cases presented, the Panel member shall be recused. The chair of the Board of Directors will then temporarily appoint an alternate member to serve on the Panel; the alternate will be selected from a pool of alternates previously appointed by the chair of the Board of Directors, which may include past members of the ARDMS Board of Directors from the preceeding five years.
- 3.1.3 Discipline Appeal Panel (DAP). The Discipline Appeal Panel will be comprised of three members appointed by the chair of the Board of Directors. They may be either members or past chairs of the Board of Directors. The members will not have had any prior involvement in the cases presented and will not have any

personal or professional conflict of interest relative to the cases. Should any member of the Appeal Panel have had prior involvement or a personal/professional conflict relative to the cases presented, the Panel member shall be recused. The chair of the Board of Directors will then temporarily appoint an alternate member to serve on the Panel; the alternate will be selected from a pool of alternates previously appointed by the chair of the Board of Directors, which may include past members of the ARDMS Board of Directors from the preceding five years.

- 3.1.4 Discipline Reinstatement Panel (DRP). The Discipline Reinstatement Panel will be comprised of three members appointed by the chair of the Board of Directors. They may be either members of or past chairs of the Board of Directors. The members will not have any personal or professional conflict of interest relative to the cases. Should any member of the Reinstatement Panel have a personal/professional conflict relative to the cases presented, the Panel member shall be recused. The chair of the Board of Directors will then temporarily appoint an alternate member to serve on the Panel; the alternate will be selected from a pool of alternates previously appointed by the chair of the Board of Directors, which may include past members of the ARDMS Board of Directors from the preceding five years.

3.2 Initial Investigation and Action.

- 3.2.1 ARDMS Staff Investigations. ARDMS Staff will conduct an initial review of all information received by ARDMS alleging that an Applicant, Candidate, Individual or Registrant (“Respondent”) may have engaged in conduct that is a ground for discipline under Section 1.1 (Grounds for Discipline).
- a) If ARDMS Staff determines that there is no credible evidence that a violation has occurred, the matter will be closed.
 - b) If ARDMS Staff determines that there is credible evidence that a violation has occurred the Respondent’s ARDMS record will be placed on administrative hold in and ARDMS will initiate the investigation process.
- 3.2.2 Administrative Holds. ARDMS shall place an individual on administrative hold. An administrative hold may be placed when ARDMS receives credible information, as determined by ARDMS Staff, that an Applicant, Candidate, Individual or Registrant may have engaged in conduct that is a ground for discipline under Section 1.1 (Grounds for Discipline).
- 3.2.2.1 During the time that an administrative hold is in place, the Applicant, Candidate, Individual or Registrant will not be permitted to take any ARDMS examinations, and any open examination eligibility periods will be revoked and a refund issued to the individual. The mandatory processing fee will be retained and will not be provided as part of the refund issued. ARDMS ordinarily will notify an individual that the individual has been placed on administrative hold within thirty (30) days of the date that the administrative hold is put in place and will request the individual’s response and explanation regarding the

matters that have prompted the imposition of the administrative hold. After ARDMS notifies the individual of the administrative hold, it will follow the procedures set forth in Section 30.4 (Investigation and Discipline Review Process).

- 3.2.2.2 An individual may appeal the imposition of an administrative hold by submitting a written appeal to the ARDMS Executive Director within thirty (30) business days of the date of ARDMS' notice of the administrative hold.

The ARDMS Director of Registrant Services will review and decide any appeals of administrative holds. An individual ordinarily will receive written notification of the decision within thirty (30) business days of the date the appeal is received by ARDMS.

- 3.2.2.3 An administrative hold will be lifted (i) at the conclusion of the ARDMS investigation into the matter and any disciplinary proceedings regarding the matter, and/or (ii) when the criminal legal matter is resolved either by the dismissal of the criminal charge(s) or the completion of sentencing, including probation, for the criminal offense. The individual shall send ARDMS copies of any documents evidencing the dismissal of the criminal charge(s) or the completion of sentencing, including probation, for the criminal offense.

- 3.2.3 Written Notification. The ARDMS Staff will provide the Respondent with written notice of the complaint or allegations and request that the Respondent respond to the allegations within a certain time period.

- a) The notice will include a brief description of the allegations and the purported facts and the ARDMS standard that is alleged to have been violated.
- b) If the Respondent self-reports the alleged violation, a notice will still be provided to afford the Respondent an opportunity to provide additional information about the alleged violation.

- 3.2.3.1 If upon completion of the investigation ARDMS Staff determines that based on the preponderance of the evidence that no violation has occurred, the matter shall be dismissed and the Respondent shall be so notified.

- 3.2.3.2 If upon completion of the investigation ARDMS Staff determines that based on the preponderance of the evidence that a violation has occurred, the matter shall be forwarded to the Discipline Review Committee (DRC), unless the violation is of a type that the Committee has instructed staff that can be disposed of without Committee review and the imposition of a formal sanction.

- 3.2.3.3 The Discipline Review Committee, in its discretion, will make a determination in accordance with Section 3.2.3.3.1 (Decision Options).

3.2.3.3.1 Decision Options. The Discipline Review Committee, by simple majority vote, will make one of the following determinations:

- a) No Action Taken – dismissal of the matter due to insufficient evidence concerning grounds for discipline under Section 30.1.1 “Grounds for Discipline“, the matter being insufficiently serious, or for other appropriate reasons as determined by the Committee; or
- b) Settlement Offer, which may include one of the following:
 - i. Completion of Ethics or other ‘rehabilitative’ course; or
 - ii. Other similar ‘rehabilitative’ settlement opportunities as deemed appropriate by the Committee; or
 - iii. Any other conditions or requirements that the Committee deems appropriate.
- c) Issuance of Cease and Desist Letter - Written notification requiring the individual to immediately cease and desist from his or her participation or conduct in the reviewed matter; or
- d) Refer the matter to the Discipline Hearing Panel for hearing.

3.2.3.4 If the matter is referred to the Hearing Panel, the ARDMS staff will notify the Respondent by letter of the allegation and grounds for discipline under Section 1.1 (Grounds for Discipline) (“Charging Letter”) and advise the Respondent of his/her right to be heard at a hearing on the matter. A request to be heard at the hearing must be made within thirty (30) days of the Respondent’s receipt of the Charging Letter.

3.2.3.5 All communications to a Respondent of a disciplinary matter (notice of administrative hold, notice of allegations, notice of the Disciplinary Review Committee’s decision, Charging Letter and notice of the Respondent's right to be heard at a hearing on the matter, and the Hearing and Appeal Panels’ decisions) described in Section 30 (Disciplinary Process) will be in writing and will be sent by certified, return-receipt mail or other delivery service or method that requires a person to sign for receipt of the delivery and that provides delivery tracking. ARDMS will make reasonable efforts to obtain signature acknowledgement from the Respondent of receipt of the communications. ARDMS will send the communications to the

Respondent's last known home mailing address as recorded in ARDMS' records. If ARDMS, after making reasonable efforts to obtain signature acknowledgement from the Respondent of receipt of the communications at the Respondent's last known home mailing address, is unable to obtain the Respondent's signature, ARDMS will send the communications to the Respondent's last known work address. If ARDMS, after making reasonable efforts to obtain signature acknowledgement from the Respondent of receipt of the communications at the Respondent's last known home or work mailing address, is unable to obtain signature acknowledgement from the Respondent of receipt of the communications, the communications will be deemed to have been given to the Respondent provided that a person has signed for receipt of the communications at either the Respondent's last known home or work mailing address.

3.2.4 Expedited Action. ARDMS may, in its discretion, expedite a disciplinary matter and process including, but not limited to, by shortening any notice or response periods provided for within the Discipline Procedures, if ARDMS Staff determines, based on a preponderance of the evidence and information available at the time, that expediting the disciplinary matter and process is appropriate in order to protect against the possibility of harm or danger to patients. The Respondent will be notified of any expedited action.

3.2.5 Hearings.

3.2.5.1 If the Respondent requests to be heard at the hearing on the matter, the ARDMS Staff will notify the Respondent of the time and place of the hearing. Payment in full of applicable hearing fees will be required before the date of the hearing. The hearing will be held either by telephone or in person in the sole discretion of ARDMS at a time and place determined by ARDMS. Respondent's failure to submit a written request to be heard at a hearing on the matter and the applicable hearing fee within the specified time period shall constitute consent by the Respondent for the Hearing Panel to review the matter on the record without participation from the Respondent.

3.2.5.2 The Respondent may be represented at the hearing by legal counsel and will be solely responsible for his/her expenses related to the hearing. Persons other than legal counsel will not be permitted to participate as an official representative of Respondent. Individuals serving as character or employment references on behalf of the Respondent are permitted to participate in the hearing only by providing statements on the record regarding the Respondent. If the Respondent does not respond to the Charging Letter (i.e., does not request to be heard at the hearing), the Hearing Panel will review the matter without the Respondent's participation.

3.2.5.3 The Hearing Panel may consider any evidence that it deems to be appropriate and relevant. The Hearing Panel will sanction the

Respondent only when there is clear and convincing evidence of grounds for discipline under Section 1.1 (Grounds for Discipline).

3.2.5.3.1 Decision Options. The Discipline Hearing Panel, by simple majority vote, will make one of the following determinations:

- a) No Action Taken – dismissal of the matter due to insufficient evidence concerning grounds for discipline under Section 30.1.1 “Grounds for Discipline“, the matter being insufficiently serious, or for other appropriate reasons as determined by the Hearing Panel; or
- b) Issuance of sanction(s) pursuant to Section 1.2 “Sanctions”.

3.2.5.4 The Hearing Panel will render its decision by simple majority vote and ordinarily will issue a written Order of Findings within thirty (30) business days of the hearing.

3.2.6 Appeals of Disciplinary Decisions.

3.2.6.1 If the Respondent wishes to appeal the decision of the Hearing Panel, he/she must submit an appeal in writing within thirty (30) business days of receipt of the decision of the Hearing Panel along with the applicable appeal fees, and the Respondent must state the grounds for appeal. If the Respondent does not appeal in writing within thirty (30) business days of receipt of the decision of the Hearing Panel and submit the applicable appeal fees, the Hearing Panel’s decision will be final and the applicable sanction(s) will be recorded in the Respondent’s ARDMS record and published in accordance with Section 3.2.9 (Disclosure of Sanctions).

3.2.6.2 The appeal ordinarily will be heard within one hundred-twenty (120) days of the date that the written appeal, including the applicable appeal fee, is received by ARDMS, unless ARDMS Staff determines that there is cause for extending that time period. The Appeal Panel will consider the appeal in a closed hearing. Neither the Respondent, nor any representative on behalf of the Respondent, is permitted to participate in the appeal hearing.

3.2.6.3 In considering the appeal, the Appeal Panel will review a written record of the case developed by the Hearing Panel and any additional materials that may be submitted by the Respondent.

3.2.6.3.1 Decision Options. The Discipline Appeal Panel, by simple majority vote, will make one of the following determinations:

- a) To affirm the decision of the Discipline Hearing/Reinstatement Panel; or
- b) To overturn the decision of the Discipline Hearing/Reinstatement Panel. If the Appeal Panel overturns the decision of the Discipline Hearing/Reinstatement Panel, the Appeal Panel may refer the case back to the Discipline Hearing/Reinstatement Panel for reconsideration consistent with the findings and holdings of the Appeal Panel.
- c) Standard of Review. The Appeal Panel may overturn the Hearing Panel's decision only if it determines by majority vote that the Discipline Hearing/Reinstatement Panel's decision was arbitrary and capricious. Otherwise, it must affirm the Discipline Hearing/Reinstatement Panel's decision.

3.2.6.4 The Appeal Panel ordinarily will issue a written decision within thirty (30) business days of its deliberations. Upon the issuance of the Appeal Panel's decision, the matter is final.

3.2.7 Reinstatement. If the sanction imposed by the Hearing Panel does not preclude the Respondent from requesting reinstatement, the Respondent may make a request for reinstatement to the Reinstatement Panel.

3.2.7.1 The Respondent must submit the request for reinstatement in writing after the Respondent's sanction period has expired, setting forth the grounds upon which he/she believes that reinstatement is justified, and the applicable reinstatement hearing fee. In its discretion, the ARDMS Staff may request that the Respondent provide additional information and documentation concerning the request for reinstatement. The Respondent's failure to submit a written request for reinstatement and the reinstatement hearing fee will result in the Respondent's ARDMS record being designated as 'Sanction Expired; Petition Required' and the Respondent will be unable to regain Active status or continue with the ARDMS certification process until the proper reinstatement petition and all applicable fees have been received and reviewed by the Reinstatement Panel, and the Reinstatement Panel has issued a decision with respect to the reinstatement petition.

3.2.7.2 The Reinstatement Panel will consider the request for reinstatement at a hearing. The hearing will be held either by telephone or in person in the sole discretion of ARDMS at a time and place determined by ARDMS. The Respondent may request to be heard at the hearing on the matter. The reinstatement request will be considered generally in accordance with Section 3.2.5 (Hearings). The Reinstatement Panel

will render its decision by simple majority vote and ordinarily will issue a written Order of Findings within thirty (30) business days of the hearing.

3.2.7.2.1 Decision Options. The Discipline Reinstatement Panel, by simple majority vote, will make one of the following determinations:

- a) Deny the petition for reinstatement, and specify whether and under what circumstances, if any, the Respondent may renew the petition for reinstatement at a later date; or
- b) Grant petition for reinstatement of certification status and/or eligibility to apply for ARDMS examinations with specific conditions as determined by the Reinstatement Panel; or
- c) Grant petition for reinstatement of certification status and/or eligibility to apply for ARDMS examinations unconditionally.

3.2.7.3 If the Respondent's request for the opportunity to re-apply for certification is granted, the sanction hold will be removed from Respondent's record and he/she will proceed as directed per the Order issued, in accordance with Section 27 of ARDMS Standing Policies (Eligibility for Examinations).

3.2.8 Appeals of Reinstatement Panel Decisions.

3.2.8.1 If the Respondent wishes to appeal the decision of the Reinstatement Panel, he/she must submit an appeal in writing within thirty (30) business days of receipt of the decision of the Reinstatement Panel along with the applicable appeal fees, and the Respondent must state the grounds for appeal. If the Respondent does not appeal in writing within thirty (30) business days of receipt of the decision of the Reinstatement Panel and submit the applicable appeal fees, the Reinstatement Panel's decision will be final and the applicable sanction(s), if any, will be recorded in the Respondent's ARDMS record and published in accordance with Section 3.2.9 (Disclosure of Sanctions).

3.2.8.2 The appeal ordinarily will be heard within one hundred-twenty (120) days of the date that the written appeal, including the applicable appeal fee, is received by ARDMS, unless ARDMS Staff determines that there is cause for extending that time period. The Appeal Panel will consider the appeal in a closed hearing. Neither the Respondent, nor any representative on behalf of the Respondent, is permitted to participate in the appeal hearing.

3.2.8.3 In considering the appeal, the Appeal Panel will review a written record of the case developed by the Reinstatement Panel and any additional materials that may be submitted by the Respondent.

3.2.8.3.1 Decision Options. The Discipline Appeal Panel, by simple majority vote, will make one of the following determinations:

- a) To affirm the decision of the Discipline Hearing/Reinstatement Panel; or
- b) To overturn the decision of the Discipline Hearing/Reinstatement Panel. If the Appeal Panel overturns the decision of the Discipline Hearing/Reinstatement Panel, the Appeal Panel may refer the case back to the Discipline Hearing/Reinstatement Panel for reconsideration consistent with the findings and holdings of the Appeal Panel.
- c) Standard of Review. The Appeal Panel may overturn the Hearing Panel's decision only if it determines by majority vote that the Discipline Hearing/Reinstatement Panel's decision was arbitrary and capricious. Otherwise, it must affirm the Discipline Hearing/Reinstatement Panel's decision.

3.2.8.4 The Appeal Panel ordinarily will issue a written decision within thirty (30) business days of its deliberations. Upon the issuance of the Appeal Panel's decision, the matter is final.

3.2.9 Disclosure of Sanction.

3.2.9.1 Except for Reprimand, as described in Section 1.2.7, a Respondent's disciplinary sanction(s) will be announced publically. Such public announcement includes, but is not limited to, publication on the Sanction Listing located on the ARDMS website. The announcement will include, but is not limited to, the Respondent's name, the sanction(s), the standard(s) determined to have been violated, the length of the sanction(s), and the date the sanction(s) will expire. A Respondent's sanction(s) information will remain on the Sanction Listing on the ARDMS website permanently.

3.2.9.2 ARDMS may, in its sole discretion, disclose the final disposition of any ARDMS disciplinary matter and other relevant information relating to a disciplinary matter to others including, but not limited to, the individual or organization initially reporting the violation,

employers, state licensing boards, state or federal agencies, national professional associations, accrediting bodies, third party payers, and the general public, as ARDMS Staff deems appropriate.

3.2.10 Legal Requests for ARDMS Records. ARDMS will endeavor to cooperate with police authorities in their investigations by providing information pertaining to ARDMS records, as possible, that is requested by the authorities.

3.2.10.1 All requests for ARDMS records will be forwarded to ARDMS legal counsel for review to determine the validity of the request and the documentation that is appropriate to provide.

3.2.10.2 If the request being made involves a legal matter or disciplinary matter not previously disclosed to the ARDMS by the Applicant/Candidate/Individual/Registrant, the information will be processed in accordance with Section 3.2 (Initial Investigations and Action).