

CSPS Position Statement on Plastic Surgery as Entertainment

Adopted by the CSPS on June 10, 2005

Preamble:

Although Plastic Surgeons/Physicians generally function in our society as small businesses, providing services and employing staff, the nature of the services they provide -- the art and science of medicine and plastic surgery -- carries with it obligations and duties that are remarkable beyond those of the usual small-business. Notably, there are obligations and duties to each patient as well as to society and the profession that are not only imparted to us through our training but are also encoded in Codes of Ethics and as Standards of Practice through the provincial Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons and professional organizations as well as common law.

Not only does the CSPS have its own code of ethical behavior but each practicing surgeon in this country is held to standards of practice as laid down by each Provincial College, the licensing body. These standards have been established by the Colleges, for the most part, by adopting the Code of Ethics of the CMA. It is therefore these practices, codes and guidelines that the CSPS and its Ethics Committee has used in establishing the statement.

Statement:

The interpretation of what constitutes unprofessional conduct for member plastic surgeons will be judged by the Society and the Ethics Committee based on the Standards of Practice and Codes of Ethics noted above.

Specifically:

- o Section 2 (K) of the CSPS Code of Ethics states, "Each member may be subject to disciplinary action, including expulsion, if: The member participates in a charity raffle, fundraising event, contest or other promotion in which the prize is any procedure". Furthermore, the voting membership at the 2004 CSPS meeting voted unanimously (save one) in favor of a motion finding a member in breach of the CSPS Code of Ethics if the member engaged in treating a patient in a context or venue primarily designed for the purpose of entertainment.
- o Any practice activity that demeans the profession or fails to protect and/or promote the profession's values will be considered a violation of the Code of Ethics of the CSPS.
- o Any practice activity that places the Physician-Patient Relationship in jeopardy, even if only potentially so, may be considered a violation of the above noted Standards and Codes of Ethics.
- o Participation in activities associated with the entertainment/advertising industry, because they carry with them the potential to challenge the tenets of our standards and codes and the trust engendered to us by our patients and society, ought to be considered very carefully. Any surgeon considering such participation is advised, for her/his own protection, to be familiar with these Standards and codes and to consult the CSPS Ethics Committee for their input and review. Each such circumstance will be judged by the Committee on the Standards of Practice and Codes of Ethics noted above with particular interest directed to:
 - the relationship between the surgeon and third-party,
 - the integrity of the Physician-Patient Relationship and its independence from outside influences on, but not limited to, the informed consent process, privacy and confidentiality and conflicting interests.
 - the motivation, the purpose and intention of the activity as they relate to the Standards of Practice and Codes of Ethics.