

P I T T S B U R G H

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ask the LEGAL ♦ PROFESSIONALS



MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Q How much information should the physician provide when asked about their qualifications?

A Golden Rule: If asked about your qualifications, do not embellish. Informed consent is a communication process that results in a patient's agreement to undergo a specific medical intervention or treatment. What physicians disclose to patients during informed consent discussions may vary considerably. In *Dutry v. Patterson*, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court noted that information particular to the surgeon, rather than information concerning the procedure itself, was generally not relevant to an informed consent claim. That was overruled by the state legislature (MCARE), which added honest disclosure of credentials to the requirements of an informed consent. At a minimum, physicians must provide accurate information about his or her professional credentials, training, or experience when a patient asks a physician about his or her background.

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