

HEALTH COMMITTEE (PROCEDURE) RULES

1. These Rules shall apply where information is received by IPS or ILEX about a member which raises a question of whether the fitness to practise of the member is seriously impaired by reason of his physical or mental condition.
2. Unless it appears to IPS that the matter need not proceed further, IPS shall consider the matter in accordance with these Rules. IPS shall delegate to an IPS Officer responsibility for considering whether the fitness to practise of a member is seriously impaired.
3. If the information received is considered by IPS to be of such gravity and urgency IPS may immediately suspend a member's membership.
4. If the information received is not considered by IPS to justify immediate suspension, IPS shall follow the procedure as set out in these Rules.
5. IPS shall send a notice by guaranteed post to the member:-
 - (a) Informing him that information has been received which appears to raise a question as to whether his fitness to practise is seriously impaired by reason of his physical or mental condition and indicating the nature of the alleged condition.
 - (b) Inviting the member to furnish IPS with medical reports on his fitness to practise.
 - (c) Inviting him to submit any observations or other evidence which he may wish to offer as to his fitness to practise.
 - (d) Informing him that if he does not reply within 14 days or fails without proper cause to provide medical reports, the matter will be considered by IPS on the information available, and that IPS has the power to suspend his membership.
6.
 - (a) At the expiry of the time limit referred to in Rule 5 above, IPS shall determine whether the member's fitness to practise is seriously impaired.
 - (b) Where the member has not produced any medical reports, IPS shall be entitled, if it thinks fit, to find that the member's fitness to practise is seriously impaired on the basis of the information before it and the member's refusal or failure to submit medical reports.

- (c) If IPS judged the member's fitness to practise to be seriously impaired, IPS may suspend the member's membership for the protection of members of the public or in the member's own interest.
7. The decision of IPS in Rule 6 above shall be immediately notified to the member.
 8. IPS may review any member's suspension of its own volition or at the request of a member at any time.
 9.
 - (a) On receipt of a notification of suspension received under paragraph 7, the member may appeal to the Health Committee of IPS to review the decision of the IPS Officer by lodging Notice of Appeal.
 - (b) The Health Committee should sit as soon as is practicable to review the decision of the IPS Officer.
 - (c) The Health Committee may take all relevant matters into consideration in coming to its decision.
 - (d) Where a member has refused or failed to produce medical reports as to his fitness, the Health Committee shall be entitled to find that the member's fitness to practise is seriously impaired on the basis of the information before them and the member's refusal or failure to provide medical reports.
 - (e) The Health Committee may uphold the decision of the IPS Officer to suspend the member or make any such order as it sees fit.
 - (f) The Health Committee shall sit in private, unless it considers that the public interest requires that it be heard in public.
 10. The Health Committee shall consist of three members from the IPS Disciplinary Panel constituted under the Investigation, Disciplinary and Appeal Rules of whom two should be lay members and one should be a professional member.
 11. A suspended member is still subject to membership obligations under Article 18D.