



Almost everyone has heard they should look for “board certification” when seeking a qualified plastic surgeon (or any other physician for that matter). Most people don’t understand exactly what this means and what is involved in becoming “board certified”. Even fewer people know about certification of operating facilities. You may want answers to questions such as: Who certifies the facilities? and what protection does such certification offer? We believe all patients need this information to make informed choices in their search for the right surgeon, surgery facility, and anesthesia provider.

At our office, we have gone to great effort and expense to ensure the highest standard of safety for our patients. As you consider plastic surgery, we hope the following information will help you evaluate the choices available to you.

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is the agency that oversees sub-specialty boards. More than 100 “boards” have been submitted to the ABMS for formal approval but only 24 have met their strict educational and examination criteria. The American Board of Plastic Surgery is the only ABMS board that has traditionally overseen the training and certification of plastic and reconstructive surgeons. Certification from other boards does not give you the same protection. Because these boards have a less strict criteria for certification. Some boards require only the payment of a fee. Boards that have not been approved by the ABMS include: Cosmetic Plastic Surgery, Facial Cosmetic Surgery, Plastic Aesthetic Surgery, Cosmetic Dermatologic Surgery, American Board of Cosmetic Surgery, or Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery. Many types of doctors perform plastic surgery procedures; General Surgeons, Ear, Nose, and Throat Surgeons, Dermatologists, Gynecologists, Family Physicians, etc. There is not one board that oversees all cosmetic surgeons or determines which physicians can do cosmetic procedures. Unfortunately, patients ultimately have the responsibility to determine which physicians are qualified in cosmetic surgery. To determine whether a doctor is trained in plastic and reconstructive surgery, you may call the American Board of Medical Specialties at 1-800-776-2378 or the American Society of Plastic



Surgeons (ASPS) at 1-800-635-0635. Give them the name of your surgeon and they will tell you if and when he or she was certified and in what specialty. The ASPS accepts only board certified plastic surgeons with the appropriate credentials. You may wish to visit their website at www.plasticsurgery.org; you can link to Dr. Short’s website (www.indyplasticsurgery.com) from this site. You may want to contact the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons at 888-272-7711 or access their website at www.surgery.org. Dr. Short is also a member of this society which admits only board certified plastic surgeons who specialize in cosmetic surgery and have devoted a majority of their practice to the field of Aesthetic (cosmetic) surgery.



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