

Part 4: Receiving notice of your medical practitioners tribunal hearing

Key points

- ▶ You will receive formal notice of your medical practitioners tribunal hearing at least 28 days in advance of the hearing, unless in exceptional circumstances
- ▶ It is for you to decide whether to attend your medical practitioners tribunal hearing. If you choose not to attend, the hearing may proceed in your absence. You may submit written submissions instead if you wish to do so
- ▶ If you think it isn't possible for your medical practitioners tribunal hearing to go ahead on the scheduled dates, you may apply for a postponement. It is important you set out the reasoning for your application clearly, along with any evidence

Receiving notice of your hearing

Although you will receive advance notice of your hearing dates through our case management procedure (see [Part 3](#) for more information), you will also receive a formal Notice of Hearing from the MPTS at least 28 days before the hearing. The Notice of Hearing will:

- ▶ confirm the date, time and venue of the hearing
- ▶ confirm that you have the right to attend the hearing and be represented
- ▶ confirm that the hearing can proceed in your absence if the medical practitioners tribunal is satisfied that you have been given notice of the hearing
- ▶ explain the medical practitioners tribunal's role and powers.

You will also receive separate notice from the GMC with a final copy of the allegations you face, which the medical practitioners tribunal will consider at the hearing. This is known as a Notice of Allegation and must be sent to you by the GMC under the [Rules](#).

Deciding to come to your hearing

You don't have to come to the medical practitioners tribunal hearing, but it is usually in your best interests to do so because of the potential impact on your GMC registration. For example, questions might arise that only you can answer and you will be able to give the medical practitioners tribunal your comments about the allegations.

Along with the Notice of Hearing, you'll also find enclosed an attendance confirmation form to complete to let us know if you will be attending the medical practitioners tribunal hearing, if you will be represented and, if so, whom your representative is.

Please also let us know as soon as possible if you have any additional needs that affect whether you can come to the hearing (eg because of a disability or communication difficulty) and provide details of any reasonable adjustments required. The MPTS hearing centre has wheelchair access and a loop system for people with hearing loss.

The hearing may go ahead without you or your representative being present if the medical practitioners tribunal is satisfied that you have been given notice of the hearing and it is appropriate to proceed in your absence. It is your responsibility to keep your contact details up to date so we can contact you.

If you decide not to attend your medical practitioners tribunal hearing, you may still submit written comments to be considered by the medical practitioners tribunal. You should send your written comments to your GMC contact by the date specified in any case management directions sent to you (further information about case management directions can be found in [Part 3](#)).

Children in hearings

Please note that if you are attending the hearing we ask that you do not bring children, as they are not permitted in the hearing room. If you really have no option and they do attend the hearing centre, you must make sure the children will be supervised by an adult at all times. Our staff can't take responsibility for them.

Asking to postpone your hearing

If you think that it isn't possible for your medical practitioners tribunal hearing to go ahead on the scheduled date, please apply in writing or email to us to postpone your

hearing. Applications must be sent at the earliest opportunity to MPTSOperationsListings@mpts-uk.org. MPTS staff cannot advise you about your case.

To make an application, please complete a [postponement application form](#) or set your application out in writing. You should clearly explain your reasons for seeking a postponement, identify the length of postponement you wish to request and include any supporting documentation, such as copies of medical reports.

Your application will be considered by a legally qualified MPTS case manager. The MPTS case manager will balance your interests with the public interest, as well as fairness to both sides, when making their decision. The MPTS case manager will also take into account our [guidance for decision makers on postponements](#) – you may find it useful to consider this document before making your application.

Both you and the GMC will be notified of the decision in writing as soon as possible. If the postponement is agreed, your hearing will be rescheduled for a later date. If it is not agreed, your hearing will proceed as scheduled. If new issues arise after your postponement application has been decided, you can submit a new postponement application.

If the GMC or MPTS applies to postpone your medical practitioners tribunal hearing, the same procedure will apply – you will be asked to submit written comments which will be considered by the MPTS case manager and will then be notified of the outcome.

If you'd like to provide feedback on *Resource for doctors: medical practitioners tribunals* please go to: www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ResourceforDoctors_MPT_Part4/