

1 **13-1115. Termination of physician-patient relation; abandonment.**

2 A doctor[']s duty to a patient who is in need of care continues until the doctor has
3 withdrawn from the case. A doctor cannot abandon the patient who is in need of continuing care.
4 A doctor can withdraw by giving the patient reasonable notice under the circumstances.

5 USE NOTES

6 This instruction should be given in conjunction with either UJI 13-1101 NMRA or UJI 13-
7 1102 NMRA when evidence is presented in support of plaintiff[']s claim that the doctor
8 abandoned [~~his~~]their care without giving reasonable notice under the circumstances.
9 [As amended, effective January 1, 1987; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. S-1-RCR-2025-
10 00126, effective for all cases pending or filed on or after December 31, 2025.]

11 **Committee commentary.** — Because the patient-physician relationship is consensual, a physician
12 has a right to withdraw from the patient[']s case provided [~~he~~] the physician gives the patient
13 reasonable notice to secure other medical attention. *Skodje v. Hardy*, 288 P.2d 471 (Wash. 1955).
14 A physician cannot terminate the relationship simply by staying away.
15 [As amended by Supreme Court Order No. S-1-RCR-2025-00126.]