

# Patient Right to an Observer

**You have the right to have an observer in the exam room during breast, pelvic, genital, and rectal exams with any doctor.** An observer is a person trained to know what to expect and watch a doctor during these exams. The observer can help make sure you are not touched inappropriately. If you want an observer, ask for one. And remember, you can stop the exam at any time for any reason.

If your doctor does not provide an observer, or if you are not comfortable with the observer that is offered, you can postpone or cancel your exam. If that happens, your doctor must provide you with a referral to another health care provider, if available. You can also decide to go ahead with the exam without an observer, or go ahead with the other parts of your doctor's visit that don't include the exam. It is your decision.

The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs licenses doctors and other health care providers. **If you have any concerns or complaints about your exam, you can file a complaint with the Division of Consumer Affairs.** More information about filing a complaint is available at <https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/sexual-misconduct-complaint>.

*See N.J.A.C. 13:35-6.23*



New Jersey Office of the Attorney General  
Division of Consumer Affairs

SCAN HERE  
for more information

