

**GEORGE DALE**  
Commissioner of Insurance  
State Fire Marshal

**LEE HARRELL**  
Deputy Commissioner



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**  
Mississippi Insurance Department

501 N. West Street  
1001 Woolfolk Building (39201)  
Post Office Box 79  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0079  
(601) 359-3569  
<http://www.doi.state.ms.us>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

George Dale, Commissioner of Insurance  
Mississippi Department of Insurance  
June 17, 2005  
For Additional Information, please contact  
Deputy Commissioner Lee Harrell  
(601) 359-3572

**MEDICAL ASSURANCE COMPANY OF MISSISSIPPI AGREES TO START  
WRITING NEW BUSINESS IN MISSISSIPPI**

Commissioner of Insurance George Dale and Medical Assurance Company of Mississippi (MACM) are pleased to announce that, effective immediately, MACM is lifting its moratorium on writing new medical malpractice policies. MACM is the leading writer of medical malpractice insurance coverage in Mississippi.

In early 2003, the company had to impose a ban on new business due to the losses they were experiencing and a reduction in their surplus, according to Michael D. Houpt, Chief Executive Officer of MACM. Commissioner Dale stresses that when other writers pulled out of Mississippi, or in some cases non-renewed business, MACM stayed with their existing insureds.

The management of MACM feels confident that now is the time to lift the moratorium and allow doctors, especially those wishing to establish a new practice, the opportunity to do so and be able to have affordable malpractice insurance. However, MACM emphasizes that it shall continue to strictly apply the underwriting guidelines that have allowed it to remain in business.

Commissioner Dale believes that the recent tort reforms adopted by the State of Mississippi allowed MACM to take this action. According to Dale, the fact that MACM is now writing new business shows that tort reform is working in Mississippi. Commissioner Dale also emphasizes that he and his staff will continue to recruit insurance companies to write insurance in the State. "This type of action by MACM will demonstrate that Mississippi is an attractive and fair place to do business," Dale said.