

NEW YORK
state department of
HEALTH

Public

Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Sue Kelly
Executive Deputy Commissioner

November 29, 2012

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Norene Fleming, M.D.
REDACTED

Joel E. Ablove, Esq.
NYS Department of Health
ESP- Corning Tower – Room 2512
Albany, New York 12237

RE: In the Matter of Norene Fleming, M.D.

Dear Parties:

Enclosed please find the Determination and Order (No. 12-262) of the Hearing Committee in the above referenced matter. This Determination and Order shall be deemed effective upon the receipt or seven (7) days after mailing by certified mail as per the provisions of §230, subdivision 10, paragraph (h) of the New York State Public Health Law.

Five days after receipt of this Order, you will be required to deliver to the Board of Professional Medical Conduct your license to practice medicine together with the registration certificate. Delivery shall be by either certified mail or in person to:

Office of Professional Medical Conduct
New York State Department of Health
Office of Professional Medical Conduct
Riverview Center
150 Broadway - Suite 355
Albany, New York 12204

If your license or registration certificate is lost, misplaced or its whereabouts is otherwise unknown, you shall submit an affidavit to that effect. If subsequently you locate the requested items, they must then be delivered to the Office of Professional Medical Conduct in the manner noted above.

As prescribed by the New York State Public Health Law §230, subdivision 10, paragraph (i), (McKinney Supp. 2007) and §230-c subdivisions 1 through 5, (McKinney Supp. 2007), "the determination of a committee on professional medical conduct may be reviewed by the Administrative Review Board for professional medical conduct." Either the licensee or the Department may seek a review of a committee determination.

Request for review of the Committee's determination by the Administrative Review Board stays penalties other than suspension or revocation until final determination by that Board. Summary orders are not stayed by Administrative Review Board reviews.

All notices of review must be served, by certified mail, upon the Administrative Review Board and the adverse party within fourteen (14) days of service and receipt of the enclosed Determination and Order.

The notice of review served on the Administrative Review Board should be forwarded to:

James F. Horan, Esq., Chief Administrative Law Judge
New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Adjudication
Riverview Center
150 Broadway – Suite 510
Albany, New York 12204

The parties shall have 30 days from the notice of appeal in which to file their briefs to the Administrative Review Board. Six copies of all papers must also be sent to the attention of Mr. Horan at the above address and one copy to the other party. The stipulated record in this matter shall consist of the official hearing transcript(s) and all documents in evidence.

Parties will be notified by mail of the Administrative Review Board's Determination and Order.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

James F. Horan
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Bureau of Adjudication

JFH:cah

Enclosure

STATE OF NEW YORK: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

IN THE MATTER
OF
NORENE FLEMING, M.D.

DETERMINATION
AND
ORDER

BPMC #12-262

COPY

A hearing was held on November 8, 2012, at the offices of the New York State Department of Health ("the Petitioner"). A Notice of Referral Proceeding and a Statement of Charges were served upon the Respondent, **NORENE FLEMING, M.D.**

Pursuant to Section 230(10)(e) of the Public Health Law, **Mohammad-Reza Ghazi-Moghadam, M.D., Chair, Trevor A. Litchmore, M.D., and Virginia R. Marty,** duly designated members of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct, served as the Hearing Committee in this matter. **David A. Lenihan, Esq.,** Administrative Law Judge, served as the Administrative Officer. The Petitioner appeared by **James E. Dering, Esq.,** General Counsel, by **Joel E. Abelove, Esq.,** of Counsel. The Respondent, **Norene Fleming, M.D.,** did not appear, although duly served. Evidence was received and a transcript of these proceedings was made. After consideration of the entire record, the Hearing Committee issues this Determination and Order.

STATEMENT OF CASE

This case was brought pursuant to Public Health Law Section 230(10)(p). The statute provides for an expedited hearing when a licensee is charged solely with a violation of Education Law Section 6530(9). In such cases, a licensee is charged with misconduct based upon a prior criminal conviction in New York State or another jurisdiction, or upon a prior administrative adjudication regarding conduct that would amount to professional misconduct, if committed in New York. The scope of an expedited hearing is limited to a determination of the nature and severity of the penalty to be imposed upon the licensee.

In the instant case, the Respondent is charged with professional misconduct pursuant to Education Law §6530(9) (b) – by having been found guilty of improper professional practice or professional misconduct by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state where the conduct upon which the finding was based would, if committed in New York state, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York state, and pursuant to Education Law §6530(9)(d) for having her license to practice medicine revoked by the State of Maryland where the conduct upon which the finding was based would, if committed in New York state, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York state.

Copies of the Notice of Referral Proceeding and the Statement of Charges are attached to this Determination and Order as Appendix 1.

WITNESSES

For the Petitioner: None

For the Respondent: None

FINDINGS OF FACT

The following Findings of Fact were made after a review of the entire record in this matter. Numbers below in parentheses refer to exhibits, denoted by the prefix "Ex." These citations refer to evidence found persuasive by the Hearing Committee in arriving at a particular finding. Conflicting evidence, if any, was considered and rejected in favor of the cited evidence. All Hearing Committee findings were unanimous.

1. Norene Fleming, M.D., the Respondent, did not appear at the hearing although duly and personally served with process. (Petitioner's Ex. 2)
2. Norene Fleming, M.D., the Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York State on March 11, 1983, by the issuance of license number 153382 by the New York State Education Department. (Petitioner's Ex. 3)
3. On or about December 14, 2011, the Maryland State Board of Physicians (hereinafter "Maryland Board"), by a Decision (hereinafter "Maryland Decision"), revoked Respondent's license to practice medicine, based on, *inter alia*, abandonment of patient, general unprofessional conduct, and failure to cooperate with a Board Investigation. (Petitioner's Ex. 4)

4. The conduct resulting in the Maryland Board disciplinary action against Respondent would constitute misconduct under the laws of New York state, pursuant to the following sections of New York state law:

1. New York State Education Law §6530(4) (practicing the profession with Gross negligence) and/or
2. . New York State Education Law §6530(22) (failure to provide patient records);
3. New York State Education Law §6530(28) (failure to respond to professional misconduct inquiry and to make records available).
4. New York State Education Law §6530(30) (Abandonment or neglect of patient).

VOTE OF THE HEARING COMMITTEE

FIRST SPECIFICATION

Respondent violated New York Education Law Section 6530(9)(b) by having been found guilty of improper professional practice or professional misconduct by a duly authorized disciplinary agency of another state where the conduct resulting in the disciplinary action would, if committed in New York State, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York State in that Respondent's license was revoked by the State of Maryland for abandonment of patient, general unprofessional conduct, and failure to cooperate with a Board investigation.

VOTE: Sustained (3-0)

SECOND SPECIFICATION

Respondent violated New York Education Law Section 6530(9)(d) by having disciplinary action taken against him by a duly authorized disciplinary agency of another state where the conduct resulting in the disciplinary action would, if committed in New York State, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York State. Respondent's license was revoked by the State of Maryland for abandonment of a patient, general unprofessional conduct, and failure to cooperate with a Board investigation.

VOTE: Sustained (3-0)

HEARING COMMITTEE DETERMINATION

The Respondent did not appear at the hearing, either in person or by counsel. The Administrative Officer, after considering the documentary evidence, which included an Affidavit of Service of the Notice of Referral Proceeding and the Statement of Charges (Petitioner's Exhibit 2), ruled that the Petitioner had met the requirements of law for due diligence in the service of process, that jurisdiction had been established over the Respondent, and that the hearing could proceed on the merits notwithstanding the Respondent's absence.

The record in this case indicates that Respondent's license to practice medicine was revoked by the State of Maryland. (See Exhibit 1) The record shows that the Respondent has been charged with misconduct by the State of Maryland for abandonment of patient, general unprofessional conduct, and failure to cooperate with a Board investigation. (Ex. 4)

Respondent did not appear at the hearing, and the record does not contain any evidence of mitigating circumstances, or remorse. The Department's attorney indicated that there was personal service and that the Respondent was fully aware that this matter would be going forward. The panel noted that the Respondent was personally served with notice of this matter and was thus aware of this proceeding and chose to ignore it.

The Department's attorney, Mr. Abelow, stated that, given the nature of the misconduct in Maryland, there is no other appropriate outcome in New York State but to revoke the Respondent's New York state license. The panel, unanimously, agreed with the Department on this recommendation. As to the penalty, therefore, the Hearing Committee determined that the people of New York State would be protected by a revocation of the Respondent's license. Accordingly, the panel decided, unanimously, to revoke the Respondent's license given the circumstances of this case.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The license of the Respondent to practice medicine in New York State is revoked.
2. This Order shall be effective upon service on the Respondent in accordance with the requirements of Public Health Law Section 230(10) (h).

**DATED: Amsterdam, New York
November 28, 2012**

REDACTED

Mohammad-Reza Ghazi-Moghadam, M.D., Chair,

**Trevor A. Litchmore, M.D.,
Virginia R. Marty**

To:

Norene Fleming, M.D.

REDACTED

Joel E. Ablove, Esq.
Attorney for Petitioner
Associate Counsel
NYS Department of Health
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct
Corning Tower, Room 2512
Albany, New York 12237

APPENDIX 1

STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

IN THE MATTER

OF

NORENE FLEMING, M.D.
CO-11-12-6981-A

NOTICE OF

REFERRAL

PROCEEDING

TO: Norene Fleming, M.D.

REDACTED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT:

An adjudicatory proceeding will be held pursuant to the provisions of New York Public Health Law §§230(10)(p) and New York State Administrative Procedures Act §§301-307 and 401. The proceeding will be conducted before a committee on professional conduct of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (Committee) on the 8th day of November, 2012, at 10:30 a.m., at the offices of the New York State Department of Health, Riverview Center, 150 Broadway, Suite 510, Albany, NY 12204-2719.

At the proceeding, evidence will be received concerning the allegations set forth in the Statement of Charges that is attached. A stenographic record of the proceeding will be made and the witnesses at the proceeding will be sworn and examined.

You may appear in person at the proceeding and may be represented by counsel who shall be an attorney admitted to practice in New York state. You may produce evidence and/or sworn testimony on your behalf. Such evidence and/or sworn testimony shall be strictly limited to evidence and testimony relating to the nature and severity of the penalty to be imposed upon the licensee. Where the charges are based on the conviction of state law crimes in other jurisdictions, evidence may be offered that would show that the conviction would not be a crime in New York State. The Committee also may limit the number of witnesses whose testimony will be received, as well as the length of time any witness will be permitted to testify.

EXHIBIT

1

If you intend to present sworn testimony, the number of witnesses and an estimate of the time necessary for their direct examination must be submitted to the New York State Department of Health, Division of Legal Affairs, Bureau of Adjudication, Riverview Center, 150 Broadway, Suite 510, Albany, NY 12204-2719, ATTENTION: HON. JAMES F. HORAN, ACTING DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF ADJUDICATION (Telephone: (518-402-0748), (henceforth "Bureau of Adjudication") as well as the Department of Health attorney indicated below, no later than ten (10) days prior to the scheduled date of the Referral Proceeding, as indicated above.

Pursuant to the provisions of New York Public Health Law §230(10)(p), you shall file a written answer to each of the charges and allegations in the Statement of Charges not less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the hearing. Any charge or allegation not so answered shall be deemed admitted. You may wish to seek the advice of counsel prior to filing such answer. The answer shall be filed with the Bureau of Adjudication, at the address indicated above, and a copy shall be forwarded to the attorney for the Department of Health, whose name appears below. You may file a written brief and affidavits with the Committee. Six (6) copies of all papers you submit must be filed with the Bureau of Adjudication at the address indicated above, no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled date of the Referral Proceeding, and a copy of all papers must be served on the same date on the Department of Health attorney, indicated below. Pursuant to §301(5) of the State Administrative Procedure Act, the Department, upon reasonable notice, will provide, at no charge, a qualified interpreter of the deaf to interpret the proceedings to, and the testimony of, any deaf person. Pursuant to the terms of New York State Administrative Procedure Act §401 and 10 N.Y.C.R.R. §51.8(b), the Petitioner demands, hereby, disclosure of the evidence that Respondent intends to introduce at the hearing, including the names of witnesses, a list of and copies of documentary evidence, and a description of physical and/or other evidence that cannot be photocopied.

YOU ARE ADVISED, HEREBY, THAT THE ATTACHED CHARGES WILL BE MADE PUBLIC FIVE (5) BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THEY ARE SERVED.

Department attorney: Initial here _____

The proceeding may be held whether or not you appear. Please note that requests for adjournments must be made in writing to the Bureau of Adjudication, at the address indicated above, with a copy of the request to the attorney for the Department of Health, whose name appears below, at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled date of the proceeding. Adjournment requests are not routinely granted. Claims of court engagement will require detailed affidavits of actual engagement. Claims of illness will require medical documentation. Failure to obtain an attorney within a reasonable period of time prior to the proceeding will not be grounds for an adjournment.

The Committee will make a written report of its findings, conclusions as to guilt, and a determination. Such determination may be reviewed by the administrative review board for professional medical conduct.

SINCE THESE PROCEEDINGS MAY RESULT IN A DETERMINATION THAT SUSPENDS OR REVOKES YOUR LICENSE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN NEW YORK STATE AND/OR IMPOSES A FINE FOR EACH OFFENSE CHARGED, YOU ARE URGED TO OBTAIN AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU IN THIS MATTER.

DATED: Albany, New York
Sept 19, 2012

REDACTED

PETER D. VAN BUREN
Deputy Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

Inquiries should be addressed to:

Jude B. Mulvey
Associate Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct
Corning Tower - Room 2512
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237
(518) 473-4282

STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

IN THE MATTER
OF
NORENE FLEMING, M.D.
CO-11-12-8981-A

STATEMENT
OF
CHARGES

NORENE FLEMING, M.D., Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York State on March 11, 1983, by the issuance of license number 153382 by the New York State Education Department.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. On or about December 14, 2011, the Maryland State Board of Physicians (hereinafter "Maryland Board"), by a Decision (hereinafter "Maryland Decision"), revoked Respondent's license to practice medicine, based on, inter alia, abandonment of patient, general unprofessional conduct, and failure to cooperate with a Board Investigation.

B. The conduct resulting in the Maryland Board disciplinary action against Respondent would constitute misconduct under the laws of New York state, pursuant to the following sections of New York state law:

1. New York State Education Law §8530(4) (gross negligence);
2. New York State Education Law §8530(22) (failure to provide patient records);
3. New York State Education Law §8530(28) (failure to respond to professional misconduct inquiry and to make records available).
4. New York State Education Law §8530(30) (Abandonment or neglect of patient)

SPECIFICATIONS

First Specification

Respondent violated New York State Education law §6530 (9)(b) by having been found guilty of improper professional practice or professional misconduct by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state where the conduct upon which the finding was based would, if committed in New York State, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York State, the that Petitioner charges:

1. The facts in Paragraphs A and/or B

Second Specification

Respondent violated New York State Education Law §6530(9)(d) by having her license to practice medicine revoked after a disciplinary proceeding was instituted by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state, where the conduct resulting in the revocation would, if committed in New York state, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York state, in that the Petitioner charges:

2. The facts in Paragraphs A and/or B.

DATED: *Sept. 19*, 2011
Albany, New York

REDACTED

PETER D. VAN BUREN

Deputy Counsel

Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct