



Public

New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct

433 River Street, Suite 303 • Troy, New York 12180-2299 • (518) 402-0863

Richard F. Daines, M.D.
Commissioner
NYS Department of Health
James W. Clyne, Jr.
Executive Deputy Commissioner
Keith W. Servis, Director
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

Kendrick A. Sears, M.D.
Chair
Carmela Torrelli
Vice Chair
Katherine A. Hawkins, M.D., J.D.
Executive Secretary

December 2, 2009

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

William J. Espinoza, M.D.

Redacted Address

Re: License No. 105581

Dear Dr. Espinoza:

Enclosed is a copy of Modification BPMC #06-273 of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct. This order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect December 9, 2009.

If the penalty imposed by this Order is a surrender, revocation or suspension, you are required to deliver your license and registration within five (5) days of receipt of this Order and return it to the Office of Professional Medical Conduct, New York State Department of Health, 433 River Street, Suite 303, Troy, NY 12180-2299

Sincerely,

Redacted Signature

Katherine A. Hawkins, M.D., J.D.
Executive Secretary
Board for Professional Medical Conduct

Enclosure

IN THE MATTER
OF
WILLIAM J. ESPINOZA, M.D.

APPLICATION FOR
MODIFICATION ORDER

WILLIAM J. ESPINOZA, M.D., (Respondent) being duly sworn deposes and says:

That on or about February 26, 1970, I was licensed to practice medicine in the State of New York, having been issued license number 105581 by the New York State Education Department.

My current address is Redacted Address

I am currently subject to Consent Order BPMC No. 06-273, (hereinafter "Original Order"), annexed hereto, made a part, hereof, and marked as Exhibit 1, that was issued on December 11, 2006.

I am not currently practicing medicine in New York state, and I do not intend to return to practice medicine in New York state.

I apply, hereby, therefore, to the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct for a Modification Order (hereinafter "Modification Order"), modifying the Original Order, as follows: to delete the paragraphs in the Original Order that state:

"Three (3) year suspension of my New York State medical license, one (1) year actual, the remainder stayed, with three (3) years probation, tolled, in accordance with Exhibit B, attached, hereto."

"That Respondent shall remain in continuous compliance with all requirements of New York Education Law § 6502 including but not limited to the requirements that a licensee shall register and continue to be registered with the New York State Education Department (except during periods of actual suspension) and that a licensee shall pay all registration fees. Respondent shall not exercise the option provided in New York Education Law § 6502(4) to avoid registration and payment of fees. This condition shall take effect 30 days after the Consent Order's effective date and will continue so long as Respondent remains a licensee in New York State; and"

substituting for the above paragraphs:

“ Respondent shall never practice medicine in New York state as a physician or activate his registration to practice medicine as a physician in New York state.”

The Modification Order to be issued will not constitute a new disciplinary action against me, but will substitute the proposed language for the above described language in the Original Order.

I make this Application of my own free will and accord and not under duress, compulsion or restraint, and seek the anticipated benefit of the requested Modification. In consideration of the value to me of the acceptance of the Board of this Application, I knowingly waive the right to contest the Original Order or the Modification Order for which I apply, both administratively and judicially, and ask that the Board grant this Application.

I understand and agree that the attorney for the Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct, the Director of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct, and the Chair of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct each retain complete discretion to either enter into the proposed Agreement and Modification Order, based upon my application, or to decline to do so. I further understand and agree that no prior or separate written or oral communication can limit that discretion.

AFFIRMED:

DATED: 11-17-09

Redacted Signature

WILLIAM J. ESPINOZA, M.D.
Respondent

The undersigned agree to the attached Application of Respondent and to the proposed penalty based on the terms and conditions thereof.

DATE: 30 Nov 2009

Redacted Signature

ROBERT BOGAN
Associate Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

DATE: 12/2/09

Redacted Signature

KEITH W. SERVIS
Director
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

EXHIBIT 1



New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct

433 River Street, Suite 303 • Troy, New York 12180-2299 • (518) 402-0863

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H.
Commissioner
NYS Department of Health

Dennis P. Whalen
Executive Deputy Commissioner
NYS Department of Health

Dennis J. Graziano, Director
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

Kendrick A. Sears, M.D.
Chairman

Michael A. Gonzalez, R.P.A.
Vice Chair

Ansel R. Marks, M.D., J.D.
Executive Secretary

Public

December 11, 2006

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

William J. Espinoza, M.D.

Redacted Address

Re: License No. 105581

Dear Dr. Espinoza:

Enclosed is a copy of Order #BPMC 06-273 of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct. This order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect December 18, 2006.

If the penalty imposed by this Order is a surrender, revocation or suspension, you are required to deliver your license and registration within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. If the document(s) are lost, misplaced or destroyed, you are required to submit to this office an affidavit to that effect. Enclosed for your convenience is an affidavit. Please complete and sign the affidavit before a notary public and return it to: Office of Professional Medical Conduct, New York State Department of Health, 433 River Street, Suite 303, Troy, NY 12180-2299

Sincerely,

Redacted Signature

Ansel R. Marks, M.D., J.D.
Executive Secretary
Board for Professional Medical Conduct

Enclosure

cc: Allen R. Grossman, Esq.
301 S. Bronough Street
Suite 600
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

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

IN THE MATTER
OF
WILLIAM J. ESPINOZA, M.D.

CONSENT
ORDER
BPMC No. 06-273

Upon the application of (Respondent), **WILLIAM J. ESPINOZA, M.D.** in the attached Consent Agreement and Order, which is made a part of this Consent Order, it is

ORDERED, that the Consent Agreement, and its terms, are adopted and it is further

ORDERED, that this Consent Order shall be effective upon issuance by the Board, either by mailing of a copy of this Consent Order, either

by first class mail to Respondent at the address in the attached Consent Agreement or by certified mail to Respondent's attorney, or

upon facsimile transmission to Respondent or Respondent's attorney, whichever is first.

SO ORDERED.

DATED: 12-11-2006

Redacted Signature

KENDRICK A. SEARS, M.D.
Chair
State Board for Professional
Medical Conduct

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

IN THE MATTER
OF
WILLIAM J. ESPINOZA, M.D.
CO-06-03-1510-A

CONSENT
AGREEMENT
AND ORDER

WILLIAM J. ESPINOZA, M.D., representing that all of the following statements are true, deposes and says:

That on or about February 26, 1970, I was licensed to practice as a physician in the State of New York, and issued License No. 105581 by the New York State Education Department.

My current address is : Redacted Address I, and I will advise the Director of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct of any change of my address thirty (30) days, thereof.

I understand that the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (Board) has charged me with one (1) Specification of professional misconduct.

A copy of the Statement of Charges, marked as Exhibit "A", is attached to and part of this Consent Agreement.

I do not contest the one (1) Specification, in full satisfaction of the charges against me, and agree to the following penalty:

Three (3) year suspension of my New York State medical license, one (1) year actual, the remainder stayed, with three (3) years probation, tolled, in accordance with Exhibit B, attached, hereto.

Respondent shall comply fully with the October 16, 2006, Final Order of the State of Florida, Department of Health, (hereinafter "Florida Board") and any extension or modification thereof.

Respondent shall provide a written authorization for the Florida Board to provide the Director of OPMC with any/all information or documentation as requested by OPMC to enable OPMC to determine whether Respondent is in compliance with the Florida Order.

Respondent shall submit semi-annually a signed Compliance Declaration to the Director of OPMC, which truthfully attests whether Respondent has been in compliance with the Florida Order during the declaration period specified.

Should Respondent return to the practice of medicine in New York State or in any other jurisdiction where that practice is predicated upon Respondent's New York State medical license to practice prior to the successful completion of the conditions imposed by the State of Florida, Respondent shall provide ninety (90) days notice in writing, to the Director, OPMC. The Director in his sole discretion, may impose whatever limitations, or further conditions, he deems appropriate.

I further agree that the Consent Order shall impose the following conditions:

That Respondent shall remain in continuous compliance with all requirements of New York Education Law § 6502 including but not limited to the requirements that a licensee shall register and continue to be registered with the New York State Education Department (except during periods of actual suspension) and that a licensee shall pay all registration fees. Respondent shall not exercise the option provided in New York Education Law § 6502(4) to avoid registration and payment of fees. This condition shall take effect 30 days after the Consent Order's effective date and will continue so long as Respondent remains a licensee in New York State; and

That Respondent shall cooperate fully with the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC) in its administration and enforcement of this Consent Order and in its investigations of matters concerning Respondent. Respondent shall respond in a timely manner to all OPMC requests for written periodic verification of Respondent's compliance with this Consent Order. Respondent shall meet with a person designated by the Director of OPMC, as directed. Respondent shall respond promptly and provide all documents and information within Respondent's control, as directed. This condition shall take effect upon the Board's issuance of the Consent Order and will continue so long as Respondent remains licensed in New York State.

I stipulate that my failure to comply with any conditions of this Consent Order shall constitute misconduct as defined by New York Education Law § 6530(29).

I agree that, if I am charged with professional misconduct in future, this Consent Agreement and Order shall be admitted into evidence in that proceeding.

I ask the Board to adopt this Consent Agreement.

I understand that if the Board does not adopt this Consent Agreement, none of its terms shall bind me or constitute an admission of any of the acts of alleged misconduct; this Consent Agreement shall not be used against me in any way and shall be kept in strict confidence; and the Board's denial shall be without prejudice to the pending disciplinary proceeding and the Board's final determination pursuant to New York Public Health Law.

I agree that, if the Board adopts this Consent Agreement, the Chair of the Board shall issue a Consent Order in accordance with its terms. I agree that this Consent Order shall take effect upon its issuance by the Board, either by mailing of a copy of the Consent Order by first class mail to me at the address in this Consent Agreement, or to my attorney by certified mail, or upon facsimile transmission to me or my attorney, whichever is first. The Consent Order, this agreement, and all attached Exhibits shall be public documents, with only patient identities, if any, redacted. As public documents, they may be posted on the Department's website.

I stipulate that the proposed sanction and Consent Order are authorized by New York Public Health Law §§ 230 and 230-a, and that the Board and OPMC have the requisite powers to carry out all included terms. I ask the Board to adopt this Consent Agreement of my own free will and not under duress, compulsion or restraint. In consideration of the value to me of the Board's adoption of this Consent Agreement, allowing me to resolve this matter without the various risks and burdens of a hearing on the merits, I knowingly waive my right to contest the Consent Order for which I apply, whether administratively or judicially, I agree to be bound by the Consent Order, and I ask that the Board adopt this Consent Agreement.

I understand and agree that the attorney for the Department, the Director of OPMC and the Chair of the Board each retain complete discretion either to enter into the proposed agreement and Consent Order, based upon my application, or to decline to do so. I further understand and agree that no prior or separate written or oral communication can limit that discretion.

AFFIRMED:

DATED: Dec. 3 2006

Redacted Signature

WILLIAM J. ESPINOZA, M.D.
Respondent

The undersigned agree to Respondent's attached Consent Agreement and to its proposed penalty, terms and conditions.

DATE: 5 December 2006

Redacted Signature

ROBERT BOGAN
Associate Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

DATE: 7 December 2006

Redacted Signature

DENNIS J. GRAZIANO
Director
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

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

IN THE MATTER
OF
WILLIAM J. ESPINOZA, M.D.
CO-06-03-1510-A

STATEMENT
OF
CHARGES

WILLIAM J. ESPINOZA, M.D., Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York state on February 26, 1970, by the issuance of license number 105581 by the New York State Education Department.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. On or about October 16, 2006, the State of Florida, Department of Health, (hereinafter "Florida Board"), by a Final Order (hereinafter "Florida Order"), inter alia, reprimanded Respondent, fined him \$15,000.00, assessed \$7,784.96 in investigative costs, required him to complete ten (10) hours of CME in post surgical complications, restricted him from performing liposuction and abdominoplasty on the same patient on the same day for one (1) year, suspended his license to practice medicine for seventy-eight (78) days, required him to complete a record keeping course, required him to perform fifty (50) hours of community service, and placed his license to practice medicine on two (2) years probation with conditions, based on failing to keep legible medical records that justify the course of treatment; gross or repeated malpractice and/or failure to practice medicine with that level of care, skill, and treatment which is recognized by a reasonably prudent similar physician as being acceptable under similar conditions and circumstances; and/or violating a lawful order of the department or the board.

B. The conduct resulting in the Florida 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 Education Law §6530(3) (negligence on more than one occasion);
2. New York Education Law §6530(4) (gross negligence);
3. New York Education Law §6530(5) (incompetence on more than one occasion);
4. New York Education Law §6530(6) (gross incompetence);
5. New York Education Law §6530(29) (violating a limitation imposed on the licensee); and/or
6. New York Education Law §6530(32) (failure to maintain a record for each patient which accurately reflects the evaluation and treatment of the patient).

SPECIFICATION

Respondent violated New York Education Law §6530(9)(d) by having disciplinary action taken by a duly authorized professional 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 New York state, in that Petitioner charges:

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

DATED: *Nov. 13*, 2006
Albany, New York


Redacted Signature

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

EXHIBIT "B"

Terms of Probation

1. Respondent's conduct shall conform to moral and professional standards of conduct and governing law. Any act of professional misconduct by Respondent as defined by New York Education Law §§ 6530 or 6531 shall constitute a violation of probation and may Subject Respondent to an action pursuant to New York Public Health Law § 230(19).
2. Respondent shall maintain active registration of Respondent's license (except during periods of actual suspension) with the New York State Education Department Division of Professional Licensing Services, and shall pay all registration fees.
3. Respondent shall provide the Director, Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC), Hedley Park Place, 433 River Street Suite 303, Troy, New York 12180-2299 with the following information, in writing, and ensure that this information is kept current: a full description of Respondent's employment and practice; all professional and residential addresses and telephone numbers within and outside New York State; and all investigations, arrests, charges, convictions or disciplinary actions by any local, state or federal agency, institution or facility. Respondent shall notify OPMC, in writing, within 30 days of any additions to or changes in the required information.
4. Respondent shall cooperate fully with, and respond in a timely manner to, OPMC requests to provide written periodic verification of Respondent's compliance with the terms of this Consent Order. Upon the Director of OPMC's request, Respondent shall meet in person with the Director's designee.
5. Respondent's failure to pay any monetary penalty by the prescribed date shall subject Respondent to all provisions of law relating to debt collection by New York State, including but not limited to: the imposition of interest, late payment charges and collection fees; referral to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance for collection; and non-renewal of permits or licenses [Tax Law § 171(27); State Finance Law § 18; CPLR § 5001; Executive Law § 32].
6. The probation period shall toll when Respondent is not engaged in active medical practice in New York State for a period of 30 consecutive days or more. Respondent shall notify the Director of OPMC, in writing, if Respondent is not currently engaged in, or intends to leave, active medical practice in New York State for a consecutive 30 day period. Respondent shall then notify the Director again at least 14 days before returning to active practice. Upon Respondent's return to active practice in New York State, the probation period shall resume and Respondent shall fulfill any unfulfilled probation terms and such additional requirements as the Director may impose as reasonably relate to the matters set forth in Exhibit "A" or as are necessary to protect the public health.
7. The Director of OPMC may review Respondent's professional performance. This review may include but shall not be limited to: a review of office records, patient records, hospital charts, and/or electronic records; and interviews with or periodic visits with Respondent and staff at practice locations or OPMC offices.

8. Respondent shall maintain complete and legible medical records that accurately reflect the evaluation and treatment of patients and contain all information required by State rules and regulations concerning controlled substances.
9. Respondent shall enroll in and complete a continuing education program in the area of prompt recognition complication and treatment of gastric by-pass surgery. Said continuing education program shall be subject to the prior written approval of the Director of OPMC and be completed within the first year of probation.
10. Respondent shall practice medicine only when monitored by a licensed physician, board certified in an appropriate specialty, ("practice monitor") proposed by Respondent and subject to the written approval of the Director of OPMC.
 - a. Respondent shall make available to the monitor any and all records or access to the practice requested by the monitor, including on-site observation. The practice monitor shall visit Respondent's medical practice at each and every location, on a random unannounced basis at least monthly and shall examine a selection (no less than 20) of records maintained by Respondent, including patient records, prescribing information and office records. The review will determine whether the Respondent's medical practice is conducted in accordance with the generally accepted standards of professional medical care. Any perceived deviation of accepted standards of medical care or refusal to cooperate with the monitor shall be reported within 24 hours to OPMC.
 - b. Respondent shall be solely responsible for all expenses associated with monitoring, including fees, if any, to the monitoring physician.
 - c. Respondent shall cause the practice monitor to report quarterly, in writing, to the Director of OPMC.
 - d. Respondent shall maintain medical malpractice insurance coverage with limits no less than \$2 million per occurrence and \$6 million per policy year, in accordance with Section 230(18)(b) of the Public Health Law. Proof of coverage shall be submitted to the Director of OPMC prior to Respondent's practice after the effective date of this Order
11. Respondent shall comply with this Consent Order and all its terms, and shall bear all associated compliance costs. Upon receiving evidence of noncompliance with, or a violation of, these terms, the Director of OPMC and/or the Board may initiate a violation of probation proceeding, and/or any other such proceeding authorized by law, against Respondent.

EXHIBIT "C"

**GUIDELINES FOR CLOSING A MEDICAL PRACTICE FOLLOWING A
REVOCATION, SURRENDER OR SUSPENSION (of 6 months or more)
OF A MEDICAL LICENSE**

1. Respondent shall immediately cease the practice of medicine in compliance with the terms of the Consent Order. Respondent shall not represent himself or herself as eligible to practice medicine and shall refrain from providing an opinion as to professional practice or its application.
2. Within 15 days of the Consent Order's effective date, Respondent shall notify all patients that he or she has ceased the practice of medicine, and shall refer all patients to another licensed practicing physician for their continued care, as appropriate.
3. Within 30 days of the Consent Order's effective date, Respondent shall have his or her original license to practice medicine in New York State and current biennial registration delivered to the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC) at 433 River Street Suite 303, Troy, NY 12180-2299.
4. Respondent shall arrange for the transfer and maintenance of all patient medical records. Within 30 days of the Consent Order's effective date, Respondent shall notify OPMC of these arrangements, including the name, address, and telephone number of an appropriate contact person, acceptable to the Director of OPMC, who shall have access to these records. Original records shall be retained for patients for at least 6 years after the last date of service, and, for minors, at least 6 years after the last date of service or 3 years after the patient reaches the age of majority, whichever time period is longer. Records shall be maintained in a safe and secure place that is reasonably accessible to former patients. The arrangements shall ensure that all patient information is kept confidential and is available only to authorized persons. When a patient or authorized representative requests a copy of the patient's medical record, or requests that the original medical record be sent to another health care provider, a copy of the record shall be promptly provided or sent at reasonable cost to the patient (not to exceed 75 cents per page.) Radiographic, sonographic and like materials shall be provided at cost. A qualified person shall not be denied access to patient information solely because of inability to pay.
5. Within 15 days of the Consent Order's effective date, if Respondent holds a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) certificate, Respondent shall advise the DEA in writing of the licensure action and shall surrender his or her DEA controlled substance certificate, privileges, and any used DEA #222 U.S. Official Order Forms Schedules 1 and 2, to the DEA.
6. Within 15 days of the Consent Order's effective date, Respondent shall return any unused New York State official prescription forms to the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement of the New York State Department of Health. Respondent shall have all prescription pads bearing Respondent's name destroyed. If no other licensee is providing services at Respondent's practice location, Respondent shall dispose of all medications.

7. Within 15 days of the Consent Order's effective date, Respondent shall remove from the public domain any representation that Respondent is eligible to practice medicine, including all related signs, advertisements, professional listings whether in telephone directories or otherwise, professional stationery or billings. Respondent shall not share, occupy or use office space in which another licensee provides health care services.
8. Respondent shall not charge, receive or share any fee or distribution of dividends for professional services rendered (by himself or others) while barred from practicing medicine. Respondent may receive compensation for the reasonable value of services lawfully rendered, and disbursements incurred on a patient's behalf, prior to the Consent Order's effective date.
9. If Respondent is a shareholder in any professional service corporation organized to engage in the practice of medicine and Respondent's license is revoked, surrendered or suspended for 6 months or more pursuant to this Consent Order, Respondent shall, within 90 days of the Consent Order's effective date, divest himself/herself of all financial interest in such professional services corporation in accordance with New York Business Corporation Law. If Respondent is the sole shareholder in a professional services corporation, the corporation must be dissolved or sold within 90 days of the Consent Order's effective date.
10. Failure to comply with the above directives may result in civil or criminal penalties. Practicing medicine when a medical license has been suspended, revoked or annulled is a Class E Felony, punishable by imprisonment for up to four years, under New York Education Law § 6512 . Professional misconduct may result in penalties including revocation of the suspended license and/or fines of up to \$10,000 for each specification of misconduct, under New York Public Health Law § 230-a.