

THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE
ONE PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016-5802

April 14, 1999

RECEIVED

APR 16 1999

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL
MEDICAL CONDUCT

Indran R. Ratnam, Physician
A/k/a Indran Thurairatnam
4990 Topaz Avenue, Apt. 26
Wind Whistle Apartments
Las Vegas, Nevada 89120

Re: Application for Restoration

Dear **Dr. Ratnam**:

Enclosed please find the Commissioner's Order regarding Case No. **99-46-60** which is in reference to Calendar No. **16822**

. This order and any decision contained therein goes into effect five (5) days after the date of this letter.

Very truly yours,

Daniel J. Kelleher
Director of Investigations

Gustave Martine
Gustave Martine
Supervisor

DJK/GM/bt

cc:

The University of the State of New York
Education Department



IN THE MATTER

of the

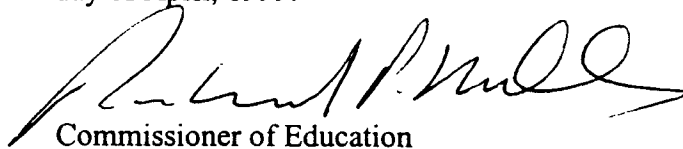
Application of INDRAN R.
RATNAM (a/k/a INDRAN
THURAIRATNAM) for restoration
of his license to practice as a
physician in the State of New York.

Case No. 99-46-60

It appearing that the license of INDRAN R. RATNAM (a/k/a INDRAN THURAIRATNAM), Wind Whistle Apts., Apt. 26, 4990 Topaz Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89120, authorizing him to practice as a physician in the State of New York, was revoked by action of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct on June 3, 1994, and he having petitioned the Board of Regents for restoration of said license, and the Regents having given consideration to said petition and having agreed with and accepted the recommendations of the Peer Review Panel and the Committee on the Professions, now, pursuant to action taken by the Board of Regents on March 16, 1999, it is hereby

ORDERED that the petition for restoration of License No. 166118, authorizing INDRAN R. RATNAM (a/k/a INDRAN THURAIRATNAM) to practice as a physician in the State of New York, is denied.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Richard P. Mills,
Commissioner of Education of the State of New York for
and on behalf of the State Education Department, do
hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of the State
Education Department, at the City of Albany, this 6th
day of April, 1999.


Commissioner of Education

Case No. 99-46-60

It appearing that the license of INDRAN R. RATNAM (a/k/a INDRAN THURAIRATNAM), Wind Whistle Apts., Apt. 26, 4990 Topaz Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89120, to practice as a physician in the State of New York, having been revoked by action of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct on June 3, 1994, and he having petitioned the Board of Regents for restoration of said license, and the Regents having given consideration to said petition and having agreed with and accepted the recommendations of the Peer Review Panel and the Committee on the Professions, now, pursuant to action taken by the Board of Regents on March 16, 1999, it was

VOTED that the petition for restoration of License No. 166118, authorizing INDRAN R. RATNAM (a/k/a INDRAN THURAIRATNAM) to practice as a physician in the State of New York, be denied.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
The State Education Department

Report of the Committee on the Professions
Application for Restoration of Physician License

Re: INDRAN R. RATNAM
a.k.a. INDRAN THURAIRATNAM

Not Represented by Counsel

Indran R. Ratnam, Wind Whistle Apts., Apt 26, 4990 Topaz Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89120, petitioned for restoration of his physician license. The chronology of events is as follows:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 05/13/86 | Issued license number 166118 to practice as a physician in New York State. |
| 01/05/89 | Signed Temporary Surrender of License and Registration |
| 12/21/89 | Commissioner of Health denied request to restore license. |
| 11/29/93 | Hearing Committee of State Board for Professional Medical Conduct denied second request to restore license. |
| 05/05/94 | Professional Medical Conduct Administrative Review Board denied request to restore license. |
| 08/10/93 | Charged with professional misconduct by Department of Health. |
| 06/03/94 | State Board for Professional Medical Conduct voted revocation. |
| 04/20/96 | Petition for restoration of physician license submitted. |
| 03/11/98 | Peer Committee restoration review. |
| 06/10/98 | Report and recommendation of Peer Committee. (See "Report of the Peer Committee.") |
| 12/17/98 | Report and recommendation of Committee on the Professions. (See "Report of the Committee on the Professions.") |



The University of the State of New York

NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
STATE BOARD FOR MEDICINE

-----X

In the Matter of the Application of

INDRAN RATNAM

for the restoration of his license to
practice as a physician in the State of
New York.

REPORT OF
THE PEER
COMMITTEE
CAL. NO. 16822

-----X

Applicant, INDRAN RATNAM, was authorized to practice as a physician in the State of New York by the New York State Education Department.

PRIOR HISTORY

Applicant was charged with four counts of professional misconduct, however count three was withdrawn.

Count one: practicing the profession while license is suspended; Count two: having a psychiatric condition which impaired the ability to practice; Count four: practicing the profession while impaired by mental disability. Conclusion: Based on the above charges which were sustained on March 1, 1994, the members of the Committee unanimously voted to revoke Dr. Ratnam's license to practice the profession of medicine in New York State.

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More specifically, the revocation of licensure was based on the following:

On January 5, 1989, applicant agreed to a temporary surrender of his license and registration on the grounds that he was "incapacitated for the active practice of medicine due to a mental disability".

From on or about May 1, 1991 to March 1, 1993, applicant practiced medicine at the Interfaith Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York, in violation of the terms of the temporary surrender of his license and registration which states applicant will notify all individuals who request his medical services that he has temporarily withdrawn from the practice of medicine.

Testimony was presented by qualified physicians board certified in the field of psychiatry, stating that applicant was suffering from a paranoid personality, and was probably suffering from paranoid schizophrenia.

Applicant's personnel record from the Hospital for Joint Diseases Orthopedic Institute evidences that he was appointed as a first year resident as of October 14, 1985, but terminated from his position on October 25, 1985, as a result of strange incidents involving odd behavior on his part.

After he was terminated by the facility, a physical confrontation followed, and he was issued a summons by the local

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police to appear in New York County Criminal Court.

Applicant was also terminated from St. Mary's Hospital of Brooklyn on June 23, 1987. Termination also followed at Woodhull Hospital on July 24, 1987, for difficulty in diagnosing a variety of orthopedic problems as a trained orthopedic surgeon. The hospital also documented several incidents of interpersonal problems between applicant and other physicians and altercations with patients. This behavior was consistent with the fact that applicant was suffering from a psychiatric impairment at that time.

Applicant was admitted to the Kings County Hospital Center on September 22, 1988, pursuant to a court order, for a psychiatric evaluation. Applicant upon admission to Kings County hospital lied and denied any history of mental illness. Applicant displayed signs of delusion and manifested denial and projection of one's own feelings onto others, he blamed everyone else for his problems. During his detention at Kings County Hospital he was diagnosed as being acutely psychotic.

Prior criminal matters pending against applicant were dismissed on the grounds that "as the result of a mental disease or defect he lacked the capacity to understand the proceedings against him or assist in his own defense". The court then transferred applicant to the South Beach Hospital on October 18, 1988, for further treatment. Upon admission to South Beach Psychiatric

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Hospital, applicant continued to deny any psychiatric history or mental illness.

Applicant was discharged on December 21, 1988, with medications and follow-up therapy. Applicant was under the care of several psychiatrists on and off through 1993.

THE APPLICATION

On April 20, 1996 applicant petitioned the New York State Education Department for the restoration of his license to practice as a physician in the State of New York.

In his petition submitted for the restoration of his license, applicant stated:

I, Indran R. Ratnam, M.D., respectfully petition for restoration of my Medical License in the State of New York.

The background of the case is that I was authorized to practice Medicine in New York State in March 1986.

After being given my license I was in clinical practice as a house physician in Brooklyn and Queens. During this time I was out of an income and work for a period of about seven months of 1988. My mother in law then arrived from Sri Lanka in April of 1988. This was followed by my wife and child being temporarily away from me to stay with her sister in law in Las [sic] Vegas, Nevada. Following non payment of rent I was evicted from the house that I was staying in by my sister in-law in October 1988. During this incident I was charged in court for alleged misbehaviour. The charges were dismissed in court but under CPL 735 status I was kept under observation for a period of three months. First

at Kings County Hospital 'G' building and then at South Beach Hospital on Staten Island. Then in January of 1989 following the advice of a lawyer I voluntarily surrendered my New York State License.

The same year in 1989 within five months of surrendering my license I applied for restoration of my Medical License and my application was denied.

From May 1991 to December 1992 I was in an Internship and Residency Program at the Interfaith Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. During this residency I applied for restoration of my Medical License and my application was denied. I was then charged with professional misconduct for working as a resident while impaired by mental illness and practicing Medicine with an inactive Medical License. My License was revoked on March 1st 1994.

Why I would like to have my license restored

I would appreciate if my Medical license was restored so that I may practice Medicine in New York State.

My family and I immigrated to the U.S.A. so that I may practice as a Physician, be involved with patient care, serve the community [sic], participate in research and teaching and still care for my family and be an useful citizen.

Why the Board should take favorable action on the petition

None of the events that preceded the surrender of my license have occurred since January 1989. During this time I have made every effort to support and care for my family and be an usefull [sic] citizen. During this period I have worked in various capacities, most recently in a solo Orthopedic practice in Sri lanka [sic] regaining my skills as a physician and surgeon.

Maintained knowledge and skills as a physician

During the period of having an inactive license I have maintained my skills as a physician in various ways.

Working as a paramedic, taking histories and physical examinations, taking samples of blood, urine doing ECG's and pulmonary function [sic] tests etc. just as a Medical student may do. Working as a pathology [sic] technician doing the work a pre med student may do as a summer job and even more like a pathologist in preparing slides, etc.

Patient care as a resident in Internal Medicine, being present at Medical conferences, clinical meetings and seminars. Regaining skills as an Orthopedic [sic] surgeon over the last fourteen months being in a solo Orthopedic practice. Repeatedly being certified in Basic Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support and advanced Trauma life support from the American Heart Association and American College of Surgeons.

Being present at case conferences, weekly grand rounds and using the local library and subscribing to orthopedic journals.

THE MEETING

On March 11, 1998 this Peer Panel met to consider the application in this matter. Applicant appeared and elected to proceed without an attorney. Franklyn Perez, Esq. represented the Division of Prosecutions of the Office of Professional Discipline. Applicant began by making a brief opening statement.

Applicant continued by submitting a number of letters which were accepted by the panel and made a part of the material herein.

After a brief review of the incidents leading to the revocation of his license applicant submitted to questioning by Mr. Perez.

Mr. Perez questioned applicant regarding his employment history and his termination from a number of hospitals and applicant denied any impropriety except for one mistake as to a date on which he was to report for work.

When questioned about the surrender of his license, applicant stated that he only gave a cursory glance to the papers before signing them. Under questioning by Mr. Perez and Dr. Bentivegna applicant attempted to defend his employment in a residency program at Interfaith Hospital despite his surrender application agreement that he would not practice medicine.

Mr. Perez then questioned applicant at length as to applicant's actions that led to him being sent to Kings County Hospital for observation and then to South Beach Hospital and also about his aftercare. Mr. Perez asked applicant why he had not brought any of his treating psychiatrists or psychologists with him or brought any complete psychiatric evaluation as required by the documents in the order revoking his license. Applicant stated he did not think it was necessary. The only documentation submitted by applicant, dated after the revocation of his license, regarding his mental condition is a one sentence letter dated October 24,

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1996 from Dr. Laurence Shindelman, M.D. who applicant has seen approximately 50 times over the years.

Regarding continuing education, applicant stated that he reads American medical journals but has no formal coursework but that his practice in Sri Lanka has kept him up to date. Applicant stated it costs too much money to take formal continuing education courses. Applicant states he has no mental disability at the moment and he bases this on the letters from Dr. Miller, Dr. Shindelman and Dr. De Silva.

Dr. Harris then questioned applicant regarding his history of mental illness and his present condition.

Dr. Lopez questioned applicant about the Findings of Fact in the determination and Order dated June 3, 1994, specifically as they relate to his mental state at that time.

Dr. Bentivegna asked applicant about his practice in Sri Lanka. He also asked applicant if he had ever attended grand rounds at the two major hospitals in Staten Island where applicant lives when he is in this Country. Applicant said he did not know they had grand rounds there.

After some additional questions regarding applicant's mental state and why he did not bring any witnesses with him the parties proceeded to make closing statements.

Mr. Perez stated that the Department strongly opposes

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restoration of licensure.

RECOMMENDATION

We unanimously recommend that the application herein not be granted and that the revocation of applicant's license to practice medicine in the State of New York not be stayed. Applicant has made no significant effort at rehabilitation. He made virtually no effort to bring to the meeting evidence, either through witnesses or documentation, that he is now mentally fit to practice medicine in the State of New York.

In addition, he exhibited little, if any, remorse. He never said he was sorry but rather denies most of the incidents.

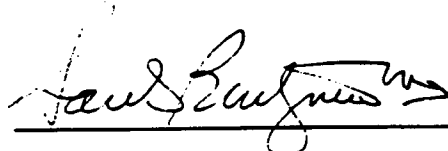
Applicant's continuing education is almost non-existent. He did not even know that grand rounds were available at two major hospitals in State Island or that much continuing education is available at little or no cost.

Respectfully submitted,

Saverio S. Bentivegna, MD, Chairperson

David Harris, MD

Rafael Lopez, MD

 6/19/98

Chairperson

Dated