

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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In Re: :
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Application of :
ROBERT ALAN SNAPP, M.D. :
For Medical Licensure :
:
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**CONSENT ORDER
FOR ISSUANCE OF
MEDICAL LICENSE
ON PROBATION**

This matter is before the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") on the application of Robert Alan Snapp, M.D. for a license to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana, for the purpose of participating in a postgraduate residency training program in pathology at the Ochsner Foundation Hospital, New Orleans, Louisiana. Dr. Snapp, currently 39 years-of-age, holds a doctor of medicine degree awarded in 1991 by the Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, Indiana. He completed one year of postgraduate training in internal medicine at the St. Vincent Hospital and Health Care Center, Indianapolis, Indiana, and, from July 1992 through January 1995, a residency in anesthesiology at the University of Michigan Hospitals, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

While it appears from the physician's application that he is generally qualified for licensure, Dr. Snapp has suffered in the past from controlled substance abuse and dependency, for which he has received, and is currently receiving, treatment. The information available to the Board indicates, more particularly, that shortly after the beginning of his anesthesiology residency, Dr. Snapp began to abuse and developed an addiction to anesthetic drugs (ketamine). In March 1994 he sought and received inpatient and subsequent outpatient treatment for chemical dependency through the West Michigan Addiction Consultants ("WeMAC") Grand Rapids, Michigan. Upon discharge to aftercare, Dr. Snapp resumed his anesthesiology residency through January 1995, at which time, fearful of a relapse in such environment, he resigned his residency to explore alternative postgraduate training in pathology. On March 23, 1995, he executed a 24-month Professional Recovery System Continuing Care Contract with WeMAC (the "WeMAC Treatment Contract"), providing for his regular attendance at Alcoholics Anonymous and Caduceus Club meetings, psychiatric counseling and weekly, monitored urine/blood drug screens. Dr. Snapp's treating physicians at WeMAC indicate that his prognosis is favorable provided he continues active participation in appropriate aftercare, as outlined in the WeMAC Contract.¹ The physician also received a favorable recommendation from his residency Department Chair, who felt that he could "highly recommend him in spite of the fact that he does have a history of substance abuse problems...."²

¹T. L. Haynes, M.D., Professional Recovery System Discharge Summary, Re. Robert Snapp (Mar. 23, 1995).

²Letter, K. K. Tremper, Ph.D., M.D., Prof. & Chair, Dept. of Anesthesiology, Univ. of Mich., to P. Mensen, La. State Bd. Med. Exam. (Jun. 28, 1995).

Dr. Snapp's history of substance abuse could provide legally sufficient cause for the Board to deny his application for a medical license in this state. La. Rev. Stat. § 37:1285(A)(5), (6) & (25). From the information obtained and considered, however, it appears that the Applicant's treatment and rehabilitation for such condition has been successful to date and that, so long as he continues with such prescribed aftercare, his prognosis for continued abstinence and recovery is favorable. The Board is persuaded, thus, that the public interest will be properly protected by the issuance to Dr. Snapp of a license to practice medicine in Louisiana, on probation, subject to his acceptance of and strict compliance with certain probationary terms, conditions, and restrictions, as set forth hereinafter. And by his subscription hereto, Dr. Snapp hereby consents to entry of the Order set forth below and to the issuance of licensure pursuant thereto. Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED that a license to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana shall be issued to Robert Alan Snapp, M.D., ON PROBATION for a period of five years from the date hereof; *provided, however*, that the issuance of such license and Dr. Snapp's continuing maintenance of such license shall be expressly conditioned upon and subject to his acceptance of and strict compliance with the following terms, conditions and restrictions:

(a) Participation in Physicians Health Program. Within 10 days of the entry of this Order, Dr. Snapp, if he has not already done so, shall execute and enter into a Substance Treatment Contract with the Physicians' Health Program of the Louisiana State Medical Society, effective during the term of probation ordered hereby and providing for his continuing aftercare, participation in Alcoholics Anonymous and Caduceus Club programs, periodic unannounced urine/blood drug screens, designating treating and monitoring physicians, and otherwise substantially in accordance with the terms embodied in the WeMAC Treatment Contract. Within five days of signing such Treatment Contract, Dr. Snapp shall furnish or cause to be furnished to the Board a complete and accurate copy of such Treatment Contract, and he shall thereafter comply in all respects with each and all of the terms, conditions and provisions of such Treatment Contract. Dr. Snapp shall further authorize his treating and monitoring physicians as designated in such Treatment Contract, to furnish the Board, not less frequently than quarterly during the term of such contract, with written reports on Dr. Snapp's compliance with the terms of the Treatment Contract.

(b) Prohibition on Practice of Anesthesiology. Until and unless this Order is modified by further order of the Board, Dr. Snapp shall not, while he holds any license or permit to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana, engage in the practice of anesthesiology, nor shall he enroll, engage or participate in any postgraduate clinical training in anesthesiology.

(c) Maintenance of Complete Abstinence. Dr. Snapp shall, for the duration of his life, maintain complete and total abstinence from the use of controlled substances and other mood-altering substances, except as may be prescribed for him by a treating physician other than himself for a *bona fide* medical condition.

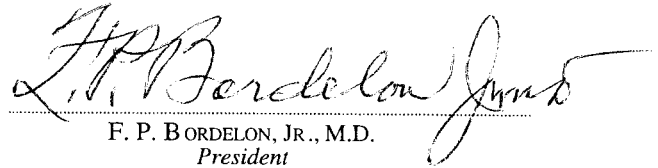
(d) Personal Appearances Before Physicians Health Committee. Dr. Snapp shall make arrangements to and shall personally appear before the Physicians Health Committee of the Board, or its designee, at its meeting during August 1995 to permit the Committee to consider his understanding of the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Order and to advise the Committee and the Board of his plans and intentions with respect to continuing treatment and his practice of medicine in this state. Dr. Snapp shall, in addition, personally appear before the Physicians Health Committee of the Board at its meeting preceding the expiration of the probationary term ordered hereunder.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation of or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms, conditions or restrictions set forth by this Order by Dr. Snapp shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for the revocation and cancellation of Dr. Snapp's license to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 11th day of August, 1995.

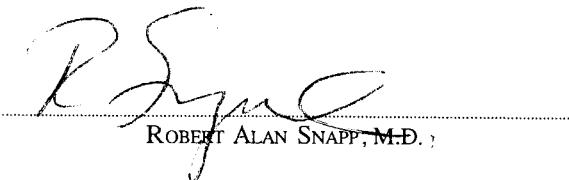
**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

By:


F. P. BORDELON, JR., M.D.
President

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT**

I, ROBERT ALAN SNAPP, M.D. hereby acknowledge, approve, accept and consent to entry of the above and foregoing Order, this 9th day of August, 1995.


ROBERT ALAN SNAPP, M.D.