

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

630 Camp Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

www.lsbme.la.gov



Telephone: (504) 568-6820

FAX: (504) 568-8893

Writer's Direct Dial:

(504) _____

----- X
 :
 In The Matter of :
 :
 :
WALTER WRIGHT ELLIS, M.D. :
 (Certificate No. MD.024782). :
 :
 Respondent :
 :
 ----- X

No. 16-I-420
CONSENT ORDER

The above-entitled proceeding was docketed for investigation by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") following the receipt of apparently reliable information which indicated that Walter Wright Ellis, M.D. ("Dr. Ellis"), a physician that is, and was at all times material to the facts and matters alleged herein, licensed by the Board as a physician and engaged in the practice of medicine in the state of Louisiana pursuant to the Louisiana Medical Practice Act, (the "Act"), La. Rev. Stat. §§37:1261-92, may not have been properly supervising a mid-level provider.

While not admitting to any violation of the Act, Dr. Ellis, nonetheless, acknowledges that the foregoing information could provide the Investigating Officer for the Board with probable cause to pursue formal administrative proceedings against him for violation of the Act, La. Rev. Stat. §§37:1285A(6) and (18)¹, constituting sufficient cause for the revocation, suspension or such other action against his license to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana as the Board may determine appropriate.

Recognizing his right to notice and administrative adjudication of any charges that may be asserted against him in these proceedings, at which time Dr. Ellis would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses and to present evidence on his own behalf in defense or in mitigation of the charges made and to a decision thereon by the Board based upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §49:955-965, Dr. Ellis, nonetheless, hereby waives his right to notice and formal adjudication and pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D), consents to entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. Dr. Ellis acknowledges that he hereby waives any right to which he may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative

¹ Pursuant to La. R.S. §37:1285A "The board may refuse to issue, or may suspend or revoke an license or permit, or impose probationary or other restrictions on any license or permit issued under this Part for the following causes: (6) Prescribing, dispensing, or administering legally controlled substances or any dependency-addictive medication without legitimate medical justification therefore or in other than a legal or legitimate manner... (18) Knowingly performing any act which, in any way, assists an unlicensed person to practice medicine, or having professional connection with or lending one's name to an illegal practitioner."

Procedure Act, La. Rev. Stat. §§49:951 *et seq.*, or which may be afforded to him by any other law to contest or appeal his agreement to or the force and effect of the Board's investigation or this Order in any court or other forum. By his subscription hereto, Dr. Ellis also hereby authorizes the Investigating Officer designated by the Board with respect hereto to present this Order to the Board for its consideration and to fully disclose to and discuss with the Board the nature and results of the investigation and he waives any objection to such disclosures under La. Rev. Stat. §49:960. Dr. Ellis expressly acknowledges that the disclosure of such information to the Board by the Investigating Officer shall be without prejudice to the Investigating Officer's authority to proceed with the adjudication of an administrative complaint against him or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate such complaint should the Board decline to approve this Order. Accordingly, in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. Rev. Stat. §37:1360.67, La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D), and the Consent Order heretofore entered herein;

IT IS ORDERED that the license of Walter Wright Ellis, M.D. to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana, as evidenced by Certificate No. MD.024782, is hereby placed on **PROBATION** for one (1) year; *provided, however*, that such licensure and Dr. Ellis' continuing exercise of rights and privileges granted thereby, shall be conditioned upon and subject to his acceptance of and strict compliance with the following terms, conditions and restrictions:

- (1) **Personal Appearance before the Board.** Dr. Ellis shall personally appear before the Board or its designee to permit the Board to consider his intentions to be in compliance with the terms, conditions and restrictions contained in this order.
- (2) **Collaboration with Nurse Practitioners, Supervision of Physician Assistants.** Throughout the probationary term Dr. Ellis shall neither enter into nor continue in a collaborative or supervisory practice agreement with a mid-level provider *e.g.*, a nurse practitioner or physician assistant. This restriction shall not preclude Dr. Ellis from employing nurses or other medical personnel to assist in his practice, as long as he is present and directing their activities appropriate to their level of expertise and ability.
- (3) **Practice Monitoring and Quarterly Reports.** Within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Order, Dr. Ellis shall enter into an agreement with a Board-approved practice monitor to monitor and review Dr. Ellis' medical practice during the probationary period. The practice monitor shall review no less than ten (10) records a quarter. The practice monitoring shall provide quarterly reports to the Board that will include an opinion as to whether Dr. Ellis is practicing and documenting his patient's evaluation and treatment in accordance with the prevailing standards of a medical practice. Dr. Ellis shall bear all costs associated with the practice monitor program.
- (4) **Continuing Medical Education.** Dr. Ellis shall obtain not less than fifty (50) credit hours per year during his probationary term through attendance at and participation in continuing medical education programs ("CME") accredited by the American College of Physicians, the American Medical Association, or such other national accrediting association or organization as the Board may approve in writing. On or before the anniversary of the effective date of this Order, Dr. Ellis

shall cause to be submitted to the Board written certification of the CME programs and credits completed by him during the preceding twelve (12) months.

(5) Absence from State/Practice/Effect on Probation. Should Dr. Ellis at any time during the period of probation ordered herein be absent from the state of Louisiana, relocate to and/or take up residency in another state or country or discontinue practicing medicine for a period of thirty (30) days or more, or should he fail to renew his license to practice medicine in this state, he shall advise the Board in writing. In such instance, the probationary period ordered herein and all terms, conditions and restrictions thereof shall be deemed interrupted and extended and shall not commence to run until Dr. Ellis notifies the Board in writing that he has returned to, relocated or taken up residency in, resumed the practice of medicine in this state, or renewed his Louisiana medical license. In such instance, Dr. Ellis shall not receive credit toward completion of the probationary period for the time during which he was absent from the State of Louisiana or while he was not engaged or licensed to practice medicine in this state.

(6) Certification of Compliance with Probationary Terms. At least sixty (60) days prior to the conclusion of the probationary term imposed herein, Dr. Ellis shall provide the Board with an affidavit certifying that he has complied with each of the terms of probation imposed by this Order. The probationary period and all of its terms and conditions shall be, and shall be deemed to be, extended and continued in full force and effect pending Dr. Ellis' compliance with the requirements of this provision.

(7) Cooperation with Board's Probation and Compliance Officer. Dr. Ellis shall immediately notify the Board's Probation and Compliance Officer of any change in his current home and professional addresses and telephone numbers and he shall direct all matters required pursuant to this Consent Order to the attention of the Probation and Compliance Officer, with whom he shall cooperate on all matters and inquiries pertaining to his compliance with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Order.

(8) Probation Monitoring Fee. For each year of the probationary term Dr. Ellis shall pay the Board a probation monitoring fee of Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars. Payment of the initial fee shall be due not later than sixty (60) days from the effective date of this Order. All subsequent annual payments shall be due on or before the anniversary date of the initial fee payment.

(9) Payment of Fine. Within one (1) year of the effective date of this Order, Dr. Ellis shall pay to the Board a fine in the amount of Three Thousand Five Hundred and no/100 (\$3,500.00) Dollars.

(10) Effective Date. This Consent Order shall be effective the date it is approved and accepted by the Board as shown by the signature of its representative below.

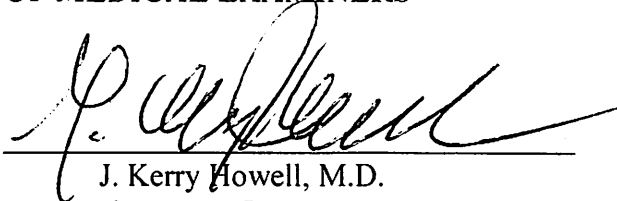
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms, conditions or restrictions set forth by this Order by Dr. Ellis shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for such other action against Dr. Ellis' license to practice medical psychology in the state of Louisiana as the Board may deem appropriate, as if such violations were enumerated among the causes provided in La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285(A).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall be, and shall be deemed to be, a public record.

Signed at New Orleans, Louisiana, and effective on this 14th day of December, 2017.

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

By:



J. Kerry Howell, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer

//

//

//

Acknowledgment and Consent on Following Page.

//

//

//

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT**

STATE OF LOUISIANA

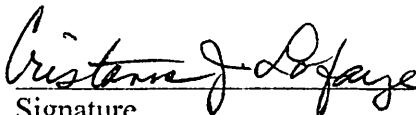
PARISH OF Orleans

I, **WALTER WRIGHT ELLIS, M.D.**, hereby acknowledge, approve, accept and consent to entry of the above and foregoing Order, this 6th day of November, 2017.



WALTER WRIGHT ELLIS, M.D.,

WITNESSES:



Signature

Cristanna J. Lafaye

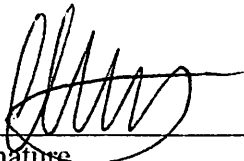
Typed Name

2160 Robin St.

Address

New Orleans, LA 70122

City/State/Zip Code



Signature

Christopher G. Otta

Typed Name

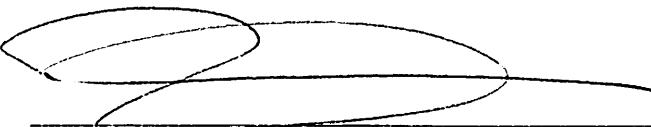
145 Robert E. Beu Blvd, Ste 408

Address

New Orleans, LA 70124

City/State/Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6th day of November, 2017
in the presence of the two stated witnesses.



Notary Public (Signature)

Franklin D. Beahm

Printed Name & Notary or Bar Number

**FRANKLIN D. BEAHM
NOTARY PUBLIC
LOUISIANA BAR NO. 02874
STATE OF LOUISIANA
My Commission is for Life**