

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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(504) \_\_\_\_\_

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In The Matter of	:	<b>No. 18-I-898</b>
	:	
<b>VANESSA THOMAS, MD.</b>	:	<b>CONSENT ORDER</b>
<i>(Certificate No. MD.025344),</i>	:	
	:	
<i>Respondent</i>	:	_____
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The above-entitled proceeding was docketed for investigation by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") concerning Vanessa Thomas, M.D. ("Dr. Thomas"), a physician who was and is at all times material to the facts and matters alleged herein, licensed by the Board to practice 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. The Board received information that Dr. Thomas is also a licensed physician in Alabama and the Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners restricted Dr. Thomas' Alabama medical license for a term of thirty-six months.<sup>1</sup> The basis of the restriction was for excessive prescribing; prescribing without a medical indication/need; unprofessional conduct; violation of statute or rule of the board; and conduct/practice which might be harmful/dangerous to the health of the patient/public.<sup>2</sup> The Louisiana Medical Practice Act (the "Act"), La. Rev. Stat. §§37:1261-92, gives the Board the right to impose probationary or other restrictions on any licensee who was restricted by another State's Board of Medical Examiners.

For her part, Dr. Thomas acknowledges that her Alabama license was restricted. Dr. Thomas acknowledges that the foregoing information could provide the Investigating Officer for the Board with probable cause to pursue formal proceedings against her for violation of the Louisiana Medical Practice Act, La Rev. Stat. §37:1285(A)(29), constituting sufficient cause for the revocation, suspension or such other action against her license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana as the Board may deem appropriate.

<sup>1</sup> Joint Stipulation and Consent Order, Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners, Case No. 17-193.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

Recognizing her right to notice and administrative adjudication of any charges that may be asserted against her in these proceedings, at which time Dr. Thomas would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses and to present evidence on her 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. Thomas, nonetheless, hereby waives her 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. Thomas acknowledges that she hereby waives any right to which she may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. Rev. Stat. §§49:951 *et seq.*, or which may be afforded to her by any other law to contest or appeal her agreement to or the force and effect of the Board's investigation or this Order in any court or other forum. By her subscription hereto, Dr. Thomas 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 she waives any objection to such disclosures under La. Rev. Stat. §49:960. Dr. Thomas 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 her 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. §37:1285, La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D);

**IT IS ORDERED** that the license of Vanessa Thomas, M.D. to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana, as evidenced by Certificate No. MD.025344, is hereby placed on **PROBATION** for three (3) years; *provided, however*, that such licensure and Dr. Thomas' continuing exercise of rights and privileges granted thereby, shall be conditioned upon and subject to her acceptance of and strict compliance with the following terms, conditions and restrictions:

- (1) **Board Approved Practice Setting.** Dr. Thomas shall only engage in the practice of medicine in a setting pre-approved in writing by the Board, pursuant to a contract of employment specifying her duties and responsibilities.
- (2) **Notification to Employers.** Dr. Thomas shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to each employer, hospital or other institution for whom she provides services as a physician in this state.
- (3) **Practice Monitoring and Quarterly Reports.** Within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Order, Dr. Thomas shall enter into an agreement with a Board-approved practice monitor to monitor and review her 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. Thomas is practicing and documenting her patients' evaluation and treatment in accordance with the prevailing standards of practice. Dr. Thomas shall bear all costs associated with her practice monitor.

**(4) Prescription of Controlled Substances Prohibited.** Except as authorized herein, Dr. Thomas shall not prescribe (i) any substance which may be classified, defined, enumerated or included in 21 C.F.R. §§1308.11-.15 or La. Rev. Stat. §40:964, as a Schedule II, III or IV controlled substance; or (ii) any substance which may hereafter be designated as one of the foregoing controlled substances by amendment or supplementation of such regulations and statute. The prohibitions contained in this paragraph shall not prohibit Dr. Thomas from ordering controlled substances and other prescription medications for administration to patients at a hospital or institution and in accordance with such hospital or institution's prescribed policies and procedures governing administration of controlled substances.

**(5) Prohibitions on Practice/Management of Chronic Pain, Obesity.** Dr. Thomas shall not engage in the management of chronic pain or obesity with controlled substances. More specifically, Respondent shall not hold herself out as being engaged in the treatment of or actually undertake to treat, either individually or in conjunction with any other physician, any patient for the long-term management of chronic pain or obesity with controlled substances nor shall she receive any remuneration from, have any ownership interest in or association with any clinic or practice setting or arrangement that renders care and/or treatment to patients for chronic pain or obesity conditions or any clinic that advertises or holds itself out to the public as a clinic or practice for the care and/or treatment of patients for the management of chronic pain or obesity.

**(6) Course on Proper Prescribing and Record Keeping.** Dr. Thomas shall, if she has not already done so, attend and successfully complete a course on the proper prescribing of controlled substances and creation and maintenance of medical records. The course shall be approved in advance by the Board. On or before the expiration of six (6) months from the effective date of this Order Dr. Thomas shall cause to be submitted to the Board written certification of satisfaction of the requirements of this provision.

**(7) Continuing Medical Education.** Dr. Thomas shall obtain not less than fifty (50) credit hours per year during her 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. Thomas shall cause to be submitted to the Board written certification of the CME programs and credits completed by her during the preceding twelve (12) months.

**(8) Compliance with Alabama Joint Stipulation and Consent Order.** Dr. Thomas shall comply with the terms, conditions, and stipulations set forth in the

Joint Stipulation and Consent Order issued by the Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners, Case No. 17-193. 5

(9) **Practice/Effect on Probation.** Should Dr. Thomas at any time during the period of probation ordered herein discontinue practicing medicine for a period of thirty (30) days or more, or should she fail to renew her license to practice medicine in this state, she 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. Thomas notifies the Board in writing that she has resumed the practice of medicine or renewed her Louisiana medical license. In such instance, Dr. Thomas shall not receive credit toward completion of the probationary period for the time during which she was not engaged or licensed to practice medicine.

(10) **Certification of Compliance with Probationary Terms.** At least sixty (60) days prior to the conclusion of the probationary term imposed herein, Dr. Thomas shall provide the Board with an affidavit certifying that she 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. Thomas' compliance with the requirements of this provision.

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

(12) **Probation Monitoring Fee.** For each year of the probationary term Dr. Thomas 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.

(13) **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.

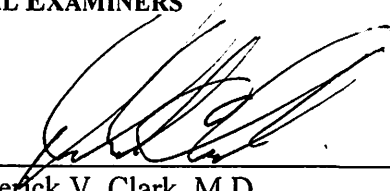
**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that any violation or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms, conditions or restrictions set forth by this Order by Dr. Thomas shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for such further action against Dr. Thomas' license to practice medicine 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.

**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 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019.

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD  
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Roderick V. Clark, M.D.  
*President*

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
AND CONSENT**

STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF TROUP

I, VANESSA THOMAS, M.D., hereby acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to seek the advice and guidance of legal counsel with respect to this Consent Order and that all of its terms and conditions have been fully explained to me and/or that I fully understand them. I further acknowledge that I approve, accept and consent to entry of the above and foregoing Order without duress and of my own free will and accord, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2019.

Vanessa Thomas MD  
VANESSA THOMAS, M.D.

WITNESSES:

Christian Lee  
Signature

Christian Lee  
Printed Name

P.O. Box 578  
Address

LaGrange, GA 30241  
City, State, Zip Code

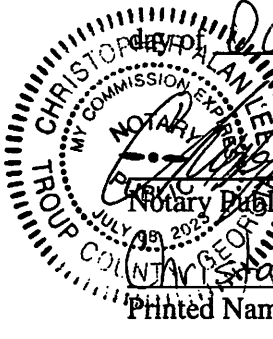
Phillip Lee  
Signature

Phillip Lee  
Printed Name

P.O. Box 578  
Address

LaGrange, GA 30241  
City, State, Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me at LaGrange, Georgia, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2019, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.



Christopher A. Lee  
Notary Public (Signature)

Christopher A. Lee  
Printed Name/Notary or Bar Number

