

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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In The Matter Of

GERALD CHARLES MORRIS, M.D.
(Applicant),

No. 18-I-525

**CONSENT ORDER
FOR ISSUANCE OF MEDICAL
LICENSE ON PROBATION**

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The above-entitled proceeding was docketed for investigation by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") upon application by Gerald Charles Morris, MD ("Dr. Morris") for a license to practice medicine in this state. In 1997, Dr. Morris graduated from Dartmouth Medical School (now the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth). He returned to New Orleans after graduation from medical school and, in 2001, completed a combined Internal Medicine/Family Practice residency training program at The Alton Ochsner Medical Foundation. Later that same year, Dr. Morris attained double board certification as a Diplomate in both Internal Medicine (from the American Board of Internal Medicine [ABIM]) and Family Medicine (from the American Board of Family Practice [ABFP]). Dr. Morris previously held a license to practice medicine in this state, commencing in July 1998, with such license being placed on inactive status in February 2002. Subsequently, Dr. Morris was practicing medicine in the state of Massachusetts when, in 2006, he was arrested on charges related to the illegal distribution of controlled substances arising from his work doing online prescription reviews. Dr. Morris subsequently plead guilty to a felony count of illegal distribution of a controlled substance in July 2008. Dr. Morris agreed to a voluntary suspension of his license to practice medicine in the state of Massachusetts shortly after his arrest, and his license to practice medicine in Massachusetts subsequently was revoked in December 2009. Dr. Morris did, for a time, perform clinical research activities, but he has not practiced medicine since 2006.

Dr. Morris had some additional legal and personal difficulties, but more recently, he has dedicated himself to undertaking the necessary steps to attempt to obtain a license to practice medicine in this state. He underwent an informal process of physician shadowing. In February 2019 he submitted to an evaluation of his clinical performance through the KSTAR Program administered by Texas A&M University Rural and Community Health Institute, where it was determined that he performed in an overall above average range. Dr. Morris also obtained a passing score in the Federation of State Medical Boards Special Purpose Examination (SPEX) in July 2019. Dr. Morris also underwent a neuro-psychological examination wherein the evaluators concluded that Dr. Morris does not demonstrate cognitive or emotional/psychological problems that would adversely impact his capacity to practice medicine.

Dr. Morris has acknowledged that given the length of time he has not been actively practicing medicine, he would not be entitled to an unrestricted license to practice medicine, and that a period of supervision is necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this state.

Recognizing his right to have notice of any allegation or charge asserted against him, to administrative adjudication of such allegation or charge pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §§49:951 *et. seq.* and to a subsequent final decision rendered upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law Dr. Morris, nonetheless, hereby waives his right to formal charges and formal adjudication and pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D), consents to entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. By his subscription hereto Dr. Morris acknowledges that he hereby waives any right to which he may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Practice Act, La. Rev. Stat. §§49:951 *et. seq.* or otherwise may be afforded to him by law to contest his agreement to or the force and effect of the Board's investigation or this document in any court. Dr. Morris, furthermore, hereby authorizes the Investigating Officer designated by the Board with respect hereto to present this Consent 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. Morris expressly acknowledges that the disclosure of the information to the Board by the Investigating Officer shall be without prejudice to the Investigating Officer's authority to file a formal Administrative Complaint against him or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate such Complaint should the Board decline to approve this Consent Order. Based upon the information provided, accordingly, and on the recommendation of the Investigating Officer the Board has concluded that its responsibility to insure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this state, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §37:1261, will be effectively served by entry of the Order set forth hereinafter by consent. Accordingly, in consideration of the foregoing, and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285 and La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D);

IT IS ORDERED that the license of Gerald Charles Morris, M.D., to engage in the practice of medicine in the state of Louisiana, is hereby **ISSUED**, and placed **ON PROBATION**, for six (6) months, on the effective date of this Order, provided, however, that such license and Dr. Morris' continuing exercise of rights and privileges thereunder shall be conditioned upon his acceptance of and strict compliance with the following terms, conditions and restrictions:

- (1) **Personal Appearance before the Board.** Dr. Morris shall personally appear before the Board or its designee to permit the Board to consider his intention to be in compliance with the terms, conditions and restrictions contained in this order.
- (2) **Board Approval of Medical Practice.** Following the effective date of this Order and for the duration of the probationary period, Dr. Morris shall provide the Board with information including a complete and accurate description, and such further information as the Board may request, concerning any practice setting in which Dr. Morris intends to practice medicine. Dr. Morris shall not engage in the practice of medicine in any practice setting in advance of the Board's specific written approval of such practice setting.
- (3) **Practice Monitoring and Monthly Reports.** Prior to commencing the practice of medicine, Dr. Morris shall enter into a contract with a Board-approved practice monitor program to monitor and review Dr. Morris' medical practice during the probationary period.

The program will work in conjunction with the Board to develop parameters for monitoring Dr. Morris' practice, including a review of Dr. Morris' patient records and charts. The practice monitor shall review no less than ten (10) records a month. The practice monitoring program will provide monthly reports to the Board that will include an opinion as to whether Dr. Morris is practicing medicine and documenting his patient's evaluation and treatment in accordance with the prevailing standards of medical practice. This practice monitoring of Dr. Morris shall not conclude until the Board has received at least six (6) positive monthly reports from the practice monitor. After the Board has received six (6) positive quarterly reports in which the practice monitoring program has opined that Dr. Morris is practicing in accordance with the prevailing standards of medical practice, Dr. Morris may petition the Board to terminate this condition of his probation, which request the Board in its sole discretion may grant or deny. In the event the Board denies such a request, the practice monitoring will continue at the Board's discretion. Dr. Morris shall bear all costs associated with the practice monitor program.

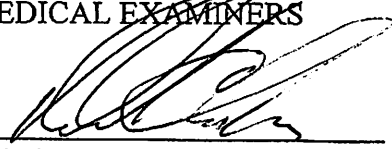
(4) Limitations on Prescribing – Use of Controlled Substances in the Treatment of Chronic Pain and Obesity. Dr. Morris shall not prescribe controlled substances to patients for the treatment of chronic pain or obesity. Until and unless otherwise modified by the Board, in its sole discretion, the restrictions contained in this provision shall survive the probationary period and remain in effect so long as Dr. Morris shall hold any form of license or permit to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana.

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. Morris shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for such other action against Dr. Morris' 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(A).

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

Signed at New Orleans, Louisiana, and effective on this 9th day Jan., 2020

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

BY: 
Roderick V. Clark, M.D., MBA
President

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSENT
ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE**

STATE OF Louisiana
COUNTY/PARISH OF Orleans

ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT

I, GERALD CHARLES MORRIS, 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 9th day of January, 2020 ^{SKS}

Gerald C. Morris MD
GERALD CHARLES MORRIS, M.D.,

WITNESSES:

[Signature]
Signature

Erica Endlein
Typed Name

1100 Paydraz St. Suite 205
Address

New Orleans, LA, 70163
City/State/Zip Code

[Signature]
Signature

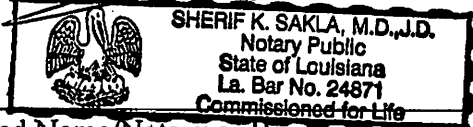
Alexander M. Sakla
Typed Name

1100 Paydraz St, STE 205
Address

N.O., LA 70163
City/State/Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of January, 2020 ^{SKS}, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.

[Signature]
Notary Public



Printed Name/Notary or Bar Number