

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**LAURENCE H. SMITH, M.D.**

*(Certificate No. 09567R)*

*Respondent*

**No. 19-I-847**

**INTERIM  
CONSENT ORDER**

This matter is before the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") in connection with an ongoing and pending investigation conducted by the Investigating Officer of the Board regarding Laurence H. Smith, M.D. ("Dr. Smith"), a physician who at all pertinent times has been licensed and engaged in the practice of cardiothoracic surgery in and around New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Board received apparently reliable information that indicates that Dr. Smith suffers from a medical condition, which affects his ability to practice with skill and safety.

Predicated upon the information outlined above, the Investigating Officer assigned by the Board with respect to this matter has determined that reasonable cause exists for recommending that a formal Administrative Complaint be filed against Dr. Smith, charging him with violation of the Louisiana Medical Practice Act (the "Act"), pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §§ 37:1285(A) (25).<sup>1</sup>

As evidenced by his subscription hereto, Dr. Smith acknowledges the right to have written notification of any charges that may be asserted, as well as the right to have evidence of such charges asserted during an administrative hearing at which time he will be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses and to present evidence 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. §§49:951, *et seq.* Irrespective of such rights, Dr. Smith, nonetheless, hereby consents to the indefinite suspension of his license to practice medicine in this state, with reinstatement thereof subject to the terms and conditions of this Order. By his subscription hereto, Dr. Smith authorizes the Investigating Officer designated by

<sup>1</sup> La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285(A) provides that the Board may take action against the licensee or applicant who has been found guilty of conduct which has endangered or is likely to endanger the health, welfare, or safety of the public, to include: (25) 'Inability to practice medicine with reasonable competence, skill, or safety to patients because of mental or physical illness or deficiency, including but not limited to deterioration through the aging process or excessive use or abuse of drugs, including alcohol.'

the Board with respect hereto to present this Interim Consent Order to the Board for its consideration and to fully discuss with and disclose to the Board the nature and extent of such charges and he waives any objection to such disclosures under La. Rev. Stat. §49:960. Dr. Smith expressly acknowledges that disclosure of such information to the Board by the Investigating Officer shall be without prejudice to the Investigating Officer's authority to prosecute administrative charges which may be filed in this matter following completion of the current investigation or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate such charges.

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 Laurence H. Smith, M.D. to engage in the practice of medicine in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by Certificate No.09567, be and the same is hereby, effective as of the date hereof, **INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED**.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Laurence H. Smith, M.D. shall not practice medicine in any form in the State of Louisiana until and unless the Board issues and serves a written decision reinstating his license to practice following: (1) a re-evaluation and a satisfactory report concerning his medical condition; (2) a meeting at the Board office with the Director of Investigations or designee; and (3) the conclusion of the pending investigation by administrative hearing and final decision of the Board on any charges that may be filed in these proceedings including, but not limited to, those identified in this Order; or alternatively, by the Board's acceptance of a Consent Order or other disposition of the pending investigation.

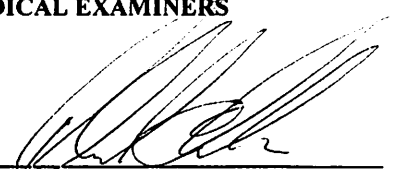
**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that any violation or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms, conditions or restrictions set forth by this Order by Dr. Smith shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for the revocation and cancellation of Dr. Smith's license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana or for such other action 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 Interim Consent Order shall be, and shall be deemed to be, a public record.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD  
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RODERICK V. CLARK, M.D.  
*President*


ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
AND CONSENT

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF Jefferson

I, LAURENCE H. SMITH, 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 13 day of JAN, 2020

  
LAURENCE H. SMITH, M.D.

WITNESSES:

  
Signature

Jadilano  
Printed Name

733 Veto  
Address

Met LA 70005  
City, State, Zip Code

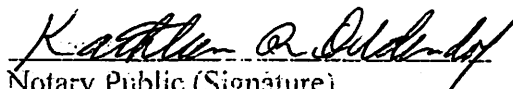
  
Signature

Denise Robinson  
Printed Name

733 Veto  
Address

Met LA 70005  
City, State, Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me at Metairie, Louisiana, this 13 day of Jan, 2020, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.

  
Notary Public (Signature)

Printed Name/Notary #

Kathleen R Oldendorf  
Notary Public #83772  
Commission Expires at Death  
Parish of Orleans, LA