

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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**BEFORE THE
LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

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(504) _____

IN THE MATTER OF:

JOHN THOMPSON OWINGS, M.D.
(Credential No. MD.018812),
Respondent

No. 2019-I-101

CONSENT ORDER

The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") has received reliable information that John Thompson Owings, M.D. ("Dr. Owings"), a physician who at all times pertinent has been licensed by the Board and engaged in the practice of medicine in and around Shreveport, Louisiana, was charged with and convicted of twenty counts of theft of government property, in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 641, and one count of concealing or failing to disclose an event affecting a right to a Title II benefit, in violation of Title 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(4), in the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, each count of which is a felony under the laws of the United States.¹

Underlying the charges, the First Superseding Indictment alleged that, on or about April 29, 2008, Dr. Owings applied for Disability Insurance Benefits under Title II of the Social Security Act.² To be eligible for such benefits, an individual must have been deemed medically disabled and must have been unable to maintain gainful employment.³ Recipients of such benefits must certify any changes in their medical or employment status to the Social Security Administration ("SSA").⁴ Eligibility for Disability Insurance Benefits is conditioned on the recipient's lack of employment income during the period when benefits are paid.⁵ The First Superseding Indictment alleged that, in his initial application, Dr. Owings certified that he was unable to work because of a disabling condition as of March 7, 2007. Based on his application, he was awarded Disability Insurance Benefits and continued to receive them through on or about June 2017.⁶ However,

¹ See First Superseding Indictment, Doc. No. 29, *United States v. Owings*, No. 18-cr-00120-01 (W.D. La. Sept. 27, 2018); Minute Entry and Verdict, Doc. No. 87, *United States v. Owings*, No. 18-cr-00120-01 (W.D. La. Feb. 1, 2019).

² First Superseding Indictment, p. 2.

³ First Superseding Indictment, pp. 1-2.

⁴ First Superseding Indictment, p. 2.

⁵ First Superseding Indictment, p. 2.

⁶ First Superseding Indictment, p. 2.

beginning in 2012 and continuing through 2017, Dr. Owings was gainfully employed, first as a surgeon at the University of California-Davis from 2012 to 2013, and, beginning in 2013, as Chief of Trauma and the Medical Director of University Health in Shreveport, Louisiana.⁷ The First Superseding Indictment alleged that Dr. Owings did not disclose either employment to the SSA as required, and therefore continued to receive payments from the SSA while gainfully employed, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641, and concealed and failed to disclose his work related earnings, in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(4).⁸ On his behalf, Dr. Owings submits that he maintained his innocence of criminal intent throughout the criminal case, while acknowledging through his own testimony his financial errors.

Dr. Owings was convicted of each count by unanimous jury verdict on February 1, 2019.⁹ On May 12, 2021, Dr. Owings was sentenced to twenty-one (21) months in prison, followed by two (2) years of supervised release, and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$200,434.70.¹⁰

Predicated upon the foregoing information, the Investigating Officer assigned by the Board with respect to this matter has determined that reasonable cause exists to file formal charges against Dr. Owings for violations of the Louisiana Medical Practice Act (the “Act”), pursuant to La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(1).¹¹

As evidenced by his subscription hereto, Dr. Owings acknowledges that the information developed by the Board’s investigation would constitute probable cause for the institution of administrative proceedings against his medical license and that proof of such information upon administrative evidentiary hearing could establish grounds under the Act for the suspension or revocation of his license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana, or for such other action as the Board might deem appropriate.

Recognizing his right to have notice and administrative adjudication of any charges that may be filed in this matter, at which time Dr. Owings 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. R.S. 49:951 *et seq.*, Dr. Owings, nonetheless, hereby waives his right to notice of charges, formal adjudication and written decision and pursuant to La. R.S. 49:955(D), consents to entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. Moreover, by his subscription

⁷ First Superseding Indictment, p. 2.

⁸ First Superseding Indictment, pp. 3–5.

⁹ Verdict Form, Doc. No. 90, *United States v. Owings*, No. 18-cr-00120-01 (W.D. La. Feb. 1, 2019).

¹⁰ See Minutes of Court: Sentencing, Doc. No. 141, *United States v. Owings*, No. 18-cr-00120-01 (W.D. La. May 12, 2021). The Respondent provided documentation demonstrating that this amount was satisfied by July 2019. See also *id.* at 2 (confirming “Restitution has been made in full.”).

¹¹ Pursuant to the Act, La. R.S. 37:1285(A), the Board may take action against the license of a physician as the result of: “(1) Conviction of a crime or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a criminal charge constituting a felony under the laws of Louisiana or of the United States.”

hereto, Dr. Owings also waives any right to which he may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:951 *et seq.*, or which 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 or other forum or body relating to the matters referred to herein. By his subscription hereto, Dr. Owings also 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. R.S. 49:960. Further, Dr. Owings 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 filing and adjudication of an Administrative Complaint against him, or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate any charges that may be filed in this matter should the Board decline to approve this Order.

Based upon the information provided, accordingly, and upon the recommendation of the Investigating Officer assigned to this matter, the Board has concluded that its responsibility to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this state, pursuant to La. R.S. 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. R.S. 37:1285 and La. R.S. 49:955(D);

IT IS ORDERED that the license of John Thompson Owings, M.D., to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana, as evidenced by Credential No. MD.018812, is hereby placed on ***INDEFINITE SUSPENSION***.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the reissuance or reinstatement of Dr. Owings's license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana shall be subject to his acceptance of and strict compliance with the following terms, conditions and restrictions:

1. **Suspension; Reissuance/Reinstatement.** Dr. Owings shall not practice medicine in the State of Louisiana until and unless the Board issues and serves on him a written order reissuing or reinstating his medical license. As express conditions to Dr. Owings's petition or request of the Board for such an order, Dr. Owings shall have: (1) been released from any period of incarceration and successfully completed any period of probation/supervised release imposed by the Court as a result of the above mentioned conviction; (2) scheduled and met with the Investigating Officer of the Board to discuss his then-current status and plans for resumption of practice; (3) satisfied the eligibility and other requirements of the Board's rules governing license issuance or reinstatement as of the date of his petition or request, La. Admin. Code tit. 46, pt. XLV, ch. 3; and (4) demonstrated to the Board's satisfaction his competency to resume practice with skill and safety to patients. Thereafter, any petition or request for reissuance or reinstatement of medical licensure made by Dr. Owings shall be granted or denied, at the sole discretion of the Board, and on such probationary terms, conditions and/or restrictions as the Board may then deem appropriate.

2. **Effective Date.** This Consent Order shall be effective on 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. Owings shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for the revocation and

cancellation of Dr. Owings'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. R.S. 37:1285.

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

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 26th day of July, 2021.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: _____


RODERICK V. CLARK, M.D., M.B.A.
President

(Acknowledgment and Consent on Following Page)

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT**

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF Caddo

I, JOHN THOMPSON OWINGS, 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 30 day of June, 2021.

John T Owings
JOHN THOMPSON OWINGS, M.D.

WITNESSES:

Joseph Ramsey
Signature

Joseph Ramsey
Typed Name

4830 Line Ave
Street Address

Shreveport La 71106
City/State/Zip Code

Jason Mabini
Signature

Jason Mabini
Typed Name

4830 Line Ave
Street Address

Shreveport La 71106
City/State/Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
30 day of June, 2021, in the
presence of the two stated witnesses.

William Lance Fouts
Notary Public (Signature)

Name: William Lance Fouts
Notary/Bar No.: 138509
Commission expires: Life



WILLIAM LANCE FOUTS
Notary Public
Notary ID No. 138509
Caddo Parish, Louisiana
My Commission is for life.