

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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

**NUMBER 20-A-001
IN THE MATTER OF**

DAVID S. DAWES, M.D.
(Certificate No. MD.020122)
Respondent

DECISION AND RULING

On May 24, 2021, the Board of Medical Examiners, in executive session, adjudicated the administrative complaint against Dr. David S. Dawes, M. D, Certificate Number MD. 020122. A quorum of the Board was present consisting of Dr. Lester W. Johnson, Dr. Terrie R. Thomas, Dr. James A. Taylor, Jr., Dr. Lolie C. Yu, Dr. Rita Y Horton, Dr. Leonard Weather, Jr., and Ms. Kim S. Sport, JD. In addition to the above, Mr. Ralph Wall, representing Dr. Lawrence H. Cresswell, III, DO, JD. Director of Investigations for the Board, Mr. Bobby Malbrough, representing Dr. Dawes, and Glennon Everett, Independent Counsel for the Board were present.

FACTS

Dr. Dawes is a licensed physician and practices psychiatry in and around the Lafayette, Louisiana area.

The complaint alleges Dr. Dawes engaged in an inappropriate and unprofessional sexual relationship with a female patient commencing in August 2019, and continuing until January 2020.

The complaint further states the doctor-patient relationship ended in January 2020, and Dr. Dawes voluntarily withdrew from the practice of medicine, self-reported his egregious conduct to the Board, and entered a treatment program (ACUMEN, LLC) to address the issue. After completing the recommended treatment, Dr. Dawes returned to the practice of psychiatry, and has followed all guidelines set forth when he was discharged when inpatient treatment ended.

In addition, Dr. Dawes has entered into a monitoring contract with the Healthcare Professionals Foundation of Louisiana (hereafter referred to as HPFL).

Presently, all actions taken by Dr. Dawes to address the violations have been voluntary.

EVIDENCE

Initially, an agreed-to written stipulation was submitted and entered into evidence. Therein, Dr. Dawes admits to the above-alleged violations and agrees to continue to comply with all the above terms and conditions recommended by the treatment received should he be allowed to continue the practice of medicine. It is noted that after the inpatient treatment he received at the Acumen Institute, LLC, it was determined that Dr. Dawes was able to return to the practice of medicine safely and was not a sexual predator.

After the stipulation was accepted into the record, Dr. Dawes, along with one “chaperone” presented testimony. Both testified no further incidents occurred.

Dr. Dawes seeks leniency from the Board. He argues that as a result of his actions listed above, he should retain his license, avoid suspension, and keep this matter unreported.

FINDINGS

After hearing the evidence presented and after due deliberation, the Board makes the following findings:

Dr. David S. Dawes has engaged in unprofessional conduct in the form of sexual misconduct with a psychiatric patient.

Therefore, lawful cause exists for the suspension or revocation of his license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana, and for the imposition of any reasonable terms and conditions thereof. LARS 37:1285 (A)(13)930), and the Board’s own rules LAC 46:XLV.7603A.1 and LAC 46:XLV.7605A.

RULING

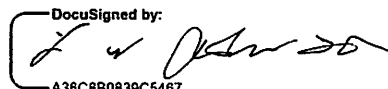
The Board hereby allows Dr. Dawes to continue the practice of medicine in Louisiana with the following conditions:

1. Dr. Dawes is hereby placed on probationary status for a period of 5 years from this date.
2. During the probationary period, Dr. Dawes is required to have a chaperone or monitor qualified to act as such and approved by the HPFL for all patient contact. Audio/video monitoring is allowed.
3. Dr. Dawes shall submit to a polygraph test addressing this issue every 6 months. The results are to be submitted to the Board and HPFL.

4. Dr. Dawes is to be re-evaluated by an approved treatment center and/or HPFL on an annual basis with the results forwarded to the Board.
5. Dr. Dawes is to remain in compliance with all State and Federal laws and the applicable Codes of Professional Conduct.
6. Dr. Dawes' request that this matter remain unreported is denied.
7. All costs of this matter are hereby assessed to Dr. Dawes, and no additional fine is imposed.

Signed this 10th day of August, 2021

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

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**Lester W. Johnson, MD
Vice President**