



LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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Web site: <http://www.lsbme.la.gov>

BEFORE THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

No. 2022-I-795

IN THE MATTER OF:

ERIK PETER CASTLE, M.D.
(Credential No. 323671),
Respondent

CONSENT ORDER FOR REPRIMAND

Erik Peter Castle, M.D., (“Dr. Castle”) is, and at all times present hereto has been, a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana, pursuant to the Louisiana Medical Practice Act (“the Act”), La. R.S. 37:1261 *et seq.*, as evidenced by Credential No. 323671. Dr. Castle principally practices urology in and around New Orleans, Louisiana.

Dr. Castle has no prior disciplinary history before the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the “Board”). The present matter was initiated by the Board in October 2022, based on receipt of a complaint alleging that on multiple occasions in 2022, Dr. Castle requested money for various personal reasons from a co-worker and failed to repay the money as promised. Investigation of this matter was assigned to Lawrence H. Cresswell, III, D.O., J.D., the Director of Investigations (“DOI” or “Investigating Officer”) for the Board. The investigation revealed that in April 2022, Dr. Castle entered a Consent Order with the Arizona Medical Board regarding his license to practice medicine in the State of Arizona based on similar allegations, including that Dr. Castle “committed unprofessional conduct by soliciting money from work colleagues, patients and others in the community under false pretenses, and failed to repay debt owed when promised.”¹ Dr. Castle “admitted to obtaining loans from colleagues, including resident physicians over whom [he] held supervisory authority.”² Dr. Castle’s Arizona medical license had expired as of January 9, 2021. The Arizona Order therefore issued a Decree of Censure without further action.³

Dr. Castle provided information to the Board indicating that he has experienced a gambling disorder, which resulted in disruptive behavior, including by borrowing or requesting to borrow money from co-workers, colleagues, and patients, in the course of his medical practice. In the light of the prior Arizona Order, and based on the present allegations to the Board, Dr. Castle removed

¹ Order for Decree of Censure; and Consent to the Same, *In the Matter of Erik P. Castle, M.D.*, Case No. MD-20-0964A, ARIZ. MED. BD. (Apr. 8, 2022), at 1.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.* at 3.

himself from practice and sought an evaluation at a Board-approved facility from August 31 through September 3, 2023. The evaluators opined that, at that time, Dr. Castle was not safe to return to clinical practice, and recommended treatment to address issues related to his gambling disorder. Dr. Castle thereafter entered treatment at a Board-approved facility. Dr. Castle successfully completed treatment and, upon discharge, the treating providers stated that, with an appropriate aftercare plan fully in place, Dr. Castle is fit to return to the clinical practice of medicine.

Dr. Castle subsequently has agreed to enter into a five-year monitoring contract with the Healthcare Professionals' Foundation of Louisiana (the "HPFL"), which contract provides terms for monitoring and treatment of his gambling disorder and is consistent with all of the aftercare recommendations made by his treating providers. Dr. Castle has also identified himself on the gambling self-exclusion list for the State of Louisiana and the State of Mississippi. Dr. Castle further has met with the Board's Investigating Officer, acknowledged the accuracy of the foregoing information, and committed to ongoing compliance with his HPFL monitoring contract and all aftercare recommendations of his treating providers.

As evidenced by his subscription hereto, Dr. Castle acknowledges the substantial accuracy of the foregoing information and that such information would provide the Investigating Officer assigned to this matter by the Board with cause to institute administrative proceedings against his medical licensure for violations of the Louisiana Medical Practice Act, La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(13)⁴ and (29),⁵ pursuant to Administrative Complaint, and that proof of such information upon administrative evidentiary hearing may establish grounds under the Act for such action against his license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana as the Board might deem appropriate. Provided, however, that Dr. Castle complies with the terms of this order as described below, the information available to the Board and indicates that Dr. Castle is safe to practice medicine with skill and safety to patients.

Recognizing his right to written notification of any charges that may be asserted against him as a result of this investigation, as well as the right to administrative adjudication of such charges, at which time he would 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. R.S. 49:975 *et seq.*, Dr. Castle, nonetheless, hereby waives his rights to notice, formal adjudication and written decision and, pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975(D), consents to entry of the Order set forth

⁴ La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(13) ("Unprofessional conduct, including but not limited to, . . . disruptive behavior[.]"); *see also* La. Admin. Code tit. 46, pt. XLV, § 7603(A)(2) (defining "disruptive behavior" for purposes of unprofessional conduct as "aberrant behavior, including but not limited to harassment, sexual or otherwise, manifested through personal interaction with physicians, employees, coworkers, hospital personnel, health care professionals, patients, family members or others, which interferes with patient care or could reasonably be expected to interfere with the process of delivering quality care or jeopardizing patient safety.").

⁵ La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(29) ("The refusal of a licensing authority of another state to issue or renew a license, permit, or certificate to practice medicine in that state or the revocation, suspension, or other restriction imposed on a license, permit, or certificate issued by such licensing authority which prevents or restricts practice in that state, or the surrender of a license, permit, or certificate issued by another state when criminal or administrative charges are pending or threatened against the holder of such license, permit, or certificate.").

hereinafter. Furthermore, Dr. Castle acknowledges that he hereby waives any right to which he may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:950 *et seq.*, or to which he otherwise may be afforded by any 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 relating to the matters referred to herein. Dr. Castle 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 and to discuss with the Board the nature and result of the investigation and waives any objection to such disclosures under La. R.S. 49:977.2. The disclosure of information to the Board by the Investigating Officer shall be without prejudice to the Investigating Officer's authority to pursue formal administrative charges against Dr. Castle or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate such charges should the Board decline to approve this Consent Order.

Based upon the information provided, and upon the recommendation of the Investigating Officer, the Board hereby concludes that, consistent with its mandate under La. R.S. 37:126¹, the interests of public health, safety, and welfare will be effectively served by entry of the Order set forth hereinafter, by consent. The Board has considered the guidelines for minimum and maximum disciplinary dispositions and the aggravating and mitigating circumstances apparent from the particular facts and circumstances of this matter.⁶ 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. 49:975(D);

IT IS ORDERED that the license of Erik Peter Castle, M.D., to engage in the practice of medicine in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by Credential No. 323671, be and the same is hereby **OFFICIALLY REPRIMANDED** for the above-described conduct.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, within six (6) months of the effective date of this Order, Dr. Castle shall pay to the Board a fine in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred and no/100 Dollars (\$2,500.00).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, within six (6) months of the effective date of this Order, Dr. Castle shall complete the free online course "Laws and Rules for Louisiana Physicians," which may be accessed through the following link, <https://www.lsbme.la.gov/content/board-orientations-online-courses>. Upon completion of the course, Dr. Castle shall complete the verification process and obtain a certificate of completion that will be submitted to the Board or its designee by the course provider.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, within six (6) months of the effective date of this Order, Dr. Castle shall complete a continuing medical education ("CME") course on medical ethics that has been pre-approved by the Board or its designee and shall timely submit proof or documentation of the completion of such course to the Board or its designee.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Castle shall continue to maintain and comply with his current monitoring agreement with the HPFL PHP for the duration of that agreement and shall continue to receive treatment from his treating providers. Dr. Castle agrees that the HPFL PHP shall report any violation of his agreement to the Board or its designee. The Board may take

⁶ See La. Admin. Code tit. 46, pt. XLV, §§ 9714; 9716.

disciplinary action against Dr. Castle based on any future violation of his HPFL agreement, as if such violation was enumerated among the causes provided in La. R.S. 37:1285.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation of or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms set forth by this Order by Dr. Castle shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for such other action against Dr. Castle's 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. R.S. 37:1285.

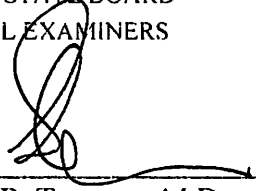
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Consent Order shall be effective as of the date it is approved and accepted by the Board as shown by the signature of the Board's representative below.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Consent Order shall be, and shall be deemed to be, a **PUBLIC RECORD**, and shall likewise be available on the Board's website, <https://www.lsme.la.gov/>, under "Disciplinary Actions", and shall be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank ("NPDB").

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 11th day of December, 2023.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: _____


TERRIE R. THOMAS, M.D.
President

Acknowledgment and Consent on Following Page

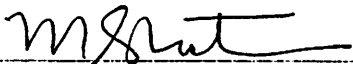
**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT**

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF East Baton Rouge

I, ERIK PETER CASTLE, 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 16th day of November, 2022.


ERIK PETER CASTLE, M.D.

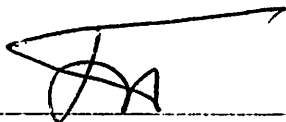
WITNESSES:


Signature

Michael Shortess
Typed Name

8680 Bluebonnet Blvd
Street Address Suite F

Baton Rouge, LA 70810
City/State/Zip Code


Signature

Jeffrey P. Brant
Typed Name

8680 Bluebonnet Blvd
Street Address Suite F

Baton Rouge LA 70810
City/State/Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16th day of November, 2022, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.


Notary Public (Signature)

Name: Lyn S. Savoie
Notary/Bar No.: 28754
Commission expires: at death

Lyn S. Savoie
La. Bar Roll No. 28754
My commission expires at death.