

## LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

630 Camp Street, New Orleans, LA 70130 Phone: (504) 568-6820; Fax: (504) 324-0994 Web site: http://www.lsbme.la.gov

## BEFORE THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

No. 2023-I-371

CONSENT ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF:

THOMAS S. WILLIAMS, M.D. (Credential No. MD.022964), Respondent

Thomas S. Williams, M.D. ("Dr. Williams") is, and at all times pertinent 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. 37:1261–92, as evidenced by Credential No. MD.022964. At all times material to the facts and matters alleged herein, Dr. Williams has been engaged in the practice of family medicine in and around Oak Grove, Louisiana.

The above-entitled proceeding was docketed for investigation by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") upon the receipt of apparently reliable information indicating that Dr. Williams had engaged in a sexual relationship for approximately three months with a coworker. Dr. Williams also treated the co-worker as a patient both prior to and concurrent with the sexual relationship.

Investigation of the captioned matter was assigned to Lawrence H. Cresswell, III, D.O., J.D., Director of Investigations (the "DOI") for the Board. Upon investigation, Dr. Williams acknowledged that he had engaged in a sexual relationship with an individual who was employed at his health care practice and that he had treated the same individual as a patient. To address this conduct and assess his ongoing fitness to practice medicine, the DOI recommended that Dr. Williams submit to an evaluation at a Board-approved facility. Dr. Williams submitted to the recommended evaluation, the results of which indicated that he can safely practice medicine, and his recidivism risk to engage in professional sexual misconduct is low, provided that he follows several recommendations, including: attending a professional boundary course to improve his insight and awareness regarding maintaining professional boundaries with staff, employees, and patients; attending individual outpatient therapy; and utilizing a chaperone when treating patients.

Dr. Williams has met with and discussed these recommendations with the DOI, and has otherwise fully cooperated with the Board's investigation, expressed remorse for his actions, and accepted responsibility for his conduct and the violations stated herein. The Board's investigation revealed no other instances or allegations of sexual misconduct.

As evidenced by his subscription hereto, Dr. Williams acknowledges the substantial accuracy of the foregoing information and that proof of such information upon administrative evidentiary hearing could establish sufficient cause to take action with respect to his medical license pursuant to La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(13)<sup>1</sup>.

Recognizing his right to notice and administrative adjudication of any charges that may be asserted against him in these proceedings, at which time Dr. Williams 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. 49:975 et seq., Dr. Williams, nonetheless, hereby waives his right to notice and formal adjudication and pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975(D) consents to entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. Dr. Williams 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 which may be afforded to him by any other law to contest or appeal his agreement to or the force and effect of the Board's investigation or this Order in any court or other forum. By his subscription hereto, Dr. Williams also hereby authorizes the Investigating Officer designated by the Board with respect hereto to present this 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. 49:977.2. Dr. Williams 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 adjudication of an administrative complaint against him or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate such complaint should the Board decline to approve this 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. Accordingly, in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. R.S. 37:1285, La. R.S. 49:975(D);

IT IS ORDERED that Thomas S. Williams, M.D., Credential No. MD.022964, be and is hereby *OFFICIALLY REPRIMANDED* for the conduct described above.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Williams shall, within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date of this Order, provide confirmation that he has enrolled in and successfully completed a continuing medical education ("CME") course on boundaries that is acceptable to and has been approved by the Board or its designee in writing prior to scheduling or completing the CME course.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(13) ("Unprofessional conduct, including but not limited to, conduct manifested as sexual misconduct[.]"); see also La. Admin. Code tit. 46, pt. XLV, § 7603(A)(1) (defining "sexual misconduct").

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Williams shall, within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date of this Order, complete the free online course "Laws and Rules for Louisiana Physicians," which may be accessed through the following link, <a href="https://www.lsbme.la.gov/content/board-orientations-online-courses">https://www.lsbme.la.gov/content/board-orientations-online-courses</a>. Upon completion of the course, Dr. Williams 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 Dr. Williams shall, within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date of this Order, provide confirmation that he is enrolled in an individual outpatient therapy program that is consistent and compliant with his evaluators' recommendations and that is acceptable to and has been approved by the Board or its designee in writing prior to enrollment.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the Effective Date of this Order, Dr. Williams shall submit a plan of practice designating one or more workplace chaperones, acceptable to and preapproved by the Board or its designee, in whose presence and under whose direct observation he proposes (a) to conduct the entirety of any and all visits and examinations of patients in an office setting for a period of two (2) years following the Effective Date of this Order, and (b) to conduct the entirety of any and all visits and examinations of staff members. Any chaperone shall be a nurse or other health care professional licensed by and in good standing with a health care professional and occupational regulatory board in this state. Should the Board find cause to review or investigate Dr. Williams's practice at any time within five years of the Effective Date of this Order, Dr. Williams shall submit or cause to be submitted any relevant records or reports associated with the chaperone(s) as the Board or its designee may in their sole discretion request.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Williams shall, within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date of this Order, pay to the Board a fine in the amount of Two-Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No/100 (\$2,500.00).

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. Williams shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for such other action against Dr. Williams'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, <a href="https://www.lsbmc.la.gov/">https://www.lsbmc.la.gov/</a>, under "Disciplinary Actions", and shall be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank ("NPDB").

New Orleans, Louisiana, this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

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	
I, THOMAS S. WILLIAMS, M.D., hereby acknowle advice and guidance of legal counsel with respect and conditions have been fully explained to me acknowledge that I approve, accept and consent to duress and of my own free will and accord, this	and/or that I fully understand them. I further entry of the above and foregoing Order without
Signature  Signature  Signature  Aun Jones  Typed Name  Hal Highland Rd  Street Address  LakeHovidence La 71854  City/State/Zip Code	Robbye Black Typed Name City/State/Zip Code
Sworn to and subscribed before me this day of Opril, 2024, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.  Notary Public (Signature)	
Name: Kelli Drurey Notary/Bar No.: #66682 Commission expires: Death	