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In The Matter of:
RALPH A. FORD, M.D.
(Certificate No. 12569R)
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No. 04 -I- 037

CONSENT ORDER

The above-entitled proceeding was docketed for investigation by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") following receipt of information concerning Ralph A. Ford, M.D. ("Dr. Ford"), a physician licensed and practicing medicine in the State of Missouri but who at all pertinent times was also licensed to practice medicine in Louisiana¹ and Oklahoma. Such information reveals that during the year 2004, Dr. Ford entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board of Registration for the Healing Arts for the State of Missouri (the "Missouri Board") whereby which his license was reprimanded and he agreed to complete twenty-five hours of continuing medical education on the topic of chest pain within twelve months. The Missouri Board's action was in disposition of an investigation involving an incident that occurred in April 2002 when Dr. Ford was alleged to have acted with incompetence and gross negligence in his treatment of a patient at Salem Memorial District Hospital, Salem, Missouri, that resulted in the patient's death. Predicated upon the action taken by the Missouri Board, the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure (the "Oklahoma Board") charged Dr. Ford with unprofessional conduct providing just cause for action against his license in Oklahoma.² In May 2004, Dr. Ford stipulated to the charges asserted and entered into an Agreement with the Oklahoma Board prohibiting his practice in emergency rooms in that state until he presented satisfactory proof of competency in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases. The Agreement further provided that if the Oklahoma Board ever modified the restriction placed on Dr. Ford's license that such may be on such probationary terms and conditions as it may then deem appropriate.³

Investigation of the captioned matter was assigned to John B. Bobear, M.D., the Medical Consultant/Director of Investigations for the Board. Dr. Bobear's review and analysis of the matter confirms to his satisfaction that just cause exists for recommending that a formal Administrative Complaint be filed against Dr. Ford, charging him with violation of the Louisiana Medical Practice Act (the "Act") pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285A(13) and (29).

¹ Although Dr. Ford has not renewed his Louisiana license for the year July 2004-2005, by virtue of the fact that he is entitled to do so for a period of four (4) years from the date of last renewal provides the Board with continuing jurisdiction. La. Adm. C. 46:XLV §419.

² *Complaint*, St. of Oklahoma Bd. of Med. Licensure vs. Ralph Aubrey Ford, M.D., Case No. 04-03-2785 (Apr. 16, 2004).

³ *Agreement and Acknowledgement*, St. of Oklahoma Bd. of Med. Licensure vs. Ralph Aubrey Ford, M.D., Case No. 04-03-2785 (May 20, 2004).

As evidenced by his subscription hereto, Dr. Ford acknowledges the substantial accuracy of the foregoing information, and that such acknowledgment and the reported information would provide the Investigating Officer herein with probable cause to pursue formal administrative proceedings against him for violation of the Louisiana Medical Practice Act, La. Rev. Stat. §§37:1285A(13) and (29).⁴

Recognizing his right to have notice of any allegation or charge asserted against him, to administrative adjudication of such allegation or charge pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §§49:951, *et. seq.*, and to issuance of a final decision rendered upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law Dr. Ford, nonetheless, hereby waives his right to formal charges and formal adjudication and pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D), consents to entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. By his subscription hereto Dr. Ford acknowledges that he hereby waives any right to which he may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Practice Act, La. Rev. Stat. §§49:951, *et. seq.* or which may otherwise 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. Dr. Ford, furthermore, 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. Rev. Stat. §49:960. Dr. Ford 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 file a formal Administrative Complaint against him or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate such Complaint should the Board decline to approve this Consent 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 insure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this state pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §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. Rev. Stat. §37:1285 and La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D);

IT IS ORDERED that the license of Ralph A. Ford, M.D. to engage in the practice of medicine in the state of Louisiana, as evidenced by Certificate No. 12569R, be and the same is hereby, as of the date of this Order, conditioned upon his acceptance of and compliance with the following terms:

- 1. Practice in Louisiana.** Dr. Ford shall not, until further written order of the Board, engage in the practice medicine in the State of Louisiana. As express conditions to the

⁴The Board may take action against the license of a physician as a result of '[U]nprofessional conduct.' La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285A(13); or '[T]he 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.' La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285A(29).

issuance of such an order, Dr. Ford shall have satisfied the terms and conditions imposed upon his license to practice in Missouri and in Oklahoma and his licenses in those states, as any other state where he may hold a current license, shall be in good standing.

2. Notice of Relocation to Louisiana and Personal Appearance Before Board.

Following the satisfaction of the terms set forth in paragraph 1 above, in the event that Dr. Ford should ever decide to relocate to Louisiana for the purpose of practicing medicine, he shall contact the Board at least sixty (60) days in advance of his anticipated return to Louisiana to arrange an appearance before the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. At such meeting, Dr. Ford shall demonstrate his compliance with paragraph 1 of this Order and he shall discuss with the Board his intended plans for the practice of medicine in this state.

3. Additional Probationary Terms. In addition to such other terms as are placed upon his Louisiana medical license by this Order, Dr. Ford hereby consents to, agrees with, and acquiesces in the imposition of any additional terms, conditions or restrictions, as well as the length and nature thereof that the Board, in its sole discretion, may then deem necessary or appropriate to impose upon any renewed or reinstated license should he at any time in the future decide to relocate to this state for the purpose of practicing medicine.

4. Verification of Compliance Officer. Dr. Ford shall immediately notify the Board's Compliance Officer of any change in the status of his Missouri and Oklahoma licenses, as well as his current home and professional addresses and telephone numbers and he shall cooperate with the Compliance Officer on all matters or inquiries pertaining to the conditions of this Order.

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

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 19th day of July, 2005.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

BY: KE LeBlanc MD
Kim Edward LeBlanc, M.D., Ph.D.
President

STATE OF MISSOURI
COUNTY OF Dent

ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT

I, RALPH A. FORD, M.D., hereby acknowledge, approve, accept and consent to entry of the above and foregoing Order, this 23 day of June, 2005.

Ralph A. Ford M.D.

RALPH A. FORD, M.D.

WITNESSES:

Regina L White
Signature

Deborah A Hobson
Signature

REGINA L. White
Printed Name

Deborah A Hobson
Printed Name

207 S. Washington,
Salem mo 65560
Address

Hwy 804 371
Edgar Springs mo 65462
Address

Sworn to and subscribed before me at on this 23 day of June, 2005, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.

Deanna R Parrett
Notary Public

Deanna R Parrett
Printed Name

041623486
Bar/Notary Number

