

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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BEFORE THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

In the Matter of

JOSEPH ARTHUR FREEMAN, M.D.
(Certificate No.10548R)
RESPONDENT

CONSENT ORDER

05-I-81

The above-entitled proceeding was docketed for investigation by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") following the receipt of information indicating that Joseph Arthur Freeman, M.D.¹ ("Dr. Freeman") or ("Respondent"), from November 2003 through October 2004 was engaged in a practice of Medicine in the Parish of Iberville, serving in the position of Medical Director of the Louisiana Corrections Institute for Women ("LCIW"), located in St. Gabriel, Louisiana. The investigation revealed that Dr. Freeman exhibited grossly unprofessional conduct at LCIW, by using vulgar and profane speech, demeaning and insulting remarks and derogatory comments.

¹ Dr. Freeman, currently 45 years of age, received his medical degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1998. Dr. Freeman completed his post-graduate training in Family Practice at the St. Joseph's Medical Center Family Practice Residency Program, Stamford, Connecticut in 1994. He became licensed by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners in 1994.

The Board's Director of Investigations, John B. Bobear, M.D. ("DOI") has reviewed the complaint and the investigation of this matter and confirms to his satisfaction that just cause exists for recommending that a formal Administrative Complaint be filed against Dr. Freeman, charging him with violations of the Louisiana Medical Practice Act (the "Act") pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285 A(13))².

As evidenced by his subscription hereto, Dr. Freeman, without admitting the accuracy of the information described herein above or any violation of the Louisiana Medical Practice Act, acknowledges that the information developed by the Board's investigation would constitute probable cause for the institution of administrative proceedings against his medical license, pursuant to Administrative Complaint, and that proof of such information at an Administrative Evidentiary Hearing would establish grounds under the Act for the suspension, or such other action against the physician's license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana as the Board might deem appropriate, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285A (13).

By his signature, Dr. Freeman, also acknowledges that he has had an opportunity to thoroughly review the content of this Consent Order with the benefit of legal counsel, and herein acknowledges his awareness and understands the significance of the waiver of his rights which include: formal written notice of any allegations or charges against him by way of an Administrative Complaint; pre hearing discovery; an evidentiary hearing before the Board or its

²

(13)

The Board may refuse to issue, or may suspend or revoke any license or permit, or impose probationary or other restrictions on any license or permit each unit under this Part for the following causes:
Unprofessional conduct.

designated Panel at which Dr. Freeman would have the right to representation of legal counsel, the right to cross examine witnesses, call witnesses and present evidence on his own behalf in defense or mitigation of any charges made, a written decision of the Board based upon findings of fact and conclusions of law pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act ("LAPA") La. Rev. Stat. §§ 49:955-965 and the Board's Rules of Adjudications, and thereafter the right to judicial review and appeal of any adverse adjudication.

Dr. Freeman makes these acknowledgments and waivers in support of a final disposition of the pending investigation by Consent Order pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. § 49:955(D), in lieu of the institution and prosecution of formal administrative proceedings, and accordingly consents to the entirety of the Order set forth hereinafter.

By his subscription hereto, Dr. Freeman also hereby authorizes the DOI designated by the Board with respect hereto, as well as the DOI's legal counsel assisting him, 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 of this matter. Dr. Freeman expressly acknowledges that the disclosure of such information to the Board by the DOI or his legal counsel shall be without prejudice to the DOI's authority to file a formal Administrative Complaint, or the Board's capacity to adjudicate such Administrative Complaint, should the Board decline to approve this Consent Order. Dr. Freeman further acknowledges his awareness that should the Board approve this Consent Order that the Consent Order will become a matter of public record.

Based upon the information provided and upon the recommendation of the DOI, evidenced by his signature hereto, the Board has concluded that its responsibility to protect the health, safety

and welfare of the citizens of this state pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. § 37:1261, will be served effectively 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 Joseph Authur Freeman, M.D., to engage in the practice of medicine in the State of Louisiana as evidenced by Certificate No. 10548 R, be, and the same is hereby, **OFFICIALLY REPRIMANDED** and it is **FURTHER ORDERED** that the license of Joseph Authur Freeman, M.D., to engage in the practice of medicine in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by Certificate No.10548 R, shall be conditioned upon his acceptance and strict compliance with the following minimum terms and conditions:

- (a) **Ethics Course.** Within nine months of the effective date of this Consent Order, Dr. Freeman, at his expense, will successfully complete an intensive course in ethics and medical professionalism as approved in advance and directed by the Board.
- (b) **Fine.** Dr. Freeman, will pay to the Board a fine in the amount of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00). The fine is payable to the Board in full within one year of the Board's acceptance of this Consent Order. Dr. Freeman acknowledges that in the event that fine is not paid in full within the time provided that the Board shall have the authority to immediately suspend the license of Joseph Authur Freeman, M.D. to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana until such time as the fine is paid in full.

- (c) **Personal Appearance before the Board.** In connection with this Consent Order, Dr. Freeman shall personally appear before the Board to permit the Board to consider issues giving rise to this Consent Order, the terms, conditions and requirements of this Consent Order, and to advise the Board of his intentions with respect to the practice of medicine.

and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms, conditions or requirements of this Order, as set forth herein above, by Dr. Freeman shall be deemed adequate and/or sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for the suspension and/or revocation of the medical license of Joseph Authur Freeman, M.D. or for such other disciplinary action as the Board deems appropriate, as if such violations were enumerated among the causes provided in La. Rev. Stat. § 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 12th day of December, 2005.

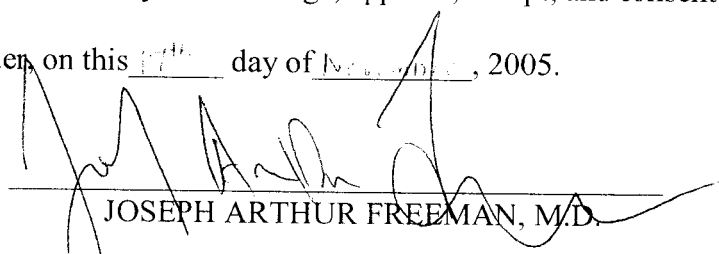
LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: Kweli J. Amusa, MD
KWELI J. AMUSA, M.D.
Vice-President

DATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF _____

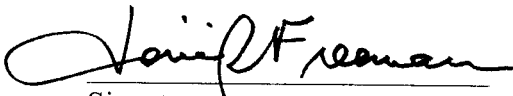
**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT**

I, **Joseph Arthur Freeman, M.D.**, hereby acknowledge, approve, accept, and consent to entry of the above and foregoing Order, on this 17th day of November, 2005.



JOSEPH ARTHUR FREEMAN, M.D.

WITNESSES:



Signature

Torii R. Freeman

Printed Name

2205 Myrtle Avenue

Address

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

City, State, Zip Code



Signature

David Freeman

Printed Name

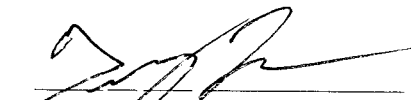
6229 River Road, Baton Rouge, LA

Address

Baton Rouge, LA 70820

City, State, Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this 17th day of November, 2005, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.



Notary Public

Troy D. Jackson 28620

Printed Name / Notary #