

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

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

**NUMBER: 03-A-007**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**JAMES R. ALEXANDER, M. D.  
(CERTIFICATE NO. 015020)**

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**OPINION AND RULING**

This matter comes before the Board pursuant to an Administrative Complaint, which charges Respondent, James R. Alexander, M. D., with several violations of the Medical Practice Act, R. S. 37:1261, *et seq.* The matter was heard before a panel consisting of Drs. Laborde, Amusa, and LeBlanc, Vice-President, presiding, constituting a quorum of the Board.

The matters which underlie the charges against Respondent arose when the Board received a complaint against him in July, 2002. On October 1, 2002, Dr. Alexander was notified of the complaint, and asked to provide a detailed written response within fifteen days. No response was received.

As a result, a second request for a response was sent on December 6, 2002, and once again no response was received. A third letter was sent on January 7, 2003, directing him to meet with the Board on January 21, 2003, to discuss his failure to reply to the Board's requests for information. Respondent failed to appear as ordered.

On January 23, 2003, a subpoena and correspondence were served on Respondent, directing him to appear and meet with the Director of Investigations of the Board on February 5, 2003, and provide a written response to the complaint

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against him. Respondent did not appear as ordered.

The Administrative Complaint, detailing the above matters, was filed and accepted by the Board. It was served on Respondent, and he was directed to appear at a Pre Hearing Conference on July 26, 2003. Once again, he failed to appear, either in person or through counsel, and the matter was set for hearing on August 26, 2003.

At the hearing, Respondent finally appeared, accompanied by counsel. He admitted to all of the above circumstances, and stated that he had opened only the first communication from the Board, and did not look at any of the others, which remained unopened on his desk. He had no explanation, except that he hoped the whole thing would go away.

R. S. 37:1278.1 requires physicians to respond to subpoenas from the Board for information relative to any patient. Because of his failure to respond as directed to the inquiries of the Board, including one subpoena, Dr. Alexander is charged, in the Administrative Complaint, with unprofessional conduct, in violation of R. S. 37:1285A(13); and violation of rules and regulations of the Board, and of the Medical Practice Act, in violation of R. S. 37:1285A(30).

In view of the evidence produced, and the admissions of Respondent that he had received, and ignored, the communications from the Board, we find the Dr. Alexander is guilty of the charges against him. The following sanctions are imposed:

1. James R. Alexander, M. D. is hereby severely reprimanded for his irresponsible behavior in ignoring the communications and the orders of the Board, and he is directed to cooperate fully with the Director of Investigations in the inquiry into the original charges which gave rise to this proceeding.

2. Respondent shall pay a fine of \$3,000.00, and all costs of his proceeding.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, SEPTEMBER 10, 2003.

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BY: KIM EDWARD LEBLANC, M.D., VICE PRESIDENT

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