

# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

630 Camp Street, New Orleans, LA 70130  
General Correspondence Address: Post Office Box 30250, New Orleans, LA 70190-0250  
[www.lsbme.org](http://www.lsbme.org)



Telephone: (504) 568-6820  
FAX: (504) 568-8893  
Writer's Direct Dial:

Ext. \_\_\_\_\_

## BEFORE THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

NUMBER: 99-A-022

IN THE MATTER OF:

**PEDRO IVAN RIVERA-LOPEZ, M.D.**  
**(CERTIFICATE NO. 016962)**

\*\*\*\*\*

### OPINION AND RULING

This matter comes before the Board pursuant to an Administrative Complaint, alleging various violations of the Medical Practice Act by Pedro Ivan Rivera-Lopez, M. D., Respondent. The matter was heard before a panel consisting of Drs. James, Gage-White, LeBlanc, Ferdinand, Amusa, Bourgeois, and Laborde, President.

Specifically, Respondent is charged with violating R. S. 37:1285A(1), for having been convicted of a felony under the laws of the United States. He is further charged with having violated R. S. 37:1285A(2), for having been convicted of a crime arising out of, or in connection with the practice of medicine.

He is also charged with violation of R. S. 37:1285A(3), for fraud, deceit or perjury in obtaining a license to practice medicine; and with violation of R. S. 37:1285A, for having action taken against his license by another state.

The record affirmatively shows that, while practicing medicine in the State of Texas, Dr. Rivera was indicted, tried, and found guilty of five counts of Attempt to Evade or Defeat Tax Payments, Aiding and Abetting, a felony under the laws of the United States of America. He was sentenced to, and has served, a term of imprisonment of some three years. He stated at the hearing that he is no longer under any sanctions or probationary conditions arising therefrom. Dr. Rivera further stated that he was not guilty of anything, and that everything he did was pursuant to legal advice. However, he cannot escape the facts that his conviction is

RIVERA-LOPEZ, January 2003

final, and that he has served his sentence. Nor can he deny that all of the taxes which he attempted to avoid were on income derived from the practice of medicine.

We further note from the record that, between the dates of his conviction by a jury on August 12, 1998, and January 4, 1999, when he was sentenced, Dr. Rivera filed his application for renewal of his license. He failed to answer either yes or no to question no. 2, "Were you charged with, convicted of, or did you plead guilty to or nolo contendere to, violation of any municipal, county/parish, state or federal statute?" Dr. Rivera explained that he did not know what to answer since he was between conviction and sentence, so he left it blank. At that time, he had already been charged with and convicted of a felony under federal law. We find his failure to answer question no. 2 to be a blatant attempt to deceive the Board.

Finally, the record reflects that Respondent's license to practice medicine in Texas was revoked on March 3, 2000, by the Texas Board because of his conviction on the tax charges, and for giving a false answer on his renewal application to a question similar to our question 2, quoted above, after he had been convicted, but before sentence. His Texas license remains under revocation.


Clearly, Dr. Rivera is guilty of all of the charges against him. We recognize that his sentence has been served, and that he is no longer on probation, and that there has been no showing that he is not a competent physician. However, he did lie on his application for renewal in this state in December, 1998, and his license remains revoked in the State of Texas.

Consequently, the license of Pedro Ivan Rivera-Lopez, M. D., to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana, Certificate No.16962, is hereby revoked and cancelled, effective immediately.

He may reapply for licensure in this state when, and only when, his license has been reinstated by the State of Texas. Respondent shall pay all costs of this proceeding.

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA, this 14th day of January, 2003.

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**ELMO J. LABORDE, M.D., PRESIDENT**

RIVERA-LOPEZ, January 2003