BEFORE THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

In the Matter Of

IRWIN L. FONTENELLE, M.D. : No. 92-I-110-X (CERTIFICATE NO. 005018)

Respondent.

CONSENT ORDER

Irwin L. Fontenelle, M.D. ("Dr. Fontenelle"), is, as of the date hereof, a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana and principally engaged in the practice of family medicine in the New Orleans, Louisiana area, where he has continuously maintained a practice since the year 1947. Predicated upon apparently reliable information, the Board undertook an investigation of Dr. Fontenelle's prescription writing practices for controlled substances over the period of time spanning the year January, 1989 through October, 1990. The results of such investigation indicate that Dr. Fontenelle may have issued controlled substances to certain individuals without legitimate medical justification therefor or in other than a legal or legitimate manner.

As evidenced by his subscription hereto, Dr. Fontenelle acknowledges that such information, if accurate, would provide the Investigating Officer designated by the Board with respect to this investigation with probable cause to initiate formal administrative proceedings against his license pursuant to the Louisiana Medical Malpractice Act, La. Rev. Stat. §§37:1261-92, constituting cause for the revocation, suspension or imposition of such other terms and conditions upon Dr. Fontenelle's license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana as the Board may deem appropriate.

On the basis of the information provided to and received by the Board and with Dr. Fontenelle's knowledge and consent, however, the Board is persuaded that he may maintain his license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana, provided, however, that he strictly observes and complies with appropriate restrictions on and conditions to maintenance of such licensure. In consideration of this finding, accordingly, and on the recommendation of the Board's

¹La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §37:1285(A)(6), (12) and (14).

Investigating Officer respecting the pending investigation, the Board has concluded that its responsibility to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this State against the unprofessional, unqualified and unsafe practice of medicine, La. Rev. Stat. §37:1261, will be effectively served by entry of the Order set forth hereinafter, by consent.

Recognizing his right to have notice of allegations and charges asserted against him to administrative adjudication of such charges, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §§49:955-958, and to a final decision rendered upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law, Dr. Fontenelle nonetheless hereby waives his right to notice of allegations and charges and formal adjudication and, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D), consents to entry of the Order set forth By his subscription hereto, Dr. Fontenelle also hereinafter. hereby authorizes the Investigating Officer designated by the Board with respect hereto, as well as his legal counsel assisting him in connection herewith, 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 waives any objection to such disclosures under La. Rev. Stat. §49:960. Fontenelle expressly acknowledges that the disclosure of information to the Board by the Investigating Officer or his legal counsel 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.

Accordingly, in consideration of the foregoing, and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D);

IT IS ORDERED that the license of Irwin L. Fontenelle, M.D., to engage in the practice of medicine in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by Certificate No. 005018, be, and the same is hereby maintained conditioned upon his acceptance of and strict compliance with the following terms, conditions and restrictions:

- Prescription, Dispensation, Administration Controlled Substances Prohibited. Dr. Fontenelle shall during his lifetime, prescribe, dispense controlled substance, administer any as enumerated or included in federal or state statutes or regulations, 21 C.F.R. §1308, La. Rev. Stat. §40:964, or substance which may hereafter be designated a controlled substance by amendment or supplementation of such regulations and statute. This prohibition shall remain in effect so long as Dr. Fontenelle shall hold any formal license or permit to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana.
- (b) Cooperation with Board's Probation and Compliance Officer. Dr. Fontenelle shall immediately notify the Board's Probation and Compliance Officer of any change in his current home and professional addresses and telephone

numbers, and he shall direct all matters required pursuant to this Consent Order to the attention of the Probation and Compliance Officer, with whom he shall cooperate on all matters and inquiries pertaining to his compliance with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Consent Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Order as set forth hereinabove, shall be deemed adequate and/or sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for the suspension and/or revocation of the medical licensure of Irwin L. Fontenelle, 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.

Signed in New Orleans, Louisiana, and effective on this 20 day of 1964.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

BERNARD L. KAPLAN, M.D.

President

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSENT

RWIN L. FONTENELLE, M.D.

WITNESS