

Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners

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.....X	:	No. 07-I-022
	:	No. 09-A-022
IN THE MATTER OF	:	
	:	
GEROME THOMPSON, M.D.	:	CONSENT ORDER
<i>(Certificate No. 14590R)</i>	:	
<i>Respondent</i>	:	_____
.....X	:	

Gerome Thompson, M.D. ("Dr. Thompson")¹ is, and at all times pertinent, has been a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana. In March of 2007, the Board received notice from Springhill Medical Center ("SMC") and a report on Dr. Thompson submitted by SMC to the National Practitioner Data Bank. SMC reported that Dr. Thompson had voluntarily relinquished his privileges for emergency medicine, intensive care and inpatient care while under investigation for concerns relating to his professional competence.

Investigation by the LSBME confirmed that Dr. Thompson had agreed with SMC to limit his clinical practice and undergo a competency assessment and remediation at the Center for Personalized Education for Physicians ("CPEP"). The CPEP report recommended that Dr. Thompson undergo training and remediation and when Dr. Thompson, in August of 2007, assured the Director of Investigations ("DOI") that he would comply with the CPEP Education Plan and remain employed at SMC, the DOI deferred action. As a result of Dr. Thompson's failure to timely comply with the Education Plan, CPEP terminated Dr. Thompson's Education Plan and thereafter, on October 23, 2008, SMC terminated Dr. Thompson's employment and staff privileges.

At a meeting with the DOI in January 2009, Dr. Thompson agreed to satisfactorily complete a medical competency evaluation at an approved agency and to provide the LSBME with written documentation of his enrollment. Dr. Thompson delayed enrolling for the evaluation and failed to appropriately respond to questions related to his termination of privileges at SMC on his 2009 LSBME license renewal application. Thereafter, Dr. Thompson contacted the CARES program at the University of Florida in February, 2010 for scheduling, submitted a completed

Dr. Thompson, currently 56 years of age, received his medical degree from the East Carolina University Medical School in 1983, completed a General Surgery Residency in 1994 and initially practiced in the United States Air Force. He became licensed by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners in 2002.

application in May, 2010 and completed the evaluation requirements.

The LSBME has received the Florida CARES evaluation report. While the report noted areas of improvement since Dr. Thompson's CPEP evaluation in 2007, the report also noted areas of relative weakness in several practice areas. The report also contained a specific recommendations calculated to remedy the noted areas of relative weakness.

Predicated upon the above information, the Investigating Officer assigned by the Board with respect to this matter, determined that reasonable cause exists for a formal Administrative Complaint to be filed against Dr. Thompson, charging him with violations of the Louisiana Medical Practice Act (the "Act")².

Dr. Thompson has cooperated with the above investigation and has demonstrated a commitment to improving his skills and medical competency.

Dr. Thompson acknowledges that he has had the opportunity to thoroughly review the content of this Consent Order and that the foregoing information is accurate and would constitute probable cause for the institution of administrative proceedings against his medical license, pursuant to Administrative Complaint, and that proof of such information upon administrative evidentiary hearing may establish grounds under the Act for the suspension or revocation of his license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana, or for such other action as the Board might deem appropriate.

Recognizing his right to have an administrative adjudication of such charges, at which time Dr. Thompson would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses and to present evidence on his own behalf in defense or in mitigation of the charges made, and to a decision thereon by the Board based upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §§ 49:955-965, Dr. Thompson, nonetheless, hereby waives his right to formal adjudication and, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. § 49:955(D), consents to entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. Dr. Thompson also acknowledges that he hereby waives any right to which he may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. Rev. Stat. § 49:951, *et seq.*, or which he otherwise may be afforded by any law to contest his agreement to, or the force and effect of the Board's investigation or this document in any court or other forum. By his subscription hereto, Dr. Thompson also 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. Thompson 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 proceed with the filing and adjudication of an 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. § 37:1285 and La. Rev. Stat. § 49:955(D);

IT IS ORDERED that the license of Gerome Thompson, M.D. to engage in the practice of medicine in the state of Louisiana, as evidenced by Certificate No. 14590R, is hereby placed **ON PROBATION** for a period of one (1) year from the effective date of this order (the “probationary period”); *provided, however*, that Dr. Thompson’s license to practice medicine and his continuing exercise of the rights and privileges granted to him thereby, shall be conditioned upon and subject to his acceptance of and strict compliance with the following terms, conditions and restrictions:

(1) Practice restriction. For the first six months following the effective date of this Consent Order Dr. Thompson shall restrict his medical practice to an outpatient setting which has been pre-approved by the Board and that for the first six months following the effective date of this Consent Order Dr. Thompson shall practice under the direct supervision of a physician who has been pre-approved by the Board.

(2) Attendance at Approved Course work. Within one year of the effective date of this Consent Order shall attend and successfully complete the following course work:

A. A Board-approved live Family Practice Board Review Course for at least 25 hours of CME credit.

B. A Board-approved General Pharmacology course offered for Family Practitioners or General Internists for at least 10 hours of CME credit.

C. A Board-approved Medical Records course which includes both course work and follow-up chart review. On or before the anniversary date of this Consent Order, Dr. Thompson shall cause to be submitted to the Board written certification of the successful completion of the above specified course work. In the event that Dr. Thompson should fail to submit to the Board the written certifications of successful completion as required by this provision within the time specified herein, the probationary period and all other terms and provisions of this Consent Order shall be extended and remain in effect and subject to such further Orders as Board, in its discretion, deems necessary.

(3) Prohibition on Management or Treatment of Chronic Pain. At no time following the effective date of this Order shall Dr. Thompson practice in the field of management or treatment of chronic pain. More specifically, at no time following the effective date of this Order shall Dr. Thompson hold himself out as being engaged in the treatment of or actually undertake to treat, either individually or in conjunction with any other physician, any patient for the treatment of the long-term management of chronic pain (beyond twelve weeks in any twelve month period), nor shall he receive any remuneration from, have any ownership interest in or association with any

clinic or practice setting or arrangement that renders care and/or treatment to patients for the management or treatment of chronic pain. Until and unless otherwise modified by the Board, in its sole discretion, the restrictions contained in this provision shall survive the probationary period and remain in effect so long as Dr. Thompson shall hold any form of license or permit to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana.

(4) Sanction. By his subscription hereto Dr. Thompson acknowledges that his receipt of written notification from the Board that it has received apparently reliable information which indicates his failure to comply with the requirements set forth by this Order in any respect, shall, without need for formal hearing or providing him with any right to which he may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. Rev. Stat. §§ 49:951, *et seq.* or which otherwise may be afforded to him by law, constitute his consent to the immediate suspension of his license to practice medicine in this state pending the issuance of a final decision by the Board following administrative adjudication of such charges.

(5) Cooperation with Board's Probation and Compliance Officer. Dr. Thompson 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.

(6) Notification. Dr. Thompson shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to each hospital, clinic, facility or other employer or prospective employer at which bore for home he provides services as a physician in this state.

(7) Absence from State/Practice-Effect on Probation. Should Dr. Thompson at any time during the period of probation ordered herein be absent from the state of Louisiana, relocate to and/or take up residency in another state or country, or discontinue practicing medicine, for a period of thirty (30) days or more, he will advise the Board in writing. In such instance, the probationary period ordered herein and all terms, conditions and restrictions thereof, shall be deemed interrupted and extended and shall not commence to run until Dr. Thompson notifies the Board in writing that he has returned to, relocated or taken up residency in, or resumed the practice of medicine in the state of Louisiana. In such instance, Dr. Thompson shall not receive credit toward completion of the probationary period for the time during which he was absent from the state of Louisiana or while he was not engaged in the practice of medicine.

(8) Certification of Compliance with Probationary Terms/Personal Appearance Before the Board. At least sixty (60)days prior to the conclusion of the probationary period, Dr. Thompson shall provide the Board with an affidavit certifying that he has complied with each of the terms of probation imposed upon him by this Order, and he

shall contact the Board and arrange for a personal appearance before the Board or such other individual or committee as may be designated by the Board at its meeting preceding the expiration of the probationary period.

(9) Probation Monitoring Fee. For the year of the probationary period specified herein the Dr. Thompson shall pay the Board a probation monitoring fee of Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars. Payment of the initial fee shall be due not later than sixty (60) days from the effective date of this Order. Any subsequent payments which may become due shall be due on or before the anniversary date of the initial fee payment.

(10) Effective Date. This Consent Order shall be effective the day it is approved and accepted by the Board as shown by the signature of its representative below.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms, conditions or restrictions set forth by this Order by Dr. Thompson shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for the revocation and cancellation of Dr. Thompson's license to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana or for such other action as the Board may deem 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, thus Done, Signed and Effective on this 18th day of October, 2010.

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

BY:

Mark H. Dawson MD
MARK HENRY DAWSON, MD,
President

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT**

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF Webster

I, GEROME THOMPSON, M.D., him by acknowledge, approve, accept and consent to entry of the above and foregoing Order, this 8 day of Sept, 2010.

Gerome Thompson
GEROME THOMPSON, M.D.

WITNESSES:

Talatha T. Smith
Signature

Talatha T. Smith
Printed Name

1004 4th St. SW
Address
Springhill, LA 71075

Mary A. Jacob
Signature

Mary A. Jacob
Printed Name

407 Fir Street
Address
Springhill, La. 71075

Sworn to and subscribed before me at Springhill Louisiana, this 8 day of Sept, 2010, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.

Donuel Celesma
Notary Public (signature)

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Printed Name/Notary #