

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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**IN THE MATTER OF:
RICK RAY REDALEN, M.D.
(CERTIFICATE NO. 10102R)**

DECISION

95-A-006

This matter comes before the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board"), by virtue of an Administrative Complaint, charging Rick Ray Redalen, M.D., with the following violations of the Medical Practice Act:

First, Rick Ray Redalen, M.D., is charged with suffering from habitual or recurring abuse of alcohol and drugs which affect the central nervous system and which are capable of inducing physiological or psychological dependence, in violation of La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(5); and,

Second, by virtue of his chemical dependency, alcoholism and psychiatric disorders, it is charged that his capacity to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients has been and is compromised, in violation of La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(25); and

Third, his license to practice medicine in the state of Iowa has been revoked by the medical licensing authority of that state, in violation of La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(29); and

Fourth, he is charged with failing to disclose the then-pending investigation, complaint and proceedings of the Iowa State Board of Medical Examiners in his application to the Board for renewal of his Louisiana medical licensure, constituting deceit in obtaining a license and providing false sworn information to the Board, in violation of La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(3) and (4).

The matter was heard before a panel of the Board representing a quorum of its membership consisting of Drs. F.P. Bordelon, Jr., Keith C. Ferdinand, Mary Lou Applewhite, Elmo J. Laborde, Ike Muslow, and Richard M. Nunnally. Also present were Judge Frederick S. Ellis, and Douglas C. Ellis, Esq., Independent Counselors for the Board and Robert J. Conrad, Jr., Attorney at Law, representing

the complainant. Although properly served with notice of the hearing, Dr. Redalen made no appearance, either in person or through counsel.

The Administrative Complaint alleges that Dr. Redalen currently suffers from chemical (Opioid) dependency and alcohol abuse, probable major depression, and a currently unspecified personality disorder. The chemical dependency is alleged to be a recurrence of an earlier addiction to opioids. It is further alleged that in October 1994, while on staff as an emergency room physician at Richardson Medical Center, professional staff observed inappropriate handling of several cases by Dr. Redalen, his regular use of Tussionex and other cough syrups over an extended period of time, and efforts by Dr. Redalen to obtain narcotic medication through emergency room nurses. Also alleged is that Dr. Redalen was voluntarily admitted on October 18, 1994, to a one week period of evaluation and treatment at the Palmetto Addiction Recovery Center in Rayville, Louisiana, under the care of Douglas W. Cook, M.D., director. It is further alleged that Dr. Redalen, after his evaluation at the Palmetto Addiction Recovery Center, was admitted to inpatient long-term treatment at a substance abuse treatment facility in Shreveport, Louisiana, but discharged himself after four days against medical advice.

The complaint further alleges that Dr. Redalen's licensure in Iowa was revoked by the Board of Medical Examiners of the state of Iowa, by order entered March 2, 1995. Further, Dr. Redalen is alleged to have subscribed and subsequently filed with this Board, an application for renewal of his Louisiana medical licensure for and through 1995, wherein he failed to disclose the administrative disciplinary proceeding then pending before the Iowa Board.

As noted above Dr. Redalen was not present nor was he represented by counsel, at the hearing held herein. The Board was notified orally by Robert J. Conrad, Jr., Complaint Counsel, of the wish of Dr. Redalen's attorney to continue the hearing. No written motion was presented on Dr. Redalen's behalf, nor were any appearances made on his behalf.

FINDINGS OF FACTS

Placed in evidence before the Board, in support of the allegations of the Administrative Complaint, are the complaint filed against Dr. Redalen in Iowa, as well as the findings of fact by the Iowa Board. The order of the Iowa Board, dated January 25, 1995, revoked the license of Dr. Redalen to practice medicine in Iowa. It should also be noted that Dr. Redalen failed to appear at the hearing on the Iowa Complaint. Also placed in evidence before this Board was the application for renewal of Dr. Redalen's Louisiana license. Therein, on December 15, 1994, Dr. Redalen reports the pending Louisiana investigation but makes no mention of the proceedings pending in Iowa. The initial application for licensure in Louisiana, together with all attachments, was also placed in evidence. This exhibit includes medical records from the Hartview Foundation. Further, the records of Palmetto Addiction Recovery Center were placed into evidence.

The director of the Palmetto Addiction Recovery Center, Douglas W. Cook, M.D., was called to testify. His testimony established that Dr. Redalen voluntarily admitted himself to the Palmetto Addiction Recovery Center for a seven (7) day evaluation, after having been confronted with the concerns of the staff at Richardson Medical Center as to a chemical dependency problem. During the evaluation period, Dr. Redalen referred to an earlier chemical dependency problem involving Demerol and an alcohol abuse problem. He further testified that his opinion was that Dr. Redalen suffered from

chemical dependency in relapse, and a high degree of emotional instability. Dr. Cook felt that Dr. Redalen was in need of treatment at a facility skilled in dealing with professional dependency relapse. He also felt that Dr. Redalen's impairment in judgment could negatively affect his medical abilities.

Dr. Redalen not being present and his counsel not having appeared, no evidence was offered on his behalf. The Board notes that the Administrative Complaint, Notice of Hearing sent to Dr. Redalen through his counsel, Continuance of Hearing (first setting) filed by Robert J. Conrad, Jr., Order resetting the Administrative Hearing for August 24, 1995, Notice of Resetting and Certified Mail-Return Receipt thereof were all filed into evidence herein. At the conclusion of the testimony, the Board denied the motion by Dr. Redalen's counsel, and conveyed to the Board orally by Mr. Conrad, to hold the matter open for further proceedings.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

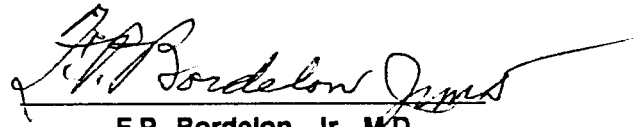
It is the finding of the Board that Dr. Redalen failed to disclose the pending investigation in Iowa on his 1995 renewal application and that Dr. Redalen's license to practice medicine in Iowa was revoked by the Board of Medical Examiners for the State of Iowa. The Board further finds that Dr. Redalen is and has been suffering from habitual and recurring abuse of alcohol and drugs and that, as such, his ability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to his patients has been compromised. As such, the Board finds Dr. Redalen guilty on all four counts named in the Administrative Complaint.

DECISION

Accordingly, it is the order of this Board, that the license of Rick Ray Redalen, M.D., as evidenced by certificate number 10102R, be and is hereby revoked.

AT MARKSVILLE, LOUISIANA, this 6th day of October, 1995.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS


F.P. Bordelon, Jr., M.D.
President