

# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS



830 Union Street, Suite 100  
Telephone: (504) 524-6763  
FAX (504) 568-8893  
New Orleans, LA 70112-1499

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In The Matter Of

No. 92-A-008

**MERLIN LOVELL REDDIX, M.D.**  
(CERTIFICATE NO. 006667)

**DECISION**

*Respondent.*

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An administrative rehearing was convened before the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") on Thursday, February 25, 1993. Present representing the Board was a quorum of its membership including Drs. Keith C. Ferdinand, Ike Muslow, Elmo J. Laborde, Mary Lou Applewhite, and F.P. Bordelon, Jr. with Dr. Bordelon presiding. Also present were Judge Frederick S. Ellis, Independent Counsel for the Board; L. Thomas Styron, Attorney at Law, representing the complainant. Respondent was present represented by Barry Edwards, Attorney at Law.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

After the original petition was rendered in this case, Dr. Reddix applied for a rehearing. The Board granted a limited rehearing, to allow Dr. Reddix an opportunity to present his defense, but without hearing the evidence already presented at the original hearing. Dr. Reddix was afforded the opportunity to subpoena any witness who testified at the original hearing for purposes of cross examination.

At the rehearing, Dr. Reddix, through counsel, thoroughly cross examined Rhonda G. Hall, the police officer who conducted the undercover investigation. Her testimony remained essentially unchanged from the original hearing, and no doubt was cast on her credibility.

Dr. Reddix testified that he had been practicing medicine in the Shreveport area for 42 years. He testified that he wrote the Fastin prescription for Ms. Hall so that she could control her appetite. He stated that he wrote the Valium prescription for emotional instability, based on Ms. Hall's clinical presentation. He stated that she appeared to be a "little emotional".

*(Reddix; April, 1993)*

He testified that he gave her Percodan because it has fewer side effects. He did not give a clinical reason for giving the prescription, however.

Dr. Reddix was unable to produce any records of Ms. Hall's visits to his office other than a typewritten card, which contained no clinical data. He testified that all of his records were taken when his office was raided. At the original hearing, the testimony of the police officers was that no clinical records were found when Dr. Reddix's office was raided.

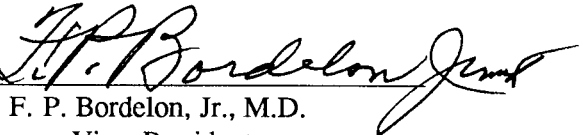
### DECISION

After considering the evidence produced at the rehearing, it is the opinion of the Board that its original decision was correct. It is therefore ordered that the license of Merlin Lovell Reddix to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana, Certificate No. 00667, be revoked.

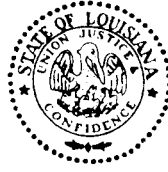
Marksville, Louisiana, this 28 day of April, 1993.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD  
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By

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

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In The Matter Of

No. 92--A--008

**MERLIN LOVELL REDDIX, M.D.**  
(CERTIFICATE NO. 006667)

DECISION

*Respondent.*

-----X

An administrative hearing was convened before the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") on Thursday October 22, 1992. Present representing the Board was a quorum of its membership including Drs. Ike Muslow, F.P. Bordelon, Jr., Keith C. Ferdinand, Richard M. Nunnally, Mary Lou Applewhite, Elmo J. Laborde, and Bernard L. Kaplan, with Dr. Kaplan presiding. Also present were Judge Frederick S. Ellis, Independent Counsel for the Board; and Mr. L. Thomas Styron, Attorney at Law, representing the complainant. Respondent was not present nor any counsel representing Respondent.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

This case arises out of an investigation of Merlin L. Reddix, M.D. conducted by the Shreveport Police Department. As a result, Dr. Reddix was charged in an Administrative Complaint with a number of violations of the Medical Practice Act. The matter came for hearing on October 22, 1992, and Dr. Reddix, although properly notified, failed to appear.

The evidence in the case shows, and the Board finds as fact that on September 5, 1991, an undercover officer of the Shreveport Police Department, using an assumed name, visited Dr. Reddix's office. She requested that he prescribe something to give her "energy" since she was working two jobs, and specifically requested the drug Fastin, a Schedule II controlled drug under Louisiana law.

Without performing any physical examination other than weighing the agent, and without taking a history, Dr. Reddix gave the agent a prescription for 50 dosage units of Fastin. The agent has specifically told Dr. Reddix that she did not want to lose weight. She paid him \$20.00 for the visit.

(Reddix: November 1992)

On September 26, 1991, the agent returned to Dr. Reddix's office. This time she asked him for Valium. Once again, without any physical examination other than weighing the agent, and without taking a history, Dr. Reddix gave her a prescription for 50 five mg. Valium tablets. She told him she was going to take one a day because she liked it. She paid Dr. Reddix \$80.00 for the visit. As the agent was reaching for the prescription, Dr. Reddix fondled her breast.

On October 16, 1991, the agent paid a third visit to Dr. Reddix. On this occasion, the agent told Dr. Reddix that she was in a hurry, and did not even have time to be weighed. She told him that she wanted some Fastin, and he gave her a prescription for 50 tablets, once again without physical examination or history. She then asked for a prescription for Fastin for her mother and sister, but Dr. Reddix refused to write it. She paid \$20.00 for the Fastin prescription.

The agent then offered to pay Dr. Reddix \$80.00 for a Percodan prescription, which she told him she took because she liked the way it made her feel. She told him that she did not have a pain in her body. Dr. Reddix wrote her a prescription for 40 Percodan, which is a Schedule II controlled substance under Louisiana law, and which Dr. Reddix knew to be a pain medication.

The agent then told Dr. Reddix that she had \$50.00 more, and asked him to write a prescription for Valium for her sister. Dr. Reddix refused to do this, but offered to write one for the agent which, he said, she could give to her sister. The agent asked him to write it for 10 mg. tablets, and Dr. Reddix wrote a prescription for 50 ten mg. Valium tablets. She made it clear that she took Valium in whatever quantity was necessary to give her "that feeling", and that she took the various drugs "for kicks". She paid Dr. Reddix another \$50.00.

As the agent was leaving, Dr. Reddix grabbed her breast with both hands, pulled her to him and kissed her on the lips. She tried to pull away and he refused to let her go. After a brief struggle, the agent pulled away, and Dr. Reddix then started to feel her breast again. The agent then departed hurriedly.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

As a result of the above conduct, Dr. Reddix was charged in the Administrative Complaint with the following:

- 1) Violation of R.S. 37:1285(A)(6), for prescribing controlled dangerous substances in the absence of any legitimate medical justification;
- 2) Violation of R.S. 37:1285(A)(14), for prescribing controlled substances in the absence of any legitimate medical justification, without taking a history or physical examination, which constitutes continuing and recurring medical practice which fails to satisfy the prevailing and usually accepted standards of medical practice in this state;

*(Reddix: November 1992)*

- 3) Violation of R.S. 37:1285(A)(12), in that all of the acts hereinabove detailed constitute professional and medical incompetency;
- 4) Violation of R.S. 37:1285(A)(13), and R.S. 37:1285(A)(15), in that his unprovoked fondling of and sexual advances to the agent constitute unprofessional and immoral conduct in exercising the privileges provided by medical licensure.

The Board finds that all of the facts above set forth have been proven, and that they fully support the violations with which Dr. Reddix has been charged. The Board, therefore, finds Dr. Reddix guilty of all the said charges.

### DECISION

The Board, therefore, ordered that the licensure of Merlin L. Reddix, M.D. to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana, Certificate No. 006667, be and it is hereby revoked.

Alexandria, Louisiana, this 19 day of November, 1992.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD  
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By 

Bernard L. Kaplan, M.D.  
President