

# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS



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IN THE MATTER OF:  
ANNE LAZAR THORN, M.D.  
(CERTIFICATE NO. 008740)

## DECISION

93-A-007

This matter comes before the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") on an Administrative Complaint charging that, because of mental illness, Anne Lazar Thorn, M.D., is unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients. By supplemental complaint, Dr. Thorn is further charged with refusing to submit to examinations ordered by the Board to determine her fitness to practice medicine, in violation of R.S. 37:1285A(26).

The matter was heard before a panel of the Board representing a quorum of its membership consisting of Drs. Mary Lou Applewhite, F.P. Bordelon, Jr., and Bernard L. Kaplan, with Dr. Kaplan, President, presiding. Also present were Judge Frederick S. Ellis, Independent Counsel for the Board; Philip O. Bergeron, Attorney at Law, representing the complainant. Despite proper notice, Dr. Thorn was absent and unrepresented.

## FINDINGS OF FACTS

The evidence adduced at the hearing revealed that Dr. Thorn has a 30 year history of mental illness, during which time she has been periodically hospitalized and incapacitated by her illness. Since 1984, she has been under the care of William Preston Cloyd, Jr., M.D., a board certified psychiatrist. He testified that Dr. Thorn was suffering from manic depressive illness, primarily manic. Her condition has been generally kept under control with lithium therapy during the period of her treatment, except for a minor flare-up in 1988.

In August, 1993, she exhibited symptoms which necessitated her involuntary commitment to the psychiatric unit at Lafayette General Medical Center. Dr. Cloyd notified the Board of the commitment, and pursuant to that notice, the Board, by order

of September 3, 1993, summarily suspended Dr. Thorn's license to practice medicine in Louisiana.

On the same day, an examining committee was appointed, and Dr. Thorn was ordered to make arrangements to be examined and evaluated within five days of the date of the order, and to submit to the examination within 15 days, at the expense of the Board.

She was further served with the Administrative Complaint, and a notice of the hearing to be held on September 23, 1993. On September 7, 1993, Dr. Thorn wrote the Board, saying: "I deny all allegations and will make no complaints against the Board."

Dr. Thorn failed to appear for the examinations, or to make arrangements therefor. A Supplemental Complaint was filed, dated September 15, 1993, charging her with the failure to appear, and notice of the hearing thereon to be held on September 23, 1993, was served on her.

At the hearing, Dr. Thorn failed to appear and was unrepresented.

The Board heard the testimony of Dr. Cloyd, who gave his opinion that Dr. Thorn cannot now practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients.

Delmar Rorison, the Executive Director of the Board, testified that she had made appointments for Dr. Thorn to be examined by a committee of physicians, and had advised her of the appointments, which were not kept by Dr. Thorn.

Mrs. Rorison further testified that she had called Dr. Thorn to remind her of the hearing, and Dr. Thorn told her that she was too ill to attend. She made no objection to moving the time of the hearing from 3:00 p.m. to 10:30 a.m. on September 23, 1993. Dr. Thorn told Mrs. Rorison that if she became well enough to practice medicine, she would notify the Board and request reinstatement.

Also placed in evidence before the Board were records detailing the various episodes of her illness, beginning in May, 1964, and continuing until the present time.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Considering all of the above, particularly the unrebutted testimony of Dr. Cloyd, and Dr. Thorn's admission that she is too ill to practice medicine, the Board finds as a fact that Dr. Thorn is now unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients, and that she failed to appear for the examinations ordered by the Board. Accordingly, she is guilty of the charges made against her in the Administrative Complaint and the Amended Administrative Complaint.

DECISION

The summary suspension of Dr. Thorn's license to practice medicine in this state is therefore confirmed, and the said license as evidenced by certificate No. 008740, shall remain suspended indefinitely. All costs of the proceeding will be borne by the Board.

AT ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA, this 18 day of October, 1993.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernard L. Kaplan", is written over a horizontal line.

Bernard L. Kaplan, M.D.  
President