

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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**BEFORE THE
LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

No. 2020-I-336

IN THE MATTER OF:

DARREN MICHAEL VIGEE, D.P.M.
(Credential No. DPM.PD261R),
Respondent

**CONSENT ORDER
FOR REPRIMAND**

The above-entitled proceeding was docketed for investigation by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") following receipt of information relating to Darren Michael Vigee, D.P.M. ("Dr. Vigee"), a podiatrist licensed to practice in the State of Louisiana as evidenced by Credential No. DPM.PD261R. At all times material to the facts and matters alleged herein, Dr. Vigee has been engaged in the practice of podiatry in and around Slidell, Louisiana.

The Board initiated an investigation upon the receipt of apparently reliable information indicating that Dr. Vigee had engaged in a sexual relationship for over four years with a co-worker, and that he treated the same individual and her husband as patients during this time.

Investigation of the captioned matter was assigned to Lawrence H. Cresswell, III, D.O., J.D., Director of Investigations (the "DOI") for the Board. Upon investigation, Dr. Vigee did not dispute that he engaged in an ongoing sexual relationship with an individual who was employed at his health care practice as a medical assistant. Dr. Vigee also acknowledged that he treated this individual and her husband as patients after the relationship commenced.

To address this conduct and assess his ongoing fitness to practice podiatry, the DOI recommended that Dr. Vigee submit to an evaluation at a Board-approved facility. Dr. Vigee submitted to the recommended evaluation, the results of which indicated that he can safely practice podiatric medicine and has a low risk of engaging in future boundary crossings and violations with patients or staff. The evaluators nonetheless recommended that Dr. Vigee attend a professional boundary course to reinforce a plan to be instituted at work and minimize the risk of future boundary issues; attend individual therapy; avoid treating family members; and not engage in sexual or romantic relationships within the workplace.

Dr. Vigee has met with and discussed these recommendations with the DOI, and has otherwise fully cooperated with the Board's investigation, expressed remorse for his actions, and accepted responsibility for his conduct and the violations state herein.

As evidenced by his subscription hereto, Dr. Vigee acknowledges the substantial accuracy of the foregoing information and that proof of such information upon administrative evidentiary hearing would establish sufficient cause to take action with respect to his podiatry license pursuant to La. R.S. 37:624(A)(19)¹.

Recognizing his right to notice and administrative adjudication of any charges that may be asserted against him in these proceedings, at which time Dr. Vigee 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. R.S. 49:955-65, Dr. Vigee, nonetheless, hereby waives his right to notice and formal adjudication and pursuant to La. R.S. 49:955(D) consents to entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. Dr. Vigee acknowledges that he hereby waives any right to which he may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:951 *et seq.*, or which may be afforded to him by any other law to contest or appeal his agreement to or the force and effect of the Board's investigation or this Order in any court or other forum. By his subscription hereto, Dr. Vigee also hereby authorizes the Investigating Officer designated by the Board with respect hereto to present this 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. R.S. 49:960. Dr. Vigee 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 adjudication of an administrative complaint against him or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate such complaint should the Board decline to approve this Order.

Based upon the information provided, and upon the recommendation of the Investigating Officer, the Board hereby concludes that, consistent with its mandate under La. R.S. 37:1261, the interests of public health, safety, and welfare will be effectively served by entry of the Order set forth hereinafter by consent. Accordingly, in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. R.S. 37:624, La. R.S. 49:955(D);

IT IS ORDERED that Darren Michael Vigee, D.P.M., is hereby **OFFICIALLY REPRIMANDED** for the conduct described above.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Vigee shall, within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date of this Order, provide confirmation that he has taken and successfully completed a continuing medical education course on boundaries that is acceptable to and has been approved by the Board or its designee in writing prior to scheduling or completing the course.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Vigee shall, within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date of this Order, provide confirmation that he is enrolled in an individual outpatient

¹ Pursuant to La. R.S. 37:624(A), "[t]he board may refuse to issue, suspend, or institute proceedings in any court of competent jurisdiction to revoke any license, permit, or certificate issued under this Chapter for any of the following causes: . . . (19) Unprofessional conduct."

therapy program that is consistent and compliant with his evaluators' recommendations and that is acceptable to and has been approved by the Board or its designee in writing prior to enrollment.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date of this Order, Dr. Vigee shall designate one or more workplace chaperones, acceptable to and preapproved by the Board or its designee, in whose physical presence and under whose direct observation he shall conduct the entirety of any and all visits and examinations of female patients in the office setting. Any chaperone shall be a nurse or other health care professional licensed by and in good standing with a health care professional and occupational regulatory board in this state. Dr. Vigee may petition the Board or its designee for modification or relief of this requirement no sooner than two (2) years from the date of this Order, at which time he shall submit or cause to be submitted any such records or reports associated with the chaperone(s) as the Board or its designee may in their sole discretion request.


IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Vigee shall, within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date of this Order, pay to the Board a fine in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars and No/100 (\$500.00).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation of or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms set forth by this Order by Dr. Vigee shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for such other action against Dr. Vigee's license to practice podiatric medicine in the state of Louisiana as the Board may deem appropriate as if such violations were enumerated among the causes provided in La. R.S. 37:624.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Consent Order shall be, and shall be deemed to be, a public record.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 25 day of Oct, 2021.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: 
LESTER W. JOHNSON, M.D.
President

Acknowledgment and Consent on Following Page

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT**

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF Jefferson

I, DARREN MICHAEL VIGEE, D.P.M., hereby acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to seek the advice and guidance of legal counsel with respect to this Consent Order and that all of its terms and conditions have been fully explained to me and/or that I fully understand them. I further acknowledge that I approve, accept and consent to entry of the above and foregoing Order without duress and of my own free will and accord, this 22nd day of September, 2021.


DARREN MICHAEL VIGEE, D.P.M.

WITNESSES:

Lisa A. Tonguis
Signature

Lisa A. Tonguis
Typed Name

416 LITTLE FERMS AVE
Street Address

RIVER RIDGE, LA 70123
City/State/Zip Code

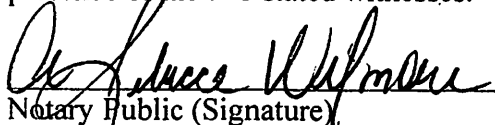
Cheryl Van Gellen
Signature

Cheryl Van Gellen
Typed Name

3421 N. Causeway Blvd, Ste 900
Street Address

Metairie, LA 70002
City/State/Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22nd day of September, 2021, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.


Notary Public (Signature)

Name: A. Rebecca Wilmore
Notary/Bar No.: 29244
Commission expires: at death