

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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(504) \_\_\_\_\_

	X	
	:	<b>No. 20-I-302</b>
	:	
<b>In The Matter of:</b>	:	
	:	<b>CONSENT ORDER</b>
<b>VERNON A. VALENTINO, MD</b>	:	<b>FOR REPRIMAND</b>
<i>Certificate No. MD.018323</i>	:	
	:	
<i>Respondent</i>	:	_____
	:	
	:	
	X	

The above-entitled matter was docketed for investigation by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") following the receipt of apparently reliable information that Vernon A. Valentino, MD ("Dr. Valentino"), a physician, who at all times pertinent was practicing in and around Lafayette, Louisiana, had violated the Board's rules on the administration of medications for the treatment of non-cancerous chronic pain as to a particular patient. Furthermore, Dr. Valentino voluntarily underwent treatment for addiction to opiate cessation medications. At the conclusion of Dr. Valentino's in-patient treatment his treating healthcare providers prescribed a number of recommendations for aftercare and monitoring of Dr. Valentino's condition. Presuming that he complies with their recommendations, his treating professionals opined that Dr. Valentino would be capable of resuming practice with reasonable skill and safety to patients.

On his own behalf, Dr. Valentino cooperated fully with the Board's investigation, has agreed to adhere to all of the recommendations of the treatment program, and has entered into a monitoring agreement with the Healthcare Professionals' Foundation of Louisiana's Physicians' Health Program (the "PHP") incorporating the recommendations of the treatment program, his healthcare professionals, as well as those of the PHP.

By his subscription hereto, Dr. Valentino acknowledges the substantial accuracy of the foregoing information and that proof of such information upon an administrative evidentiary hearing would establish grounds under the Louisiana Medical Practice Act for the revocation, suspension or such action against his license to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana as the Board may determine appropriate, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285A (5) and (6).<sup>1</sup> In

<sup>1</sup>. The board may refuse to issue, or may suspend or revoke any license or permit, or impose probationary or other restrictions on any license or permit issued pursuant to this Part for the following causes: (5) Habitual or recurring abuse of drugs, including alcohol, which affect the central nervous system and which are capable of inducing physiological or psychological dependence. (6) Prescribing, dispensing, or administering legally controlled substances or any dependency-inducing medication without legitimate

consideration of the foregoing, and on the recommendation of the Investigating Officer respecting the pending investigation, the Board has concluded that its responsibility to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this state against the unprofessional, unqualified and unsafe practice of medicine, La. Rev. Stat. §37:1261, will be effectively served by entry of the Order set forth hereinafter, by consent.

Recognizing his right to have notice and administrative adjudication of any charges that may be filed in this matter, at which time he 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 any 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. §§49:951 et seq., Dr. Valentino nonetheless, hereby waives his right to notice and formal adjudication and pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D), consents to entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. By his subscription hereto, Dr. Valentino also acknowledges that he 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 otherwise may be afforded to him by law, to contest his agreement to or the force and effect of this document in any court or other forum relating to the matters referred to herein. By his subscription hereto, Dr. Valentino 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. Valentino expressly acknowledges that the disclosure of information to the Board by the Investigating Officer shall be without prejudice to the Investigating Officer's authority to pursue formal administrative charges against him or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate such charges 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 Vernon A Valentino, MD to engage in the practice of medicine in the state of Louisiana, as evidenced by Certificate No. MD.018323 is hereby ***Officially Reprimanded*** for the conduct described hereinabove, however, that such licensure and Dr. Valentino's continuing exercise of rights and privileges thereunder, shall be conditioned upon his acceptance of and strict compliance with the following terms, conditions and restrictions:

- (1) Participation in Physicians' Health Program; Reports.** Dr. Valentino shall continue in and strictly adhere to all terms and conditions of his monitoring agreement with the Healthcare Professionals' Foundation of Louisiana's Physicians' Health Program (the "PHP") or any subsequent agreement that the PHP may recommend. Dr. Valentino shall authorize and cause any healthcare or other professional involved in his therapy, aftercare or professional development and/or the PHP to submit to the Board written reports and/or verbal reports, should the Board desire the latter, on his compliance with the recommendations for aftercare and treatment, and the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Order and his PHP monitoring agreement.

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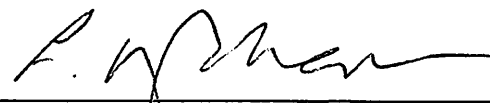
medical justification therefor or in other than a legal or legitimate manner.

- (2) **Limitations on Prescribing – Use of Controlled Substances in the Treatment of Chronic Pain.** Dr. Valentino shall not prescribe controlled substances to patients for the 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. Valentino shall hold any form of license or permit to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana. This limitation shall not prevent Dr. Valentino from ordering the administration of controlled substances and other prescription medications to in-patients of and at a hospital or similar institution where he may be employed or exercise staff and clinical privileges in accordance with such hospital or institution's prescribed policies and procedures governing the administration of controlled substances, or prohibit Dr. Valentino from prescribing initial post-procedure controlled substances to a patient, upon discharge from the hospital or facility, to be filled at a pharmacy outside of the hospital or facility.
- (3) **Payment of Fine.** Within one (1) year of the effective date of this Order, Dr. Valentino shall pay to the Board a fine in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred (\$2,500.00) Dollars.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that any violation or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms or restrictions set forth by this Order by Dr. Valentino shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for such further action against Dr. Valentino's license to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana 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, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD  
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Lester W. Johnson, MD**  
*President*

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*Acknowledgment and Consent on the following page*

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
AND CONSENT**

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF Lafayette

I, VERNON A. VALENTINO, MD, hereby acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to seek the advice and guidance of legal counsel with respect to this Consent Order for Reprimand 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 30 day of November, 2021.

[Signature]  
VERNON A. VALENTINO, MD,

WITNESSES:

[Signature]  
Signature

[Signature]  
Signature

Chelsea V. Hebert  
Typed Name

HUONG TRAN  
Typed Name

420 Oil Center Dr.  
Address

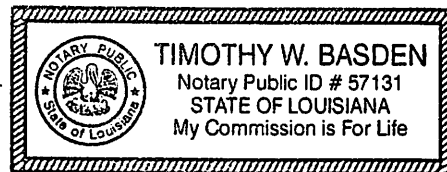
420 Oil Center Drive  
Address

Lafayette, LA 70503  
City/State/Zip Code

Lafayette, LA 70503  
City/State/Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30 day of November, 2021,  
in the presence of the two stated witnesses.

[Signature]  
Notary Public (Signature & Seal)



Timothy W. Barden, Notary ID 57131  
Printed Name & Notary or Bar Number