

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

630 Camp Street, New Orleans, LA 70130  
www.lsbme.la.gov



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

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

**No. 2021-I-408**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**JOHN PHILIP EPLING, M.D.**  
*(Certificate No. MD.008850),*  
*Respondent*

**STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT FOR  
VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF MEDICAL  
LICENSE**

This *Stipulation and Agreement* is made by John Philip Epling, M.D. ("Dr. Epling"), a physician who was licensed and engaged in the practice of preventative medicine and radiology in and around Shreveport, Louisiana, with the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board").

1. *Acknowledgment and Stipulations.* Dr. Epling hereby acknowledges, stipulates and agrees that:

- (a) The Board opened an investigation upon learning that Dr. Epling had voluntarily surrendered his Drug Enforcement Administration license after prescribing controlled dangerous substances ("CDS") with a lapsed Louisiana CDS license.
- (b) This investigation was assigned to the Director of Investigations (the "Investigating Officer") for the Board. Upon review, the Investigating Officer learned that Dr. Epling may have prescribed CDS to an employee without full compliance with the Board's rules on prescribing CDS in the treatment of non-cancer-related chronic or intractable pain (the "Pain Rules").
- (c) Throughout this administrative process Dr. Epling has cooperated with the Investigating Officer, including by responding to written requests for medical records, providing the Board with written explanations of the circumstances of his prescribing, and twice meeting with the Investigating Officer.
- (d) Dr. Epling declined to renew his medical license, and it expired in October 2021. Since August 2021, before his license lapsed, Dr. Epling has stated his intention to retire from the practice of medicine and that he has no further desire to retain a medical license or otherwise practice medicine in Louisiana. Accordingly, without admitting to the allegations raised in the preliminary review, he would prefer to resolve these

proceedings through a stipulation for voluntary surrender of his medical license rather than undertaking an administrative hearing.

- (e) While the Investigating Officer's review did confirm that just cause would exist for recommending that an Administrative Complaint be filed based on violations of La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(30)<sup>1</sup> and La. Admin. Code, Title 46, Part XLV, §§ 6915–23,<sup>2</sup> in recognition of Dr. Epling's cooperativeness and truthfulness throughout these administrative proceedings, the Investigating Officer concurs that Dr. Epling should be permitted to voluntarily surrender his license.
- (g) Pursuant to the Louisiana Medical Practice Act, La. R.S. 37:1261 *et. seq.*, and the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:951 *et. seq.*, Dr. Epling would be entitled, prior to final disciplinary action against his medical license, to an administrative adjudication of such charges, pursuant to La. R.S. 49:955–958. At such hearing, Dr. Epling would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to have those charges proved against him by evidence, to appear and confront adverse witnesses, to call witnesses and present evidence on his own behalf in defense or in mitigation of the charges made, to a decision thereon by the Board based upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law pursuant to La. R.S. 49:958, and to any other right to which he may be afforded by the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:951 *et seq.* or otherwise.

2. ***Voluntary Surrender of License.*** Notwithstanding his right to an administrative hearing and a decision thereon, as provided by La. R.S. 49:951 *et. seq.*, in recognition of the stipulations set forth hereinabove toward final disposition of the pending preliminary review, Dr. Epling, nonetheless, acknowledges the substantial accuracy of the foregoing information and hereby waives his right to formal adjudication and voluntarily surrenders to the Board for cancellation his license to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana, as evidenced by Certificate No. MD.008850. By his subscription hereto, Dr. Epling also hereby authorizes the Investigating Officer designated by the Board with respect hereto to present this Stipulation and Agreement for Voluntary Surrender of Medical License 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.

3. ***Effect of Voluntary Surrender of License.*** Dr. Epling acknowledges, stipulates and agrees that the voluntary surrender of his medical license affected hereby in the presence of an administrative investigation shall have, and shall be deemed by the Board to have, the same effect as if the Board had entered an order of revocation upon the conclusion of formal administrative proceedings. Further, Dr. Epling acknowledges, stipulates and agrees that reinstatement of such license shall be at the sole discretion of the Board and upon whatever

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<sup>1</sup> Under La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(30), the Board may take action against the license of a physician based on a “[v]iolation of any rules and regulations of the board, or any provisions of this Part.”

<sup>2</sup> La. Admin. Code, tit. 46, Pt. XLV, §§ 6915–23 provides the Board's Pain Rules.

probationary terms, conditions and restrictions that it may then determine to be appropriate. In addition, Dr. Epling acknowledges, stipulates and agrees that no request for reinstatement shall be considered by the Board until and unless he has: (i) attended a meeting at the Board office with the Director of Investigations; (ii) successfully completed all recommendations by the Director of Investigations to demonstrate to the Board that he is competent to return to the practice of medicine with reasonable skill and safety; and (iii) otherwise complied with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements for the reinstatement of an expired license. *See, e.g.,* La. R.S. 37:1280; 37:1281(A)(3)(c); La. Admin. Code tit. 46, Pt. XLV, § 419.

4. ***Termination of Proceedings.*** By the voluntary surrender of his medical license, and the attendant dismissal of the proceedings occasioned hereby Dr. Epling, moreover, acknowledges, stipulates and agrees 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 otherwise may be afforded to him by any law, to contest his agreement to or the force and effect of this document in any court or other forum relating to the stipulations, agreements, acknowledgments and other matters referred to herein.

5. ***Advice of Counsel.*** Dr. Epling acknowledges that he has had the opportunity to seek the advice and guidance of legal counsel with respect to this Stipulation and Agreement for Voluntary Surrender of Medical License and that all of the terms, conditions, restrictions and limitations contained herein have been explained to him and/or that he fully understands them.

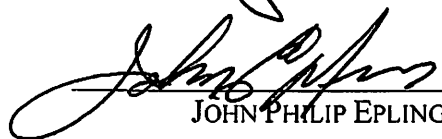
6. ***Public Record.*** Dr. Epling acknowledges, stipulates and agrees that this Stipulation and Agreement for Voluntary Surrender of Medical License shall be, and shall be deemed to be, a **PUBLIC RECORD.**

*Stipulation and Agreement on Next Page*

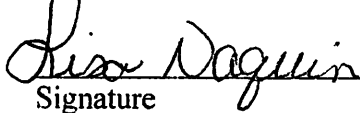
**STIPULATION  
AND AGREEMENT**

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF Caddo / Bossier

I, JOHN PHILIP EPLING, M.D., hereby acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to seek the advice and guidance of legal counsel with respect to this Stipulation and Agreement for Voluntary Surrender of Medical License 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 Stipulation and Agreement without duress and of my own free will and accord, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN PHILIP EPLING, M.D.

WITNESSES:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Lisa Naguin  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed Name

Catherine Blankenship  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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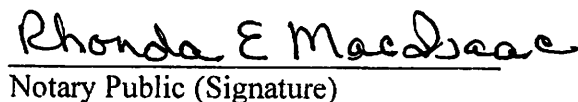
600 East Flarney Lucas  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

600 East Flourway Lucas Rd  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

Shreveport, LA 71115  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip Code

Shreveport, LA 71115  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me  
this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022  
in the presence of the two stated  
witnesses.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public (Signature)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Notary/Bar No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Commission expires: Life

**Rhonda Eizel-MacIsaac**  
**Notary Public ID # 26935**  
**Parish of Bossier, Louisiana**  
**My Commission is for Life**

**ACCEPTANCE**

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CONSIDERING THE ABOVE AND FOREGOING, the Stipulation and Agreement for Voluntary Surrender of Medical License is hereby **APPROVED AND ACCEPTED** by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, at New Orleans, Louisiana, on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD  
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

  
LESTER W. JOHNSON, M.D.  
*President*