



LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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BEFORE THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

No. 2022-I-552

IN THE MATTER OF:

CONSENT ORDER

JOE T. TRAVIS, M.D.
(*Credential No. MD.019966*),
Respondent

Joe T. Travis, M.D. ("Dr. Travis") is a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana as evidenced by Credential No. MD.019966, who at all relevant times was engaged in the practice of anesthesiology in and around Alexandria, Louisiana.

The above-entitled proceeding was docketed for investigation by the Investigating Officer (the "DOI") of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") upon receipt of information indicating that Dr. Travis, who has a history of alcohol dependence, had a return to use involving alcohol. Prior to this return to use, Dr. Travis had maintained sobriety for over ten (10) years. Dr. Travis subsequently underwent an evaluation and, at the recommendation of his evaluators, removed himself from practice and entered and successfully completed treatment at a Board-approved treatment facility. At the completion of treatment, Dr. Travis was provided with additional recommendations regarding his fitness to practice medicine, including signing and complying with a five (5) year monitoring agreement with the Healthcare Professionals' Foundation of Louisiana (the "HPFL") Physicians' Health Program (the "PHP"), completing a subsequent HPFL-approved inpatient relapse treatment program for substance use disorders, implementation of a continuing care plan and, after completion of the inpatient relapse treatment program, meeting with his treating provider to determine his fitness to return to duty. The treating providers opined that Dr. Travis would not be safe to practice with skill and safety to patients until he completed these recommendations.

Dr. Travis subsequently completed an HPFL-approved inpatient relapse treatment program and met with his treating provider, who opined that Dr. Travis is capable of returning to practice with skill and safety, provided that he signs and complies with a monitoring contract with the HPFL, attends weekly aftercare sessions, and returns for mirror imaging at designated intervals for the first year following his discharge. Dr. Travis has executed an appropriate HPFL monitoring agreement, implemented a continuing care plan, and met with and discussed his treating providers' recommendations with the DOI. Provided that he complies with all of the terms and conditions in his HPFL monitoring agreement as otherwise outlined below, Dr. Travis is capable of practicing medicine with skill and safety to patients.

As evidenced by his subscription hereto, Dr. Travis acknowledges the substantial accuracy of the foregoing information and that such acknowledgment and the reported information would provide the Investigating Officer with probable cause to pursue administrative proceedings against him for violations of the Louisiana Medical Practice Act (the "Act"), La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(25)¹ and that proof of such information upon administrative evidentiary hearing would establish sufficient cause to take action against his license to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana. In consideration of this finding, accordingly, and on the recommendation of the Investigating Officer, 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. R.S. 37:1261, will be effectively served by entry of the Order set forth hereinafter by consent.

Recognizing his right to notice and administrative adjudication of any charges that may be asserted against him in these proceedings, at which time Dr. Travis 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. Travis, 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. Travis acknowledges that he hereby waives any right to which he may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:950-74, 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 Consent Order in any court or other forum. By his subscription hereto, Dr. Travis 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. R.S. 49:960. Dr. Travis 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 Consent Order. Accordingly, in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. R.S. 37:1285 and La. R.S. 49:955(D);

IT IS ORDERED that the license of Joe T. Travis, M.D., to engage in the practice of medicine in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by Credential No. MD.019966, be and the same is hereby placed ***ON PROBATION*** for a period of five (5) years from the effective date of this Order (the "probationary period") *provided, however*, that Dr. Travis's continuing exercise of the rights and privileges granted thereby shall be conditioned upon and subject to his continuing acceptance of and strict compliance with the following terms, conditions, and restrictions:

- (1) **Continuing Treatment, Participation in HPFL PHP, Reports to Board.** Dr. Travis shall continue to maintain a monitoring agreement with the HPFL PHP for a

¹ The Board may take action against a medical licensee for "(25) Inability to practice medicine with reasonable skill or safety to patients because of mental illness or deficiency; physical illness, including but not limited to deterioration through the aging process or loss of motor skills; and/or, excessive use or abuse of drugs, including alcohol[.]" La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(25).

period of no less than five (5) years. Dr. Travis shall continue in, abide by and strictly adhere to all recommendations for ongoing treatment and monitoring which are contained in his current monitoring agreement and any amendments thereto, or any subsequent agreement or amendments thereto which may be recommended by the HPFL PHP as well as those recommended by his treating physicians and those prescribed by any other health care provider involved in his care to the extent that they continue to follow him. Dr. Travis shall, in addition, authorize and cause his treating and monitoring physicians and/or the HPFL to submit to the Board or its designee, not less frequently than quarterly, written reports and/or verbal reports, should the Board or its designee desire the latter, on his then-current treatment diagnosis, prognosis, course of treatment, his fitness and ability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients, and his compliance with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Order and his HPFL PHP monitoring agreement.

- (2) **Maintenance of Complete Abstinence.** Dr. Travis shall maintain complete and total abstinence from the use of alcohol, controlled, and/or any mood-altering substance for as long as he holds a license to practice medicine in this state, except as may be prescribed by a treating physician other than himself for a *bona fide* medical condition. Dr. Travis shall personally inform the HPFL and the Board's Compliance Officer, both orally and in writing, within forty-eight (48) hours of the prescription or administration of any controlled or mood-altering substance received by him from any physician for treatment of a *bona fide* medical condition. If the prescription is from another physician, he shall also inform his treating/monitoring physician in this same manner.
- (3) **Drug and Alcohol Screens.** Dr. Travis shall submit to periodic, unannounced blood, urine, saliva and/or hair collection and/or other screens, including EtG and PEth levels, to detect the presence of alcohol and/or controlled and other mood-altering substances by the HPFL or its designee. Unless and until this condition is modified or rescinded by the Board or its designee, Dr. Travis shall authorize and cause such physician or testing facility and/or the HPFL to report the results of such screens to the Board or its designee not less frequently than quarterly throughout the probationary period
- (4) **Participation in Required Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings.** Dr. Travis shall participate in Alcoholics Anonymous ("AA") meetings at the specified frequency required by his monitoring agreement with the HPFL PHP.
- (5) **Aftercare and Outpatient Programs.** Dr. Travis shall, within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order, provide confirmation that he is enrolled in individual aftercare on a weekly basis that is consistent and compliant with his HPFL PHP monitoring agreement and that is acceptable to and has been approved by the Board or its designee in writing. Dr. Travis shall update the Board or its designee annually on his continuing participation in the aftercare program. Dr. Travis shall also return to an outpatient facility approved by the Board or its designee for mirror imaging once a month for the first quarter of the probationary period. Thereafter, any

additional outpatient and/or imaging requirements shall occur on a basis to be determined by his outpatient facility.

- (6) **Board Access to Treatment Records and Reports.** Dr. Travis shall, and does by his subscription hereto, authorize any physician, healthcare professional or any institution at which he undergoes treatment, as well as any physician under whose care he may come at such an institution, who has or may hereafter evaluate, diagnose, treat or monitor him, to provide the Board or its designee with copies of all medical reports relating to Dr. Travis's history, examination, evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis and to provide the Board or its designee with written and verbal reports relative thereto. Dr. Travis expressly waives any privilege that may otherwise be afforded the disclosure of such records pursuant to state or federal law and acknowledges that he shall immediately provide the Board or its designee written authorization to obtain such records upon request.
- (7) **Notification and Authorization.** Dr. Travis shall provide a copy of this Consent Order and any Superseding Consent Order to each hospital, clinic, facility or other employer or prospective employer at which or for whom he provides services as a physician in this state, and upon request of the Board's probation officer Dr. Travis shall immediately execute and provide, as may be necessary, authorization to obtain any and all peer review records or employment records pertaining to Dr. Travis from any hospital, institution or health care entity at which Dr. Travis has or has had privileges.
- (8) **Cooperation with Board's Probation and Compliance Officer.** Dr. Travis shall immediately notify the Board's Probation and Compliance Officer of any change in his current home and professional addresses and telephone numbers and he shall direct all matters required pursuant to this Consent Order and any Superseding Consent Order to the attention of the Probation and Compliance Officers, with whom he shall cooperate on all matters and inquiries pertaining to his compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order and any Superseding Consent Order, specifically including without limitation providing cooperation and assistance to the Board or its designee in obtaining any records under Section 4 of this Consent Order.
- (9) **Probation Monitoring Fee.** For each year of the probation, Dr. Travis shall pay the Board an annual probation monitoring fee of three hundred (\$300.00) dollars. Payment of the initial fee shall be due not later than sixty (60) days from the date of this order. All subsequent annual payments shall be due on or before the anniversary date of the initial fee payment.
- (10) **Effect of Violation/Sanction.** By his subscription hereto, Dr. Travis acknowledges that his receipt of written notification that the Board has received reliable information indicating his failure to comply with the requirements set forth by this Consent Order in any respect shall, without the need for formal hearing or for providing him with any right to which he may otherwise 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 law, constitute his irrevocable consent to the immediate or continued suspension of his license to practice medicine in this state pending a hearing before the Board and the conclusion of the administrative proceeding by issuance of a final decision following administrative adjudication of such charges.

- (11) Certification of Compliance with Probationary Terms. At least sixty (60) days prior to the conclusion of the probationary period imposed herein, Dr. Travis shall provide the Board with an affidavit certifying that he has complied with each of the terms of probation imposed by this Order. The probationary period and all of its terms and conditions shall be, and shall be deemed to be, extended and continued in full force and effect pending Dr. Travis's compliance with the requirements of this provision.

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. Travis shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for such other action against Dr. Travis'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. R.S. 37:1285.

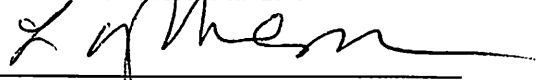
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Consent Order shall be effective as of the date it is approved and accepted by the Board as shown by the signature of the Board's representative below.

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

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 21st day of November, 2022.

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 Ouachita

I, JOE T. TRAVIS, M.D. 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 04th day of October, 2020

[Signature]
JOE T. TRAVIS, M.D.

WITNESSES:

[Signature]
Signature

Jan N Turner
Typed Name

514 Foster St.
Street Address

Monroe, LA 71201
City/State/Zip Code

[Signature]
Signature

Cynthia H. Travis
Typed Name

1206 Riverside Dr.
Street Address

Monroe, LA 71201
City/State/Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 04th day of October, 2020 in the presence of the two stated witnesses.

[Signature]
Notary Public (Signature)
Name: TODD G. BURGESS
Notary/Bar No.: NOTARY PUBLIC NO. 53128
Commission expires: _____
STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF OUACHITA
My Commission is for Life