



LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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BEFORE THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

No. 2020-I-112

IN THE MATTER OF:

CONSENT ORDER

KAREN DALE STONE, M.D.
(*Credential No. MD.022777*),
Respondent

Karen Dale Stone, M.D., ("Dr. Stone") is, and at all times present hereto has been, a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana, pursuant to the Louisiana Medical Practice Act ("the Act"), La. R.S. 37:1261 *et seq.*, as evidenced by Credential No. MD.022777. Dr. Stone principally practices psychiatry in and around Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Dr. Stone has no prior disciplinary history before the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board"). The present matter was initiated in January 2020, based on Dr. Stone self-reporting to the Board that she was undergoing treatment for chronic neurological disorders that could reasonably be expected to affect her ability to practice medicine, and that she had been the subject of an inquiry or investigation by the hospital where she was then employed. Dr. Stone subsequently provided documentation from her treating providers discussing her diagnoses and treatment and indicating her fitness to practice medicine with safety to patients.

In September 2022, Dr. Stone provided notice to the Board that she had resigned her employment and was seeking treatment for the same chronic neurological disorders as initially identified in January 2020, as those conditions had become disabling. Dr. Stone also indicated at that time that she began seeking additional treatment for related mental health conditions in January 2020, which treatment was ongoing. The Board received an independent notification in October 2022 that Dr. Stone's clinical privileges had been suspended due to concerns regarding ongoing severe deficiencies in medical record documentation, and that Dr. Stone resigned her employment in lieu of termination.

Dr. Stone entered into a five-year monitoring contract with the Healthcare Professionals' Foundation of Louisiana (the "HPFL") in September 2022, which provided terms for treatment of all of the above-identified conditions. Following her initial treatment, Dr. Stone's treating providers indicated that Dr. Stone can return to the practice of medicine with reasonable skill and safety under conditions consistent with their recommendations and her ongoing compliance with her HPFL contract. Dr. Stone also met with the Board's Investigating Officer, acknowledged the

accuracy of the foregoing information, and committed to ongoing compliance with her HPFL contract.

As evidenced by her subscription hereto, Dr. Stone acknowledges the substantial accuracy of the foregoing information and that such information would provide the Investigating Officer assigned to this matter by the Board with probable cause to institute administrative proceedings against her medical licensure for violations of the Louisiana Medical Practice Act, La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(13)¹ and (25),² pursuant to Administrative Complaint, and that proof of such information upon administrative evidentiary hearing may establish grounds under the Act for actions against her license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana as the Board might deem appropriate. On the basis of apparently reliable information, however, the Board is persuaded that Dr. Stone's medical condition may be susceptible to effective medical treatment, resulting in the maintenance of her capacity to engage in the practice of medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients, provided that she complies with the terms of this order as described below.

Recognizing her right to written notification of any charges that may be asserted against her as a result of this investigation, as well as the right to administrative adjudication of such charges, at which time she would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses and to present evidence 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. 49:975 *et seq.*, Dr. Stone, nonetheless, hereby waives her rights to notice, formal adjudication and written decision and, pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975(D), consents to entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. Furthermore, Dr. Stone acknowledges that she hereby waives any right to which she may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:950 *et seq.*, or to which she otherwise may be afforded by any law to contest her agreement to or the force and effect of the Board's investigation or this document in any court or other forum relating to the matters referred to herein. Dr. Stone 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 and to discuss with the Board the nature and result of the investigation and waives any objection to such disclosures under La. R.S. 49:977.2. 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 her or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate such charges should the Board decline to approve this Consent 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

¹ La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(13) ("(13) Unprofessional conduct, including but not limited to, . . . failing to create or maintain medical records."); *see also* La. Admin. Code tit. 46, pt. XLV, § 7603(A)(10) ("*Failing to Create or Maintain Medical Records*—a physician shall create and maintain adequate and legible patient records.").

² La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(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[.]").

forth hereinafter, by consent.³ 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. 49:975(D):

IT IS ORDERED that the license of Karen Dale Stone, M.D., to engage in the practice of medicine in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by Credential No. MD.022777, be and the same is hereby **OFFICIALLY REPRIMANDED** for the above-described conduct.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, within six (6) months of the effective date of this Order, Dr. Stone shall complete the free online course "Laws and Rules for Louisiana Physicians," which may be accessed through the following link, <https://www.lsbme.la.gov/content/board-orientations-online-courses>. Upon completion of the course, Dr. Stone shall complete the verification process and obtain a certificate of completion that will be submitted to the Board or its designee by the course provider.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Stone shall continue to maintain and comply with her current monitoring agreement with the HPFL PHP for the duration of that agreement and shall continue to receive treatment from her treating providers. Dr. Stone agrees that the HPFL PHP shall report any violation of her agreement to the Board or its designee. The Board may take disciplinary action against Dr. Stone based on any future violation of her HPFL agreement, as if such violation was enumerated among the causes provided in La. R.S. 37:1285.

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. Stone shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for such other action against Dr. Stone'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.

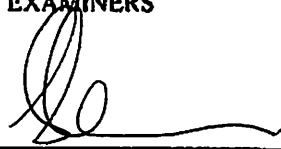
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Consent Order shall be, and shall be deemed to be, a **PUBLIC RECORD**, and shall likewise be available on the Board's website, <https://www.lsbme.la.gov>, under "Disciplinary Actions", and shall be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank ("NPDB").

³ The Board has considered the guidelines for minimum and maximum disciplinary dispositions and the aggravating and mitigating circumstances apparent from the particular facts and circumstances of this matter. See La. Admin. Code tit. 46, pt. XLV, §§ 9714; 9716.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 11th day of December, 2023.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: _____



TERRIE R. THOMAS, M.D.
President

Acknowledgment and Consent on Following Page

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT**

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF Jefferson

I, KAREN DALE STONE, 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 8th day of November, 2023.

Karen Dale Stone, M.D.
KAREN DALE STONE, M.D.

WITNESSES:

Kelly Jallu
Signature

Kelly Jallu
Typed Name

3324 N. Causeway Blvd.
Street Address

Metairie, LA 70002
City/State/Zip Code

Lyn Curlin
Signature

Lyn Curlin
Typed Name

3324 N. Causeway Blvd.
Street Address

Metairie, LA 70002
City/State/Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
8th day of November, 2023, in the
presence of the two stated witnesses.

[Signature]
Notary Public (Signature)

Name: M. L. JURAN
Notary/Bar No.: 36909
Commission expires: at my death