



LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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BEFORE THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

No. 2024-I-325

IN THE MATTER OF:

CONSENT ORDER

CHRISTOPHER L. PARIS, M.D.
(*Credential No. MD.201453*),
Respondent

Christopher L. Paris, M.D. ("Dr. Paris") is, and at all times pertinent 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. 37:1261-92, as evidenced by Credential No. MD.201453. At all times material to the facts and matters alleged herein, Dr. Paris has been engaged in the practice of internal medicine and the treatment of cardiovascular diseases in and around New Orleans, Louisiana.

The above-entitled proceeding was docketed for investigation by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") upon the receipt of apparently reliable information indicating that Dr. Paris used his medical practice partner's prescription pads to issue prescriptions for controlled substances to himself and to his wife.

Investigation of the captioned matter was assigned to the Director of Investigations (the "Investigating Officer" or "DOI") for the Board. The DOI requested a response and recommended that Dr. Paris contact the Healthcare Professionals' Foundation of Louisiana ("HPFL"). During the course of the investigation, Dr. Paris acknowledged that he was using his medical partner's prescription pads to obtain prescriptions for controlled substances for both himself and his wife. Dr. Paris also confirmed that he had removed himself from practice as of May 3, 2024.

Dr. Paris subsequently obtained an evaluation at a Board-approved facility. The facility issued an assessment discharge summary indicating his evaluators were unable to endorse his return to clinical practice prior to his receiving treatment and remediation. Dr. Paris sought treatment and remediation consistent with this recommendation. Upon discharge, the treatment facility issued aftercare recommendations for his return to practice, which are described below and which Dr. Paris intends to comply with.

As evidenced by his subscription hereto, Dr. Paris 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 medical license pursuant to La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(13) and (25)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. Paris 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. 49:975 *et seq.*, Dr. Paris, nonetheless, hereby waives his right to notice and formal adjudication and pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975(D) consents to entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. Dr. Paris 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 *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. Paris 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. 49:977.2. Dr. Paris 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.² Accordingly, in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. R.S. 37:1285, La. R.S. 49:975(D);

IT IS ORDERED that the license of Christopher Paris, M.D., to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by Credential No. MD.201453, be and is hereby **SUSPENDED** for a period of nine (9) months (the "period of suspension"), which period of suspension shall be retroactive to May 3, 2024, the date that Dr. Paris removed himself from the practice of medicine in this state.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Paris shall continue to maintain a monitoring agreement with the HPFL, and shall continue in, abide by and strictly adhere to all recommendations for ongoing treatment and monitoring which are or may be included in his HPFL

¹ The Board may take action a licensee for violations of La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(13) ("Unprofessional conduct[.]") and 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; and/or, excessive use or abuse of drugs, including alcohol."). *See also* La. Admin. Code tit. 46, pt. XLV, §7603(A)(11) (defining "unprofessional conduct" as including "*Self-Treatment; Treatment of Immediate Family Members*—except in cases of emergency, physicians shall not prescribe controlled substances for themselves or their immediate family members. As respects a physician, immediate family members include the physician's spouse, children, parents, and siblings.").

² 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.

monitoring agreement, and any amendments thereto, or any subsequent agreement or amendments thereto which may be recommended by the HPFL 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, for the duration of the period of suspension.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, following expiration of the period of suspension, the Board, in its sole discretion, may thereafter issue an order reinstating Dr. Paris's license to practice medicine, provided that Dr. Paris's medical license shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a period of five (5) years (the "period of probation"), and conditioned upon and subject to his acceptance of and strict compliance with terms, conditions, and restrictions that the Board, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate at that time, including but not limited to:

- (1) **Continuing Treatment, Participation in HPFL PHP, Reports to Board.** Dr. Paris shall continue to maintain a monitoring agreement with the HPFL for the duration of the period of probation. Dr. Paris shall continue in, abide by, and strictly adhere to all recommendations for ongoing treatment and monitoring that are contained in his current monitoring agreement and any amendments thereto, or any subsequent agreement or amendments thereto that may be recommended by the HPFL 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. Paris 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) **Board Approved Practice.** During the period of probation, Dr. Paris shall not engage in the practice of medicine other than at and within the course and scope of a practice setting approved in writing by the Board or its designee. At least once a week, another provider shall be present and practicing at the location where Dr. Paris provides services.
- (3) **Workplace Mentor; Reports.** Dr. Paris shall designate one or more workplace mentors, acceptable to and preapproved by the Board or its designee (the "Workplace Mentor"), with whom he shall regularly meet to assist in identifying any areas of concern or conflict, provide him with ongoing feedback, and assist him in identifying any behavioral concerns. Dr. Paris shall, for at least the first three months following any return to the practice of medicine, meet with such Workplace Mentor on at least a weekly basis. Thereafter, Dr. Paris, in consultation with his Workplace Mentor, may meet monthly and may submit a request to the Board or its designee to meet on a less frequent basis. Dr. Paris shall promptly report, and cause the Workplace Mentor to promptly report, in writing to the Board or its designee any instance of noncompliance with this Consent Order.

- (4) **Controlled Substances; Limitations.** Except as authorized herein, Dr. Paris shall not prescribe any controlled substances that may be classified, defined, enumerated or included in 21 C.F.R. §§ 1308.11–15 or La. R.S. 40:964, or any other drug that may hereafter be designated as one of the foregoing controlled substances by amendment or supplementation of such regulations and statute. The prohibitions contained in this paragraph shall not prohibit Dr. Paris from prescribing controlled substances to a patient in an inpatient setting at a hospital where he may be employed or exercise staff or clinical privileges in accordance with such hospital's prescribing policies and procedures governing the administration of controlled substances. Dr. Paris may petition the Board for relief from this condition no sooner than one year from the date of his reinstatement, which petition the Board may, in its sole discretion, grant, grant in part, or deny.
- (5) **Practice Monitoring.** Dr. Paris shall enter into a contract or arrangement with a Practice Monitor, who has been pre-approved in writing by the Board or its designee, and who is not the Workplace Mentor. The Practice Monitor shall review no less than twelve (12) medical records quarterly and provide quarterly written reports to the Board or its designee attesting to whether Dr. Paris's care of his patients is within established clinical boundaries and standards of care. Any and all fees, costs or expenses incurred by Dr. Paris in connection with this monitoring requirement shall be borne by Dr. Paris. Dr. Paris shall not practice in any setting until and unless the Board or its designee has approved his Practice Monitor.
- (6) **Treatment of Self, Family Members, Co-Workers Prohibited.** Except as may be necessitated by an emergency or life-threatening medical condition, Dr. Paris shall not, for the remainder of his medical career, undertake to treat, dispense, prescribe or administer any medication, controlled or non-controlled substances, nor render any medical care to his children, spouse, any member of his immediate family, or anyone with whom he works or who resides in his household. In addition, Dr. Paris shall arrange for other physicians to attend to his own health care needs.
- (7) **Continuing Medical Education.** Dr. Paris shall, within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the date of this Order, provide confirmation that he has enrolled in and successfully completed continuing medical education ("CME") courses on prescription writing that are acceptable to and have been approved by the Board or its designee in writing prior to scheduling or completing the CME course.
- (8) **Laws and Rules Course.** Within six (6) months of the effective date of any order restoring his license to practice medicine on probation, Dr. Paris 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. Paris 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.

- (9) **Board Access to Treatment Records and Reports.** Dr. Paris 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. Paris's history, examination, evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis and to provide the Board or its designee with written and verbal reports relative thereto. Dr. Paris 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.
- (10) **Notification of Order and Authorization.** Dr. Paris shall provide a copy of this 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. Paris shall immediately execute and provide, as may be necessary, authorization to obtain any and all peer review records or other employment records pertaining to Dr. Paris from any hospital, institution or other health care entity where Dr. Paris has or has had privileges.
- (11) **Fine.** Dr. Paris shall, within one-hundred and eighty (180) days of the effective date of this Order, pay to the Board a fine in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars and No/100 (\$5,000.00).
- (12) **Costs; Attorneys' Fees.** Dr. Paris shall, within one-hundred and eighty (180) days of the Effective Date of this Order, pay to the Board all costs of this matter, including attorney's fees, in the amount of One Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Three Dollars and 14/100 (\$1,823.14).
- (13) **Probation Monitoring Fee.** Following any order restoring his license to practice medicine on probation, for each year of the probationary period, Dr. Paris shall pay the Board a probation monitoring fee of Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars. Payment of the initial fee shall be due not later than sixty (60) days from effective date of any order restoring his license to practice medicine on probation. All subsequent annual payments shall be due on or before the anniversary date of the initial fee payment.
- (14) **Cooperation with the Board's Probation and Compliance Officer.** Dr. Paris 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 to the attention of the Probation and Compliance Officer, with whom he shall cooperate on all matters and inquiries pertaining to compliance with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Order, specifically including without limitation providing cooperation and assistance to the Board or its designee in obtaining any records under this Consent Order.

- (15) **Absence from the State/Practice/Effect on Probation.** Should Dr. Paris at any time be absent from the State of Louisiana, relocate to and/or take up residency in another state or country, or discontinue practicing as a physician for a period of thirty (30) days or more, he shall so advise the Board in writing. In such instance, the probationary period and all terms, conditions and restrictions thereof shall be deemed interrupted and extended and shall not commence again until Dr. Paris notifies the Board in writing that he has resumed the practice of medicine in Louisiana, which notification shall likewise be immediately provided in writing to the Board or its designee.
- (16) **Effect of Violation/Sanction.** By his subscription hereto, Dr. Paris 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 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. 49:950 *et seq.*, or which otherwise may be afforded to him by law, constitute his irrevocable consent to the immediate suspension of his license 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.
- (17) **Effective Date.** This Consent Order shall be effective 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 any violation of or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms set forth by this Order by Dr. Paris shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for such other action against Dr. Paris'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, after three (3) years of the period of probation have expired, Dr. Paris may petition the Board for relief from the probationary status and/or any of the above terms, which petition the Board may, in its sole discretion, grant, grant in part, or deny. As an express condition to the consideration of such petition for relief, Dr. Paris shall provide the Board with an affidavit certifying that he has complied with each of the terms of probation imposed by this Order, and he shall make a personal appearance before the Board to discuss his compliance and then-current practice and future plans for the practice of medicine in this state.

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").

In the Matter of
Christopher L. Paris, M.D. CONSENT ORDER 7

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 16th day of December, 2024.

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

DocuSigned by:

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By: _____
RODERICK V. CLARK, MD, MBA
President

Acknowledgment and Consent on Following Page

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT**

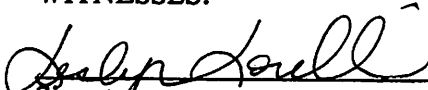
STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF Jefferson

I, CHRISTOPHER L. PARIS, 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 21st day of November, 2024


CHRISTOPHER L. PARIS, M.D.

WITNESSES:


Signature

Leslyn Lorelli
Typed Name

300 W Esplanade Ave
Street Address

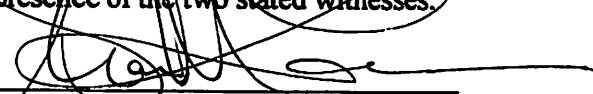
Kenner, LA 70065
City/State/Zip Code


Signature

Jeffrey Borne
Typed Name

300 W Esplanade Ave
Street Address

Kenner, LA 70065
City/State/Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st day of November, 2024, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.

Notary Public (Signature)

Name: Shawn M Larre
Notary/Bar No.: 129314
Commission expires: At Death



SHAWN M. LARRE
NOTARY PUBLIC
NOTARY NO. 129314
MY COMMISSION IS FOR LIFE.