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STATE OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF MEDICINE
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Final Order No. DOH-08-2912-FDF-MQA
FILED DATE DEC 19 2008
Department of Health
By *[Signature]*
Deputy Agency Clerk

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,

Petitioner,

DIVISION OF
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

vs.

DOH CASE NO.: 2006-39858
DOAH CASE NO.: 08-1074PL
LICENSE NO.: ME0081249

GERARD ROMAIN, M.D.,

Respondent.

_____ /

FINAL ORDER

THIS CAUSE came before the BOARD OF MEDICINE (Board) pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57(1), Florida Statutes, on December 5, 2008, in Tampa, Florida, for the purpose of considering the Administrative Law Judge's Recommended Order, Exceptions to the Recommended Order, and Response to Exceptions to the Recommended Order (copies of which are attached hereto as Exhibits A, B, and C, respectively) in the above-styled cause. Petitioner was represented by Elana J. Jones, Assistant General Counsel. Respondent was represented by Stacy Estes, Esquire.

Upon review of the Recommended Order, the argument of the parties, and after a review of the complete record in this case, the Board makes the following findings and conclusions.

RULING ON EXCEPTIONS

The Board reviewed and considered the Respondent's Exceptions to the Recommended Order and ruled as follows:

1. The Board denied Respondent's Exception to Paragraph 8 of the Recommended Order for the reasons stated in Petitioner's written and oral response to Respondent's Exceptions. There is competent substantial evidence in the record to support the Administrative Law Judge's finding in Paragraph 8 of the Recommended Order.
2. The Board denied Respondent's Exception to Paragraph 9 of the Recommended Order for the reasons stated in Petitioner's written and oral response to Respondent's Exceptions. There is competent substantial evidence in the record to support the Administrative Law Judge's finding in Paragraph 9 of the Recommended Order.
3. The Board denied Respondent's Exception to Paragraph 10 of the Recommended Order for the reasons stated in Petitioner's written and oral response to Respondent's Exceptions. There is competent substantial evidence in the record to support the Administrative Law Judge's finding in Paragraph 10 of the Recommended Order.
4. The Board denied Respondent's Exception to Paragraph 11 of the Recommended Order for the reasons stated in Petitioner's written and oral response to Respondent's Exceptions. There is

competent substantial evidence in the record to support the Administrative Law Judge's finding in Paragraph 11 of the Recommended Order.

5. The Board denied Respondent's Exception to Paragraph 14 of the Recommended Order for the reasons stated in Petitioner's written and oral response to Respondent's Exceptions. There is competent substantial evidence in the record to support the Administrative Law Judge's finding in Paragraph 14 of the Recommended Order.

6. The Board denied Respondent's Exception to Paragraph 15 of the Recommended Order for the reasons stated in Petitioner's written and oral response to Respondent's Exceptions. There is competent substantial evidence in the record to support the Administrative Law Judge's finding in Paragraph 15 of the Recommended Order.

7. The Board denied Respondent's Exception to Paragraph 19 of the Recommended Order for the reasons stated in Petitioner's written and oral response to Respondent's Exceptions. There is competent substantial evidence in the record to support the Administrative Law Judge's finding in Paragraph 19 of the Recommended Order.

8. The Board denied Respondent's Exception to Paragraph 20 of the Recommended Order for the reasons stated in Petitioner's written and oral response to Respondent's Exceptions. There is

competent substantial evidence in the record to support the Administrative Law Judge's finding in Paragraph 20 of the Recommended Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The findings of fact set forth in the Recommended Order are approved and adopted and incorporated herein by reference.

2. There is competent substantial evidence to support the findings of fact.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board has jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to Section 120.57(1), Florida Statutes, and Chapter 458, Florida Statutes.

2. The conclusions of law set forth in the Recommended Order are approved and adopted and incorporated herein by reference.

PENALTY

Upon a complete review of the record in this case, the Board determines that the penalty recommended by the Administrative Law Judge be ACCEPTED. WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND ADJUDGED:

1. Respondent shall pay an administrative fine in the amount of \$20,000.00 to the Board within 30 days from the date this Final Order is filed.

2. Respondent shall document completion of the medical records course sponsored by the Florida Medical Association (FMA) within one year from the date this Final Order is filed.

3. Respondent shall document completion of the Laws and Rules course sponsored by the Florida Medical Association (FMA) within one year from the date this Final Order is filed.

4. Respondent shall document completion of the drug course sponsored by the University of South Florida (USF) within one year from the date the Final Order is filed.

5. Within one (1) year from the date this Final Order is filed, Respondent shall document the completion of 100 hours of community service. Community service shall be provided without fee or cost to the person or entity benefiting from the service, for the good of the people of the State of Florida. A community service plan must be pre-approved by the Board's Probation Committee. Affidavits detailing the completion of community service requirements shall be filed with the Board's Probation Committee.

6. Respondent shall be placed on probation for a period of three (3) years subject to the following terms and conditions:

a. Respondent shall appear before the Board's Probation Committee at the first meeting after said probation commences, at the last meeting of the Probation Committee preceding termination of probation, quarterly, and at such other times

requested by the Committee. Respondent shall be noticed by Board staff of the date, time and place of the Board's Probation Committee whereat Respondent's appearance is required. Failure of the Respondent to appear as requested or directed shall be considered a violation of the terms of probation, and shall subject the Respondent to disciplinary action. Unless otherwise provided in the Final Order, appearances at the Probation Committee shall be made quarterly.

b. Respondent shall not practice except under the indirect supervision of a **BOARD CERTIFIED** physician fully licensed under Chapter 458 to be approved by the Board's Probation Committee. Absent provision for and compliance with the terms regarding temporary approval of a monitoring physician set forth below, Respondent shall cease practice and not practice until the Probationer's Committee approves a monitoring physician. Respondent shall have the monitoring physician present at the first probation appearance before the Probation Committee. Prior to approval of the monitoring physician by the committee, the Respondent shall provide to the monitoring physician a copy of the Administrative Complaint and Final Order filed in this case. A failure of the Respondent or the monitoring physician to appear at the scheduled probation meeting shall constitute a violation of the Board's Final Order. Prior to the approval of the monitoring physician by the Committee, Respondent shall

submit to the committee a current curriculum vitae and description of the current practice of the proposed monitoring physician. Said materials shall be received in the Board office no later than fourteen days before the Respondent's first scheduled probation appearance. The attached definition of a monitoring physician is incorporated herein. The responsibilities of a monitoring physician shall include:

(1) Submit quarterly reports, in affidavit form, which shall include:

A. Brief statement of why physician is on probation.

B. Description of probationer's practice.

C. Brief statement of probationer's compliance with terms of probation.

D. Brief description of probationer's relationship with monitoring physician.

E. Detail any problems which may have arisen with probationer.

(2) Be available for consultation with Respondent whenever necessary, at a frequency of at least once per month.

(3) Review 25% of Respondent's patient records selected on a random basis at least once every month. In order to comply with this responsibility of random review, the monitoring physician shall go to Respondent's office once every month. At that time, the monitoring

physician shall be responsible for making the random selection of the records to be reviewed by the monitoring physician.

- (4) Report to the Board any violations by the probationer of Chapter 456 and 458, Florida Statutes, and the rules promulgated pursuant thereto.

c. During the first year of the probationary period,
**RESPONDENT IS PROHIBITED FROM PRESCRIBING ANY SCHEDULE II OR
SCHEDULE III CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

d. During the second and third year of the probationary period, Respondent's supervising physician shall conduct a review of 100% of Respondent's cases in which Schedule II or Schedule III controlled substances are prescribed to ensure the appropriateness of said prescribing of controlled substances. In addition, during this period of the probationary period, Respondent may only prescribe controlled substances with the restrictions set forth below:

- (1) Respondent shall utilize sequentially numbered prescriptions in the prescribing of controlled substances.

- (2) Respondent shall, within one month after issuance, provide one copy of each prescription for Schedule controlled substances to the Department's investigator.

(3) Respondent shall, within two weeks after issuance, provide one copy of each prescription for Schedule controlled substances to his/her monitoring/supervising physician.

(4) Respondent shall maintain one copy of each prescription for Schedule controlled substances in the patient's medical records.

e. In view of the need for ongoing and continuous monitoring or supervision, Respondent shall also submit the curriculum vitae and name of an alternate supervising/monitoring physician who shall be approved by Probation Committee. Such physician shall be licensed pursuant to Chapter 458, Florida Statutes, and shall have the same duties and responsibilities as specified for Respondent's monitoring/supervising physician during those periods of time which Respondent's monitoring/supervising physician is temporarily unable to provide supervision. Prior to practicing under the indirect supervision of the alternate monitoring physician or the direct supervision of the alternate supervising physician, Respondent shall so advise the Board in writing. Respondent shall further advise the Board in writing of the period of time during which Respondent shall practice under the supervision of the alternate monitoring/supervising physician. Respondent shall not practice unless Respondent is under the supervision of either the

approved supervising/monitoring physician or the approved alternate.

f. CONTINUITY OF PRACTICE

(1) TOLLING PROVISIONS.

In the event the Respondent leaves the State of Florida for a period of 30 days or more or otherwise does not or may not engage in the active practice of medicine in the State of Florida, then certain provisions of the requirements in the Final Order shall be tolled and shall remain in a tolled status until Respondent returns to the active practice of medicine in the State of Florida. Respondent shall notify the Compliance Officer 10 days prior to his/her return to practice in the State of Florida. Unless otherwise set forth in the Final Order, the following requirements and only the following requirements shall be tolled until the Respondent returns to active practice:

- A. The time period of probation shall be tolled.
- B. The provisions regarding supervision whether direct or indirect by the monitor/supervisor, and required reports from the monitor/supervisor shall be tolled.

(2) ACTIVE PRACTICE. In the event that Respondent leaves the active practice of medicine for a period of one year or more, the Respondent may be required to appear before the Board and demonstrate the ability to practice medicine with

reasonable skill and safety to patients prior to resuming the practice of medicine in the State of Florida.

7. Respondent shall be and hereby is REPRIMANDED by the Board.

RULING ON MOTION TO ASSESS COSTS

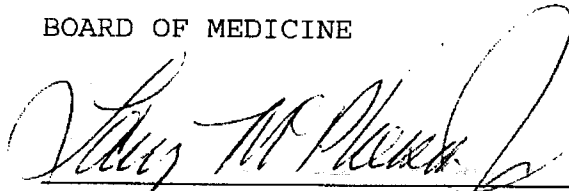
The Board reviewed the Petitioner's Motion to Assess Costs and imposes the costs associated with this case in the amount of \$37,302.40. Said costs are to be paid within 30 days from the date this Final Order is filed.

(NOTE: SEE RULE 64B8-8.0011, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE. UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED BY FINAL ORDER, THE RULE SETS FORTH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PERFORMANCE OF ALL PENALTIES CONTAINED IN THIS FINAL ORDER.)

DONE AND ORDERED this 18 day of DECEMBER,

2008.

BOARD OF MEDICINE



Larry McPherson, Jr., Executive Director
For Robert Cline, M.D., Chair

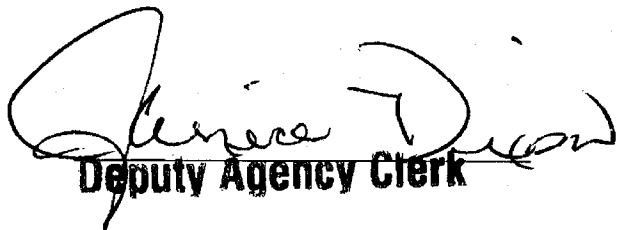
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW

A PARTY WHO IS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THIS FINAL ORDER IS ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW PURSUANT TO SECTION 120.68, FLORIDA STATUTES. REVIEW PROCEEDINGS ARE GOVERNED BY THE FLORIDA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE. SUCH PROCEEDINGS ARE COMMENCED BY FILING ONE COPY OF A NOTICE OF APPEAL WITH THE AGENCY CLERK OF

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND A SECOND COPY, ACCOMPANIED BY FILING FEES PRESCRIBED BY LAW, WITH THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL, FIRST DISTRICT, OR WITH THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL IN THE APPELLATE DISTRICT WHERE THE PARTY RESIDES. THE NOTICE OF APPEAL MUST BE FILED WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF RENDITION OF THE ORDER TO BE REVIEWED.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Final Order has been provided by U.S. Mail to GERARD ROMAIN, M.D., Post Office Box 665, Winter Haven, Florida 33882-0665; and 303 3rd Street NW, Winter Haven, Florida 33881; to Stacy Estes, Esquire, and Dale Sisco, Esquire, 1110 N. Florida Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33602; to William F. Quattlebaum, Administrative Law Judge, Division of Administrative Hearings, The DeSoto Building, 1230 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3060; and by interoffice delivery to Ephraim Livingston, Department of Health, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #C-65, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3253 this 11 day of December, 2008.


Deputy Agency Clerk