

IN THE MATTER \* BEFORE THE  
CRAIG R. WILDER, M.D. \* MARYLAND STATE BOARD  
Applicant for Reinstatement \* OF PHYSICIANS  
License Number: D66430 (Surrendered) \* Case Number: 8823-0003

\* \* \* \* \*

### ORDER DENYING APPLICATION FOR REINSTATEMENT

On June 19, 2019, Applicant Craig R. Wilder, M.D., surrendered his license to practice medicine in Maryland. Three years later, on August 19, 2022, the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”) received Dr. Wilder’s Application for Reinstatement of Medical License (“Application”). On December 21, 2022, Board Disciplinary Panel B (“Panel B” or the “Panel”), acting as a Reinstatement Inquiry Panel, held a meeting to discuss Dr. Wilder’s Application. Dr. Wilder and his attorney participated in the meeting *via* video conference. The State was represented by an Assistant Attorney General for the Health Occupations and Litigation Division, who also participated *via* video conference.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

Panel B makes the following factual findings:

#### I. BACKGROUND

In 2002, Dr. Wilder was initially licensed to practice medicine in California.

In 2007, the Maryland Board of Physicians initially licensed Dr. Wilder to practice medicine in Maryland.

On April 4, 2008, in the Los Angeles County Superior Court of California, in *People of the State of California v. Craig Richard Wilder*, Case Number SA066721, Dr. Wilder pleaded *nolo contendere* to, and was convicted of, health benefits fraud, California Penal Code § 550, a felony

(Count 2); grand theft, California Penal Code § 487, felonies (Counts 3 and 4); and failure to file a tax return, California Revenue and Taxation Code § 19706, a felony (Count 5). The remaining counts (Counts 1 (perjury) and Counts 6 and 7 (failure to file tax returns)) were dismissed.

On June 5, 2009, the Court ordered that each offense to which Dr. Wilder pleaded *nolo contendere* be deemed a misdemeanor and that sentencing be suspended, but the Court did place Dr. Wilder on summary probation for 36 months.

On June 21, 2010, the Medical Board of California issued administrative charges against Dr. Wilder, based upon the 2009 criminal convictions.

On July 29, 2010, the Maryland Board of Physicians initiated an investigation of Dr. Wilder upon being informed that the Medical Board of California had issued charges against him for the 2009 criminal convictions.

On February 4, 2011, as a resolution to the administrative charges based upon the criminal convictions, a Medical Board of California Decision and Order went into effect, which revoked Dr. Wilder's license, but stayed the revocation, and placed Dr. Wilder on probation for four years.

On September 30, 2011, Dr. Wilder's medical license in Maryland expired, but the Maryland Board of Physicians continued with its investigation because a licensee is still subject to discipline after his or her license expires if a board investigation or action was initiated before the license expired. *See* Health Occ. § 14-403(a).

On April 30, 2012, Dr. Wilder and the Maryland Board of Physicians entered into a Consent Order. The basis of the Consent Order was reciprocal discipline, under Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(21), with the underlying action taken, on February 4, 2011, by the Medical Board of California. Pursuant to the April 30, 2012 Consent Order, Dr. Wilder's license to practice

medicine in Maryland was revoked, but the revocation was immediately stayed, and Dr. Wilder was placed on probation until his license in California became full and unrestricted.

On October 24, 2013, another Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California went into effect, which again revoked Dr. Wilder's license and, again, stayed the revocation; and a year of probation was added to the four-year probation previously imposed. This Decision and Order was based upon Dr. Wilder's failure to comply with a 2011 Citation Order issued by the Medical Board of California for his aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of medicine by providing services at a medical clinic owned by a layperson.

On February 4, 2015, Dr. Wilder's 2008 criminal convictions in California were vacated and dismissed.

On June 23, 2015, Panel B of the Maryland Board of Physicians and Dr. Wilder entered into another Consent Order, which again was reciprocal discipline, based on the California board's October 24, 2013, Decision and Order. Under the Consent Order, Dr. Wilder's Maryland license was reinstated and he was ordered to remain on probation in Maryland until his probation imposed by the Medical Board of California was terminated.

On February 4, 2016, the Medical Board of California terminated the probation it imposed upon Dr. Wilder.

On March 8, 2016, Panel B terminated Dr. Wilder's probation in Maryland.

On July 27, 2018, another Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California went into effect, which found that Dr. Wilder committed gross negligence, repeated negligence, demonstrated incompetence, and engaged in unprofessional conduct in his care and treatment of two patients. The Medical Board of California revoked Dr. Wilder's license to practice medicine in California. Also, on July 27, 2018, the Medical Board of California issued a stay until August

24, 2018, in order to allow Dr. Wilder an opportunity to file a motion for reconsideration. Dr. Wilder filed a motion for reconsideration. The motion for reconsideration was denied on August 24, 2018.

On March 15, 2019, Panel B charged Dr. Wilder under reciprocal grounds, Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(21), for his actions in California that resulted in the 2018 revocation of his California medical license. Additionally, Panel B charged Dr. Wilder for his false response on his August 17, 2017, application for license renewal filed with the Maryland Board of Physicians in which Dr. Wilder answered that, since his last Maryland license was issued, he had not been under investigation by a licensing or disciplinary board. This response was untruthful, because, when Dr. Wilder applied for license renewal with the Maryland Board of Physicians, he was under investigation by the Medical Board of California in the matter that resulted in the 2018 revocation of his California license, and he was aware of the California board investigation.

On June 19, 2019, in order to avoid further prosecution of the disciplinary charges in Maryland, Dr. Wilder surrendered his license to practice medicine in Maryland.

## **II. 2022 APPLICATION FOR REINSTATEMENT**

On August 19, 2022, the Maryland State Board of Physicians received Dr. Wilder's application for the reinstatement of his license. Dr. Wilder explained that he was seeking the reinstatement of his Maryland Medical license because practicing medicine was a central part of his life and identity, the work he has had since leaving the practice of medicine has not provided him with the same sense of fulfillment and satisfaction, and he understands that the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine are critical to providing quality medical care to patients.

The Board then asked Dr. Wilder to provide written responses describing the circumstances and nature of his conduct that led to the surrender of his license, his understanding of the concerns

the Board has concerning his conduct, the steps he has taken to prevent a recurrence, and the work-related activities he has been involved with since surrendering his license.

Dr. Wilder responded to the Board's questions by first recounting that the surrender of his Maryland license was premised on his falsely answering "No" on the 2017 Maryland license renewal application question which asked whether he was under investigation by any licensing board when he applied for license renewal. Dr. Wilder said that the reason for his false response was a desperate action that he took because he needed a Maryland license to practice medicine and support his family. Dr. Wilder expressed his understanding that that the Board's concerns centered on his ethics, judgment, and honesty and that in the past he has not always fulfilled his professional obligations in these areas. In terms of steps he has taken to ensure that there would not be a recurrence, he identified self-reflection, courses he has taken focusing on ethics, and his reliance on the counsel of professional colleagues and friends.

With respect to Dr. Wilder's response on the Maryland reinstatement application regarding his employment history, Dr. Wilder listed, among other positions, that he has been a "care giver" for a specified government agency from 2020 to the present (present means the date the reinstatement application was filed). The Board staff then asked Dr. Wilder to provide details of this caregiver position to include the days and hours worked and the specific duties it entailed. Dr. Wilder responded that he applied to be a caregiver through the government agency in order to help take care of a family member who has a serious condition. Dr. Wilder explained that the application for the caregiver position was denied by the government agency but he still worked as a caregiver for the family member and is unpaid. After some back-and-forth communications with Board staff, Dr. Wilder, on November 7, 2022, clarified that he is "not a caregiver with the

[government agency] yet.” Dr. Wilder wrote that he is his family member’s “personal caregiver, while waiting for the application of increase in benefits is processed to become the designee.”

### DISCUSSION

“A disciplinary panel *may* reinstate a license of an individual whose license has been revoked or surrendered.” Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 14-409(a)(1) (*italics added*). “The disciplinary panel shall determine in its discretion if postdisciplinary reinstatement is in the interest of the health and welfare of the general public and consistent with the best interest of the profession.” COMAR 10.32.02.06B(7).<sup>1</sup> The decision on whether to grant reinstatement after the revocation or surrender of a Maryland medical license is discretionary. *See Oltman v. Maryland State Board of Physicians*, 182 Md. App. 65, 78 (2008).

Dr. Wilder correctly identifies his ethics, judgment, and honesty as the areas of most concern. That a physician is entirely honest in his or her professional practice is sacrosanct. Based upon the record, the Panel is not convinced that Dr. Wilder will maintain the needed professional and ethical standards if his license is reinstated. The Panel, in its discretion, thus, finds that reinstatement of Dr. Wilder’s Maryland medical license is neither in the interest of the health and welfare of the general public nor consistent with the best interest of the profession. Dr. Wilder’s application for the reinstatement of his Maryland medical license is, therefore, denied.

“A disciplinary panel decision denying reinstatement may set out when, if ever, a subsequent petition may be submitted.” COMAR 10.32.02.06B(8). Dr. Wilder has been embroiled in several episodes in which he did not demonstrate an adequate level of honesty or integrity. Despite his misconduct and discipline, he has been given multiple opportunities to

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Wilder’s letter of surrender states that the letter “constitutes a disciplinary action,” and that, in a proceeding concerning an application for reinstatement, he approaches Panel B “in the same position as an individual whose license has been revoked.”

practice medicine. He has not used those opportunities wisely. The Panel finds that Dr. Wilder does not possess the necessary judgment to justify a future proceeding with the Board on an application or petition for reinstatement from him. The Panel has decided that Dr. Wilder may not reapply for the reinstatement of his license to practice medicine in Maryland.

**ORDER**

It is, thus, by Board Disciplinary Panel B, hereby

**ORDERED** that Craig R. Wilder, M.D.'s application for the reinstatement of his license to practice medicine in Maryland, received by the Board on August 19, 2022, is **DENIED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that Dr. Wilder shall not reapply or re-petition the Board or disciplinary panel for the reinstatement of his license to practice medicine in Maryland; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the executive director of the Board signs this order on behalf of Panel B; and it is further

**ORDERED** that this is a public document.

02/16/2023  
Date

*Signature On File*

Christine A. Farrelly, Executive Director  
Maryland State Board of Physicians

