

IN THE MATTER OF
SYED W. HAQUE, M.D.

Respondent

License Number D54636

BEFORE THE

MARYLAND STATE

BOARD OF PHYSICIANS

Case Number: 2225-0138 B

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Syed W. Haque, M.D. was licensed to practice medicine in the State of Maryland on April 27, 1999, under license number D54636. In two indictments, on January 31, 2025, and May 16, 2025, and a Criminal Information filed on October 16, 2025, Dr. Haque was charged with multiple counts of Rape - Second Degree Without Consent, Sex Offense Fourth Degree – Sex Contact, and Assault Second Degree, involving three patients. On October 16, 2025, Dr. Haque appeared in the Circuit Court for Frederick County and entered into a binding plea and sentencing agreement with the State and the court. Dr. Haque entered an Alford plea to the following counts: two counts of Sex Offense Fourth Degree – Sex Contact in Case No. C-10-CR-25-000093, involving Patient 1; two counts of Assault Second Degree in Case No. C-10-CR-25-000395, involving Patient 2; and one count of Assault Second Degree in Case No. C-10-CR-25-000399, involving Patient 3. The Court found Dr. Haque guilty beyond a reasonable doubt for each of those counts in the Alford plea. The prosecutor entered a nolle prosequi for all remaining counts against Dr. Haque as part of the plea agreement.

Dr. Haque was sentenced to incarceration for the Sex Offense Fourth Degree – Sex Contact convictions and the Assault Second Degree convictions. Upon release, Dr. Haque was ordered to be placed on five years of supervised probation with the condition that he register as a Tier 1 sex offender and be prohibited from practicing medicine. Dr. Haque did not file an appeal within the applicable time period allowed under law, the convictions have not been reversed, and the plea has not been set aside.

On April 30, 2026, the Office of the Attorney General filed with the Maryland Board of Physicians (the “Board”) a petition to revoke Dr. Haque’s license to practice medicine (“the Petition”) and a proposed show cause order, pursuant to section 14-404(b)(2) of the Health Occupations Article, Md. Code Ann., which provides:

After completion of the appellate process if the conviction has not been reversed or the plea has not been set aside with respect to a crime involving moral turpitude, a disciplinary panel shall order the revocation of a license on the certification by the Office of the Attorney General.

Attached to the Petition were copies of the certified case summary, docket entries, plea agreement transcript, and sentencing hearing transcript.

Dr. Haque did not request a hearing. On June 4, 2026, Dr. Haque, through counsel, submitted a response, requesting that the Board allow him to surrender his license. On June 8, 2026, Dr. Haque, through counsel, submitted a signed request asking the Board to allow him to permanently surrender his license. Under Health Occ. § 14-403(a), an individual may not surrender a license unless the disciplinary panel agrees to accept the

surrender. On July 1, 2026, Disciplinary Panel B decided not to accept Dr. Haque's surrender.

Having reviewed and considered the record in this case, Disciplinary Panel B of the Maryland State Board of Physicians ("Panel B") issues this Final Decision and Order revoking Dr. Haque's license. COMAR 10.32.02.07H(1).

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Syed W. Haque, M.D., was licensed to practice medicine in the State of Maryland on April 27, 1999, under license number D54636.

2. On January 31, 2025, Dr. Haque was indicted, in the Circuit Court for Frederick County, Maryland, in *State of Maryland v. Syed Wasimul Haque*, Case No. C-10-CR-25-000093, and charged with two counts of Rape - Second Degree without Consent, three counts of Sex Offense Fourth Degree – Sex Contact, and three counts of Assault Second Degree, involving Patient 1.

3. On May 16, 2025, Dr. Haque was indicted, in the Circuit Court for Frederick County, Maryland, in *State of Maryland v. Syed Wasimul Haque*, Case No. C-10-CR-25-000395, and charged with two one count of Rape – Second Degree Without Consent, seven counts of Sex Offense Fourth Degree- Sex Contact, and eight counts of Assault Second Degree, involving Patient 2.

4. On October 16, 2025, the Frederick County State's Attorney's Office filed a Criminal Information, in the Circuit Court for Frederick County, Maryland, in *State of Maryland v. Syed Wasimul Haque*, Case No. C-10-CR-25-000399, with one count of Sex

Offense Fourth Degree – Sex Contact, and one count of Assault Second Degree, involving Patient 3.

5. On October 16, 2025, Dr. Haque appeared in the Circuit Court for Frederick County and entered into a binding plea and sentencing agreement with the State and the court. Dr. Haque entered an Alford plea: two counts of Sex Offense Fourth Degree – Sex Contact, in Case No. C-10-CR-25-000093, involving Patient 1; two counts of Assault Second Degree, in Case No. C-10-CR-25-000395, involving Patient 2; and one count of Assault Second Degree, in Case No. C-10-CR-25-000399, involving Patient 3. The prosecutor entered a nolle prosequi for all remaining counts against Dr. Haque as part of the plea agreement. The Alford plea included a statement of facts, which was put on the record by the State at the plea hearing. The statement of facts included the following information regarding the two counts of Sex Offense - Fourth Degree and three counts of Assault Second Degree for which he was ultimately convicted:

- (a) On or around October 30, 2024, Patient 1 went to Dr. Haque's medical office for a "Medicare visit." Dr. Haque stated that he was going to perform a pelvic examination. During the examination, Dr. Haque did not wear gloves, inserted his fingers into Patient 1's vagina twice and slapped her on her buttocks, and stated that she was a "good girl."
- (b) On January 13, 2025, Patient 1 went to Dr. Haque's medical office with "cold-like symptoms and respiratory issues." During the visit, Dr. Haque stood behind Patient 1, asked her to lift her shirt and bra, placed his hands on her exposed breasts, and tweaked or pinched her nipples, thrust his body while standing close behind her and asked Patient 1 to kiss him multiple times. Patient 1 was very upset and immediately reported Dr. Haque's actions to multiple individuals, including the police.
- (c) On December 17, 2024, Patient 2 went to Dr. Haque's medical office for an appointment regarding joint pain. During an examination, Dr.

Haque rubbed her hips, buttocks, and breasts; instructed her to pull down her pants so he could check for swelling; inserted his ungloved finger into her vagina; pressed one of her hands against his erect penis; and kissed her.

- (d) On June 6, 2024, Patient 3 went to Dr. Haque's medical office for a prescription request. While at his office and not in an examination room, Dr. Haque directed her to stand up, stated he was going to check her breasts, began massaging her breasts and nipples, and stated that she "has nice breasts."

7. In Case No. C-10-CR-25-000093, involving Patient 1, Dr. Haque was sentenced to one year of incarceration in one of the Sex Offense Fourth Degree – Sex Contact convictions and one year of incarceration suspending all but six months of incarceration in the other Sex Offense Fourth Degree – Sex Contact conviction to run consecutively. In Case No. C-10-CR-25-000395 involving Patient 2, Dr. Haque was sentenced to ten years of incarceration, suspending all but one year on one Assault Second Degree count, consecutive to the sentences in the Case No. C-10-CR-25-000093 and ten years of incarceration for another Assault Second Degree count, suspended and consecutive to all the prior sentences. In Case No. C-10-CR-25-000399, involving Patient 3, Dr. Haque was sentenced to ten years of incarceration, suspended and consecutive to all other convictions. Dr. Haque also received five years of supervised probation on his release. As condition of probation, the court, among other conditions, requires Dr. Haque to register as a Tier 1 sex offender and prohibits him from practicing medicine.

8. Dr. Haque did not file an appeal within the applicable time period allowed under law, the convictions have not been reversed, and the plea has not been set aside.

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to COMAR 10.32.02.07E(2), Dr. Haque may respond to the order to show cause, in writing, to address the following limited issues: “(a) Lack of conviction or plea; (b) Whether the crime is one involving moral turpitude; (c) Misidentity of the respondent with the defendant in the criminal matter; and (d) Other relevant issues, if any, other than mitigation.” Dr. Haque does not deny that he entered an Alford plea to two counts of fourth degree sex offense and three counts of second-degree assault. Nor does Dr. Haque argue that these crimes did not involve moral turpitude. Finally, Dr. Haque does not argue that he was misidentified as the defendant in the criminal case.

Health Occ. §14-404(b)(2) mandates the automatic revocation of a physician’s medical license after completion of the appellate process, when a disciplinary panel concludes that a physician was convicted of, or pleads guilty to, a crime involving moral turpitude. An Alford plea, under Maryland law, is a guilty plea, albeit a “specialized type of guilty plea where the defendant, although pleading guilty, continues to deny his or her guilt, but enters the plea to avoid the threat of greater punishment.” *Abrams v. State*, 176 Md. App. 600, 603 (2007) (*quoting Ward v. State*, 83 Md. App. 474, 575 (1990)). The Board’s regulations clarify that an Alford plea is included as a guilty plea for purposes of the moral turpitude statute. COMAR 10.32.02.07B, C(1)(b).

Under Health Occ. §14-404(b)(2), a disciplinary panel has the obligation and discretion to determine what types of crimes are crimes involving moral turpitude for licensing and disciplinary purposes. Maryland appellate courts have held that the term “moral turpitude” is more broadly defined with respect to Board licensure and discipline

than in a witness impeachment context. *See Ricketts v. State*, 291 Md. 701, 711-12 (1981) (“[W]hat constitutes a crime of moral turpitude may involve different considerations compelling different results in different circumstances.”). In the context of administrative licensure and discipline, the term moral turpitude “strikes the broader chord of public confidence in the administration of government. That is, a person who has credibility to testify [at trial] may not have the public’s confidence to practice certain professions[.]” *Stidwell v. Maryland State Bd. of Chiropractic Exam’rs*, 144 Md. App. 613, 619 (2002). Thus, it is well established that, “in the context of a licensing board’s review of the conduct of its licensee, the concept of moral turpitude is rather broad.” *Oltman v. Md. State Bd. of Physicians*, 162 Md. App. 457, 483 (2005). In the licensure context, “[t]he term ‘moral turpitude’ has been defined generally as importing ‘an act of baseness, vileness or depravity in the private and social duties which a man owes to his fellow men, or to society in general, contrary to the accepted and customary rule of right and duty between man and man.’” *Attorney Grievance Comm’n of Md. v. Walman*, 280 Md. 453, 459 (quoting *Braverman v. Bar Ass’n of Balt. City*, 209 Md. 328, 344, *cert. denied*, 352 U.S. 830 (1956)).

Dr. Haque was convicted of two counts of fourth degree sex offense, Md. Code Ann., Crim. Law § 3-308(b)(1), which states, “A person may not engage in . . . sexual contact with another without the consent of the other[.]” Sexual contact is defined as “an intentional touching of the victim’s or actor’s genital, anal, or other intimate area for sexual arousal or gratification, or for the abuse of either party. . .” and does not include “an act for an accepted medical purpose.” Crim. Law § 3-301(e). Dr. Haque was also convicted of three counts of second degree assault, Crim. Law § 3-203(a), which states, “A person may

not commit an assault” and under § 3-203(b) “on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 10 years[.]” In assessing whether a crime involves moral turpitude, the Board examines the underlying facts of a particular case. *Brun v. Lazzell*, 172 Md. 314 (1937).

During the plea hearing, Dr. Haque stated that he understood that by entering an Alford plea, he did not have to admit guilt, but it would be treated the same as a guilty plea. Dr. Haque, therefore, admitted that there was sufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that he engaged in sexual contact with Patient 1 and assaulted Patients 2 and 3.

Based on the court’s findings in these cases and the elements of the crimes, the Panel finds that Dr. Haque acted “contrary to the accepted and customary rule of right and duty” that he owes to his fellow citizens in the State of Maryland and that his conduct was base, vile, and shameful. *Walman*, 280 Md. at 459. Dr. Haque used his status as a physician under the guise of medical treatment to sexually abuse multiple patients during medical appointments. Dr. Haque’s criminal conduct showed such disregard for social norms and the ethical standards of the medical profession that he undermined the public’s confidence in the profession. *See Stidwell*, 144 Md. App. at 619. Dr. Haque betrayed the trust of his patients and used his position of authority to the detriment of the patients. The Panel finds that Dr. Haque’s intentional sexual contact with Patient 1, including inserting ungloved fingers in her vagina without her consent, tweaking or pinching her nipples, kissing and thrusting against her, which were not medically necessary, is a crime involving moral turpitude. And his assault of Patient 2 by rubbing her hips, buttocks, and breasts, inserting his ungloved finger into her vagina, pressing one of her hands against his erect penis, and

kissing her and his assault of Patient 3 by massaging her breasts and nipples were also crimes involving moral turpitude.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

Based on the findings of fact and the above-discussion, Panel B concludes that Dr. Haque's Alford pleas and convictions to two counts of fourth-degree sex offense and three counts of second-degree assault are crimes involving moral turpitude. As a result, Health Occ. § 14-404(b)(2) requires Panel B to revoke Dr. Haque's license to practice medicine in Maryland.

ORDER

It is, by Panel B, hereby:

ORDERED that the license of Syed W. Haque, M.D., license number D54636, to practice medicine in Maryland, is **REVOKED**, as mandated by Health Occ. § 14-404(b)(2); and it is further

ORDERED that this is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT**. See Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 1-607, 14-411.1(b)(2) and Gen. Prov. § 4-333(b)(6).

09/21/2026
Date

Signature on File

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

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 14-408, Dr. Haque has the right to seek judicial review of this Final Decision and Order. Any petition for judicial review shall be filed within thirty (30) days from the date of mailing of this Final Decision and Order. The cover letter accompanying this final decision and order indicates the date the decision is mailed. Any petition for judicial review shall be made as provided for in the Administrative Procedure Act, Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-222 and Title 7, Chapter 200 of the Maryland Rules of Procedure.

If Dr. Haque files a petition for judicial review, the Board is a party and should be served with the court's process at the following address:

**Christine A. Farrelly, Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Physicians
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215**

Notice of any petition for judicial review should also be sent to the Board's counsel at the following address:

**David Finkler, Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Maryland Department of Health
300 West Preston Street, Suite 302
Baltimore, Maryland 21201**