

IN THE MATTER OF * **BEFORE THE MARYLAND**
BINYAM A. DESSIE, M.D. * **STATE BOARD OF**
RESPONDENT * **PHYSICIANS**
License Number: D0104711 * **Case Number: 2226-0139**

* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the “Maryland Board”) received information that Binyam A. Dessie, M.D., (the “Respondent”) License Number D0104711, was disciplined by the Virginia Board of Medicine (the “Virginia Board”). In an Order dated December 17, 2025, the Virginia Board disciplined the Respondent by issuing a reprimand and placing the Respondent on probation until the Respondent has paid a fine of \$7,500.00 and completed 15 hours of Board-approved courses in professional boundaries.

Based on the above referenced Virginia Board sanction, the Maryland Board has grounds to charge the Respondent with violating the following provisions of the Maryland Medical Practice Act (the “Act”), under H. O. § 14-404(a):

- (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 14-405 of this subtitle, a disciplinary panel, on the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum of the disciplinary panel, may reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or suspend or revoke a license if the licensee:
 - (21) Is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority or convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country or disciplined by any branch of the United States uniformed services or the Veteran’s Administration for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under this section,

Disciplinary Panel A (“Panel A”) has determined that the acts for which the Respondent was disciplined in Virginia would be grounds for disciplinary action under H.O. § 14-404(a). The grounds for disciplinary action under H.O. § 14-404(a) are as follows:

- (3) Is guilty of:
 - (ii) Unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine;
- (43) Except for the licensure process described under Subtitle 3A of this title, violates any provision of this title, any rule or regulation adopted by the Board, or any State or federal law pertaining to the practice of medicine[.]

With respect to Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(43), the pertinent Virginia Codes are the following:

Code of Virginia

....

§ 54.1-2915. Unprofessional conduct; grounds for refusal or disciplinary action.

- A. The Board may refuse to issue a certificate or license to any applicant; reprimand any person; place any person on probation for such time as it may designate; impose a monetary penalty or terms as it may designate on any person; suspend any license for a stated period of time or indefinitely; or revoke any license for any of the following acts of unprofessional conduct:

....

- (3) Intentional or negligent conduct in the practice of any branch of the healing arts that causes or is likely to cause injury to a patient or patients;
- (16) Performing any act likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public;
- (18) Violating or cooperating with others in violating any of the provisions of Chapters 1 (§ 54.1-100 et seq.), 24 (§ 54.1-2400 et seq.) and this chapter or regulations of the Board[.]

18 VAC 85-20-100. Sexual contact.

....

- A. For purposes of § 54.1-2915 A 12 and A 19 of the Code of Virginia and this section, sexual contact includes, but is not limited to, sexual behavior or verbal or physical behavior that:
1. May reasonably be interpreted as intended for the sexual arousal or gratification of the practitioner, the patient, or both[.]

....

- D. Sexual contact between a practitioner and a key third party shall constitute unprofessional conduct if the sexual contact is a result of the exploitation of trust, knowledge or influence derived from the professional relationship or if the contact has had or is likely to have an adverse effect on patient care. For purposes of this section, key third party of a patient means spouse or partner, parent or child, guardian, or legal representative of the patient.

Based on the action taken by the Virginia Board, the Respondent agrees to enter into this Consent Order with Panel A, consisting of Procedural Background, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order and Consent.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Panel A makes the following findings of fact:

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was initially licensed in Maryland on or about August 20, 2025.
2. On or about August 21, 2024, Individual A visited the Respondent with her daughter for a “well-child visit.” Following the visit, Individual A was contacted by the Respondent “via text messages from his personal cell phone,” first regarding her daughter’s care. However, “the messages became personal” and “were not limited to typical office hours.”
3. On or about January 3, 2025, Individual B visited the Respondent with her daughter for a follow-up appointment. Individual B informed the Respondent that her

phone number needed to be updated in her daughter's medical record. The Respondent "recorded ... [her] phone number and placed it in his coat pocket." The following evening, Individual B received text messages from an unknown number. This number then called Individual B and identified himself as the Respondent. Individual B subsequently hung up on the Respondent and "reported the unsolicited communication" to his place of employment.

4. In interviews with a Virginia Department of Health Professions investigator, the Respondent admitted to messaging both Individual A and Individual B, but "does not remember calling" Individual B.

5. By Order dated December 17, 2025, the Virginia Board disciplined the Respondent by issuing a reprimand and placing the Respondent on probation until the Respondent has paid a fine of \$7,500.00 and completed 15 hours of Board-approved courses in professional boundaries.

6. On January 29, 2026, the Respondent complied with the terms and conditions imposed by the Order dated December 17, 2025.

A copy of the Virginia Board Order is attached hereto.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, Panel A concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent is subject to discipline under Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(21) for the disciplinary action taken by the Virginia Board against the Respondent for an act or acts that would be grounds for disciplinary action under Health Occ. §14-404(a)(3)(ii) and (43) in violation of Virginia Code § 54.1-2915(A)(3), (16), and (18), and 18 VAC 85-20-100(A)(1) and (D).

ORDER

It is, thus, by Panel A, hereby:

ORDERED that the Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Maryland be and is hereby **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that this Consent Order shall not be amended or modified and future requests for modification will not be considered; and it is further,

ORDERED that the effective date of the Consent Order is the date the Consent Order is signed by the Executive Director of the Board or her designee. The Executive Director or her designee signs the Consent Order on behalf of the disciplinary panel which has imposed the terms and conditions of this Consent Order; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent is responsible for all costs incurred in fulfilling the terms and conditions of this Consent Order; and it is further

ORDERED that, if the Respondent allegedly fails to comply with any term or condition imposed by this Consent Order, the Respondent shall be given notice and an opportunity for a hearing. If the disciplinary panel determines there is a genuine dispute as to a material fact, the hearing shall be before an Administrative Law Judge of the Office of Administrative Hearings followed by an exceptions process before a disciplinary panel; and if the disciplinary panel determines there is no genuine dispute as to a material fact, the Respondent shall be given a show cause hearing before a disciplinary panel; and it is further

ORDERED that, after the appropriate hearing, if the disciplinary panel determines that the Respondent has failed to comply with any term or condition imposed by this Consent Order, the disciplinary panel may reprimand the Respondent, place the

Respondent on probation with appropriate terms and conditions, or suspend Respondent's license with appropriate terms and conditions, or revoke the Respondent's license. The disciplinary panel may, in addition to one or more of the sanctions set forth above, impose a civil monetary fine on the Respondent; and it is further

ORDERED that this Consent Order is a public document. *See* Health Occ. §§1-607, 14-411.1(b)(2) and Gen. Prov. §4-333(b)(6).

03/11/2026
Date

Signature on File

Christine A. Farrelly
Executive Director
Maryland Board of Physicians

CONSENT

I, _____, acknowledge that I have consulted with legal counsel before signing this document.

[OR]

I, Binyam Dessie acknowledge that I am aware of my right to consult with and be represented by counsel in considering this Consent Order. I have chosen to proceed without counsel and I acknowledge that the decision to proceed without counsel is freely and voluntarily made.

By this Consent, I agree to be bound by this Consent Order and all its terms and conditions and understand that the disciplinary panel will not entertain any request for amendments or modifications to any condition.

I assert that I am aware of my right to a formal evidentiary hearing, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 14-405 and Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §§ 10-201 *et seq.* concerning the pending charges. I waive this right and have elected to sign this Consent Order instead.

I acknowledge the validity and enforceability of this Consent Order as if entered after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections as provided by law. I waive those procedural and substantive protections. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the disciplinary panel to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order.

I voluntarily enter into and agree to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the Consent Order as a resolution of the charges. I waive any right to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Order set out in the Consent Order. I waive all rights to appeal this Consent Order.

I sign this Consent Order, without reservation, and fully understand the language and meaning of its terms.

3/5/26
Date

Signature on File

Binyam A. Dessie, M.D.
Respondent

NOTARY

STATE OF Virginia

CITY/COUNTY OF Mecklenburg

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 5th day of March, 2026, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally Binyam A. Dessie, M.D., and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Order was his voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and notarial seal.

Lakisha Denise Mitchell
Notary Public

My Commission expires: 03/31/29

