

IN THE MATTER OF * **BEFORE THE MARYLAND**
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND - * **STATE BOARD OF**
ST. JOSEPH MEDICAL CENTER * **PHYSICIANS**
Respondent * **Case Number: 2226-0009 B**
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

CONSENT ORDER

Based on an investigation conducted by the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”), Disciplinary Panel B of the Board has grounds to charge **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND - ST. JOSEPH MEDICAL CENTER** (the “Respondent”), under the Maryland Medical Practice Act (the “Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. (“Health Occ.”) §§ 14-5G-01 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol. & 2024 Supp.). Prior to the issuance of disciplinary charges, the Respondent agrees to enter into this public Consent Order, which consists of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

Specifically, Disciplinary Panel B finds that the Respondent violated the following provisions of the Act:

§ 14-5G-26 Employment or Supervision Limited to Licensed Individuals

....

- (b) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, a hospital, related institution, alternative health system, or employer may not employ an individual practicing genetic counseling without a license.
- (c) A disciplinary panel may impose a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 for a violation of this section.

Health Occ. § 14-5G-01. Definitions.

.....

(c) “Certified genetic counselor” means an individual certified as a genetic counselor by a national certifying board.

.....

(e) “Genetic assessment” means the integration of genetic laboratory test results and other diagnostic studies with the medical histories of a patient and the patient’s family members to assess the risk for the patient or the patient’s family members of:

(1) A genetic or medical condition or disease; and

(2) The recurrence of a genetic or medical condition or disease.

(f) “License” means a license issued by the Board to practice genetic counseling.

(g) “Licensed genetic counselor” means an individual who is licensed under this subtitle to practice genetic counseling.

(h) “Licensee” means a licensed genetic counselor.

(i) “National accrediting council” means the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling, or its successor, that accredits education programs for genetic counselors.

(j) “National certifying board” means the American Board of Genetic Counseling, or its successor, that certifies genetic counselors.

(k) (1) “Practice genetic counseling” means:

(i) Obtaining and evaluating the medical histories of a patient and the patient’s family members for purposes of a genetic assessment;

(ii) Discussing the features, natural history, means of diagnosis, genetic and environmental factors, and management of risk for genetic or medical conditions or diseases;

- (iii) Identifying, ordering, and coordinating genetic laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies, as appropriate, for purposes of a genetic assessment;
 - (iv) Using the medical histories obtained under item (i) of this paragraph and the results of genetic laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies ordered under item (iii) of this paragraph for purposes of a genetic assessment;
 - (v) Explaining the clinical implications of genetic laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies and the results of the tests and studies and communicating the risk factors for genetic or medical conditions or diseases identified by a genetic assessment;
 - (vi) Evaluating the responses of a patient and the patient's family members to the results of a genetic assessment and providing counseling and anticipatory guidance for a genetic or medical condition or disease;
 - (vii) Identifying and using community resources that provide medical, educational, financial, and psychosocial support and advocacy for a genetic or medical condition or disease; or
 - (viii) Providing written documentation of medical, genetic, and counseling information for a patient, a patient's family members, or appropriate health care professionals.
- (2) "Practice genetic counseling" does not include diagnosing or treating an illness, a disease, or a condition.

The Respondent is entering into this Consent Order, consisting of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and Consent.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Panel B finds the following:

I. Background

1. The Respondent is a healthcare facility (the “Facility”) with several locations in Maryland.

2. The Respondent hired an individual (the “Employee”)¹ as a Perinatal Genetic Counselor in June 2018. The Employee continued her employment with the Respondent through October 2024.

3. At all times relevant, the Employee maintained employment with the Respondent and was assigned to work at the Facility.

II. The Investigation

4. On October 14, 2024, the Board received an Allied Health Application for Initial Licensure - Genetic Counselor (the “Application”) filed by the Employee.²

5. After reviewing the Employee’s application, the Board initiated an investigation.

6. Part 4 of the Application asks the applicant to describe their employment history since the date they completed their Genetic Counselor Program. The Employee disclosed in the Application that she worked as a “Prenatal Genetic Counselor” at the Facility from May 2018 to the time of her Application in October 2024.

7. As part of its investigation, the Board subpoenaed records from the Respondent which document that the Employee was employed as a Prenatal Genetic Counselor at the Facility from January 2024 to November 12, 2024.

¹ To ensure confidentiality and privacy, the names of individuals, patients and institutions involved in this case are not disclosed in this Consent Order.

² Effective January 1, 2024, Genetic Counselors were required to obtain a license to practice in Maryland.

8. On November 13, 2024 the Application was approved by the Board.
9. The Board's investigation determined that between January 1, 2024 and November 12, 2024, the Respondent employed an individual who practiced genetic counseling in the State of Maryland without a license.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, Panel B concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent is guilty of employing an individual practicing genetic counseling without a license in violation of Health Occ. § 14-5G-26.

ORDER

It is thus by a majority of a quorum of Disciplinary Panel B of the Board hereby:

ORDERED that within **THIRTY BUSINESS DAYS** of the effective date of this Consent Order, the Respondent, **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SAINT JOSEPH HOSPITAL**, shall pay a civil fine of **ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000)**. The payment shall be by money order or bank certified check made payable to the Maryland Board of Physicians and mailed to P.O. Box 37217, Baltimore, Maryland 21297; 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 signs the Consent Order on behalf of the disciplinary panel which has imposed the terms and conditions of the Consent Order; and it is further

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

02/19/2026
Date

Signature On File

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

CONSENT

I, ***Signature On File*** _____, as agent for **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND - ST. JOSEPH MEDICAL CENTER** assert that the company is aware of their right to consult with and be represented by counsel in considering this Consent Order and in any proceedings that would otherwise result from the charges currently pending. University of Maryland - St. Joseph Hospital acknowledges that it has consulted with counsel before signing this document.

By this Consent, University of Maryland - St. Joseph Medical Center agrees to be bound by this Consent Order and all its terms and conditions and understands that the disciplinary panel will not entertain any request for amendments or modifications to any condition.

University of Maryland - St. Joseph Medical Center asserts that it is aware of its right to a formal evidentiary hearing, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 15-315 and Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §§ 10-201 *et seq.* concerning the pending charges. University of Maryland - St. Joseph Medical Center waives this right and has elected to sign this Consent Order instead.

University of Maryland - St. Joseph Medical Center acknowledges the validity and enforceability of this Consent Order as if entered after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which it would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on its behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections as provided by law. University of Maryland - St. Joseph Medical Center waives those procedural and substantive protections. It acknowledges the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the disciplinary panel to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order.

University of Maryland - St. Joseph Medical Center voluntarily enters into and agrees to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the Consent Order as a resolution of the pending charges. University of Maryland - St. Joseph Medical Center waives any right to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Order set out in the Consent Order. University of Maryland - St. Joseph Medical Center waives all rights to appeal this Consent Order.

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

2.16.26
Date

Signature On File

Agent for University of Maryland -
St. Joseph Medical Center
(Printed Name)

Signature On File

Agent for University of Maryland -
St. Joseph Medical Center
(Signature)

NOTARY

STATE OF MARYLAND

CITY/COUNTY OF Baltimore

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 16 day of February,
²⁰²⁶~~2025~~, before me, a Notary Public of the foregoing State and City/County personally
appeared Robin Luxon, agent for **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**
- ST. JOSEPH MEDICAL CENTER, and made an oath in due form of law that signing
the foregoing Consent Order was his/her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESSETH my hand and notary seal.

Daijah Wedington
Notary Public

My commission expires:

