

IN THE MATTER OF * **BEFORE THE MARYLAND**
CHRISTINA TAPPERT * **STATE BOARD OF**
Applicant * **PHYSICIANS**
License Number: Applicant * **Case Number: 2225-0034B**

* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

Based on information received regarding the Respiratory Care Practitioner Application for Licensure of Christina Tappert (the “Applicant”), Disciplinary Panel B of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”) has grounds to deny the application under the Maryland Medical Practice Act (the “Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§14-101 *et seq.*

The Board received information that the Applicant was disciplined by the Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine (the “Pennsylvania Board”). In an Amended Final Adjudication and Order dated November 29, 2022, the Pennsylvania Board placed the Applicant on probation for 15 months and ordered her to participate in the Pennsylvania Professional Health Monitoring Program (“PHMP”).

Based on the above-referenced Pennsylvania Board sanction, the Maryland Board has grounds to charge the Applicant with violating the following provisions of the Maryland Medical Practice Act (the “Act”), under H. O. § 14-5A-17(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:

- (17) 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 the Board's disciplinary statutes;

Disciplinary Panel B ("Panel B") has determined that the acts for which the Applicant was disciplined in Pennsylvania would be grounds for disciplinary action under H.O. § 14-5A-17(a). The grounds for disciplinary action under H.O. § 14-5A-17(a) are as follows:

- (4) Is professionally, physically, or mentally incompetent

Based on the action taken by the Pennsylvania Board, prior to the issuance of charges, the Applicant has agreed to enter into this Consent Order with Panel B, consisting of Procedural Background, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order and Consent.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Panel B makes the following findings of fact:

1. On or about April 23, 2024, the Board received the Applicant's Respiratory Care Practitioner Application for Licensure, wherein she answered "yes" to the following character and fitness questions:

- 14(b). Has a State licensing or disciplinary board in any jurisdiction (including Maryland), a comparable body in the armed services, or the Veterans Administration ever filed any complaints or charges against you or investigated you for any reason?
- 14(c). Has any licensing or disciplinary board in any jurisdiction (including Maryland), a comparable body in the armed services, or the Veterans Administration ever filed charges against you or investigated you for any reason?

- 14(f). Has a hospital, related health care institution, HMO, or alternative health care system ever denied your application; failed to renew your privileges, including your privileges as a resident; or limited, restricted, suspended, or revoked your privileges in any way?
- 14(g). Have you ever pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to any criminal charge, been convicted of a crime, or received probation before judgment because of a criminal charge?

2. Based on the Applicant's affirmative responses in this Application, the Board initiated an investigation of the Applicant.

3. On September 3, 2021, in response to the Applicant's criminal conviction, the Pennsylvania Board's Probable Cause Committee issued an order compelling a Mental and Physical Examination regarding the Applicant's ability to practice respiratory therapy with reasonable skill and safety. The examination was conducted by a Pennsylvania board-licensed psychiatrist on October 21, 2021.

4. In its November 29, 2022, Amended Final Adjudication and Order, the Pennsylvania Board found that the Applicant is not able to practice as a respiratory therapist with reasonable skill and safety to patients, by reason of her addiction to alcohol. The Applicant was placed on probation for 15 months and ordered to participate in the Pennsylvania PHMP.

5. By Final Order Reinstating Practitioner's License dated February 1, 2024, the Pennsylvania Board reinstated the Applicant's license without restriction.

A copy of the Pennsylvania Board Orders are attached hereto.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, Panel B concludes as a matter of law that the Applicant is subject to discipline under Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(21) for the

disciplinary action taken by the Pennsylvania Board against the Applicant for an act or acts that would be grounds for disciplinary action under Health Occ. §14-404(a)(4).

ORDER

It is, thus, by Panel B, hereby:

ORDERED that the Respiratory Care Practitioner Application for Licensure of Christina Tappert is hereby **GRANTED**; and it is further

ORDERED that Christina Tappert is **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that Christina Tappert shall comply with the following terms and conditions:

1. The Applicant shall enroll in the Maryland Professional Rehabilitation Program (“MPRP”) as follows:

(a) Within **5 business days**, the Applicant shall contact the Maryland Professional Rehabilitation Program (“MPRP”) to schedule an initial consultation for enrollment;

(b) Within **15 business days**, the Applicant shall enter into a Participant Rehabilitation Agreement and Participant Rehabilitation Plan with MPRP;

(c) The Applicant shall fully and timely cooperate and comply with all MPRP’s referrals, rules, and requirements, including, but not limited to, the terms and conditions of the Participant Rehabilitation Agreement(s) and Participant Rehabilitation Plan(s) entered with MPRP, and shall fully participate and comply with all therapy, treatment, evaluations, and screenings as directed by MPRP;

(d) The Applicant shall sign and update the written release/consent forms requested by the Board and MPRP, including release/consent forms to authorize

MPRP to make verbal and written disclosures to the Board and to authorize the Board to disclose relevant information to MPRP. The Applicant shall not withdraw her release/consent;

(e) The Applicant shall also sign any written release/consent forms to authorize MPRP to exchange with (i.e., disclose to and receive from) outside entities, verbal and written information concerning the Applicant and to ensure that MPRP is authorized to receive the health care records of the Applicant. The Applicant shall not withdraw her release/consent;

(f) The Applicant's failure to comply with any of the above terms or conditions, including terms or conditions of the Participant Rehabilitation Agreement(s) or Participant Rehabilitation Plan(s), constitutes a violation of this Consent Order;

ORDERED that, if the Applicant allegedly fails to comply with any term or condition imposed by this Consent Order, the Applicant 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 Applicant 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 Applicant has failed to comply with any term or condition imposed by this Consent Order, the disciplinary panel may reprimand the Applicant, place the

Applicant on probation with appropriate terms and conditions, or suspend Applicant's license with appropriate terms and conditions, or revoke the Applicant'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 Applicant; and it is further

ORDERED that the Applicant is responsible for all costs incurred in fulfilling the terms and conditions of this Consent Order; 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 this Consent Order is a public document. *See* Health Occ. §§1-607, 14-411.1(b)(2) and Gen. Prov. §4-333(b)(6).

Signature On File

09/18/2024
Date

Christine A. Farrelly
Executive Director
Maryland Board of Physicians

CONSENT

I, Christina Tappert, 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.

Signature On File

9/14/24
Date

Christina Tappert
Applicant

NOTARY

STATE OF PA

CITY/COUNTY OF Philadelphia

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 14th day of September, 2024, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally Christina Tappert, and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and notarial seal.

Eric Ferguson
Notary Public

My Commission expires: 11/13/2024

