

IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE MARYLAND
 GEORGE B. H. ISKANDER, M.D. * STATE BOARD OF
 Respondent * PHYSICIANS
 License Number: D0082855 * Case Number: 2225-0011A

* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the “Maryland Board”) received information that George Bahgat Hafez Iskander, M.D., (the “Respondent”) License Number D0082855, was disciplined by the Virginia Board of Medicine (the “Virginia Board”).¹ In an Order dated May 6, 2024, the Virginia Board disciplined the Respondent by Reprimand and required compliance with the Virginia Health Practitioners Monitoring Program (“HPMP”).

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 Health Occ. (“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,

¹ The Respondent violated Virginia Code § 54.1-2915(A)(13), (18) and (19) as well as 18 VAC 85-20-100 and 18 VAC 85-20-29(A)(2).

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:
 - (i) immoral conduct in the practice of medicine;
 - (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;

According to Health Occupations H.O. § 1-212:

- (a) Regulations – Each health occupations board authorized to issue a license or certificate under this article shall adopt regulations that:
 - (1) Prohibit Sexual misconduct; and
 - (2) Provide for the discipline of a licensee or certificate holder found to be guilty of sexual misconduct.
- (b) For the purposes of the regulations adopted in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, "sexual misconduct" shall be construed to include, at minimum, behavior where a health care provider:
 - ...
 - (3) Has engaged in any sexual behavior that would be considered unethical or unprofessional according to the code of ethics, professional standards of conduct, or regulations of the appropriate health occupations board under this article.
- (c) Subject to the provisions of the law governing contested cases, if an applicant, licensee, or certificate holder violates a regulation adopted under subsection (a) of this section a board may:
 - ...

- (2) Reprimand the licensee or certificate holder;
- (3) Place the licensee or certificate holder on probation; or
- (4) Suspend or revoke the license or certificate.

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 February 8, 2017.
2. The Virginia Board found in its investigation that in January 2021, the Respondent was terminated from employment after he engaged in sexual conduct with a female patient that a reasonable patient would consider lewd and offensive.
3. The Virginia Board also found that in September of 2021, the Respondent made multiple inappropriate comments and sent text messages that were sexual in nature to at least three female Nurse Practitioners. The Respondent admitted that the text messages were inappropriate.
4. The Respondent was required to successfully participate in a sexual harassment training prevention course and was prohibited from communicating with female subordinates by personal text message, email, and in one-on-one settings outside of the workplace, without written permission from his employer.
5. By Order dated May 6, 2024, the Virginia Board disciplined the

Respondent by reprimand and required him to remain in HPMP in full compliance.

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) as well as H.O. § 1-212.

ORDER

It is, thus, by Panel A, hereby:

ORDERED that the Respondent's is hereby **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall fully comply with all terms and conditions of the May 6, 2024 Virginia Board 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 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).

08/23/2024
Date

Signature On File

Christine A. Farrelly
Executive Director
Maryland Board of Physicians

CONSENT

I, George Bahgat Hafez Iskander, M.D., 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

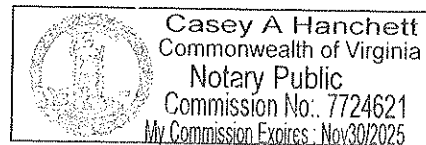
08/21/2024
Date

George Bahgat Hafez Iskander, M.D.
Respondent

NOTARY

STATE OF VIRGINIA

CITY/COUNTY OF FAIRFAX



I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 21ST day of AUGUST, 2024, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally George Bahgat Hafez Iskander, 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.

Cathy A. Penelott

Notary Public

My Commission expires: 11/30/2025

Attachment 1

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF MEDICINE

IN RE: GEORGE BAHGAT HAFEZ ISKANDER, M.D.
License Number: 0101-256292
Case Number: 226241

ORDER

JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4019 and 54.1-2400(10), a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Medicine (“Board”) held an informal conference on April 25, 2024, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that George Bahgat Hafez Iskander, M.D., may be in violation of certain laws and regulations governing the practice of medicine in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

George Bahgat Hafez Iskander, M.D., appeared at this proceeding and was represented by Ashley Dobbin Calkins, Esquire.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Board adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the Order contained herein.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. George Bahgat Hafez Iskander, M.D., was issued License Number 0101-256292 to practice medicine on May 22, 2014, which is scheduled to expire on November 30, 2024. At all times relevant to the findings contained herein, said license was current and active.

2. Dr. Iskander violated Virginia Code § 54.1-2915(A)(13), (18), and (19) and 18 VAC 85-20-100 of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Podiatry, and Chiropractic (“Regulations”) in that he engaged in sexual conduct with Patient A, a 32-year-old female, concurrent with and by virtue of the practitioner-patient relationship and/or engaged during the course of the practitioner-patient relationship in conduct of a sexual nature with Patient A that a reasonable

patient would consider lewd or offensive. Specifically, on January 9, 2023, Dr. Iskander performed a hysterectomy on Patient A at Inova Fairfax Hospital. Later that same day through January 11, 2023, Dr. Iskander sent Patient A numerous text messages of a sexual or romantic nature from his personal cell phone number. For example, Dr. Iskander called Patient A “dear,” “cute,” and “beautiful” multiple times, asked about her tattoos and said that he wanted to see them, asked if she was married and if her husband or her girlfriend was sleeping with her, and asked if she had her “boobs” done. Consequently, Dr. Iskander’s clinical privileges were indefinitely suspended by Inova Fairfax Hospital and his employment at Mid-Atlantic Gynecologic Oncology and Pelvic Surgery Associates (“Mid-Atlantic”) was terminated.

3. Dr. Iskander told the Committee that Patient A requested pain medication while he was on his way out of the country and that the purpose of his texts was to assess Patient A’s pain; however, he acknowledged that the texts were inappropriate.

4. Dr. Iskander told the Committee that now he only gives patients his office number and that he has worked with his psychologist on how to talk to patients and co-workers and to control his anxiety so this never happens again.

5. Dr. Iskander violated Virginia Code § 54.1-2915(A)(18) and 18 VAC 85-20-29(A)(2) of the Regulations in that:

a. On September 21, 2021, Nurse Practitioner B, a certified family nurse practitioner at Mid-Atlantic, consulted with Dr. Iskander about a vaginoplasty patient, stating that she had not seen a vaginoplasty before and was not sure what it should look like. Dr. Iskander replied, “Well, it should look like a vagina. You have a vagina. Don’t you ever look at yours?”

b. On September 17, 2021, Dr. Iskander told Nurse Practitioner C, a nurse practitioner at Mid-Atlantic, that “you look good today,” gestured toward her breasts, and commented about whether her breasts were real.

c. On or about September 30, 2021, Dr. Iskander sent text messages of a sexual or romantic nature to Nurse D, a registered nurse at Mid-Atlantic, such as “I really wanted to examine you :),” “you are so beautiful,” and “I missed being between your legs.”

d. On January 20, 2022, Mid-Atlantic issued a final written warning to Dr. Iskander about his conduct with Nurse Practitioners B and C and Nurse D, as contained in paragraphs 5(a) through 5(c) above, requiring Dr. Iskander to successfully participate in a sexual harassment training prevention course and prohibiting Dr. Iskander from communicating with female subordinates by personal text message, by personal email, and in one-on-one settings outside of the workplace, without written permission from Mid-Atlantic.

e. On November 21, 2022, Dr. Iskander was recommended by Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, where he had clinical privileges, to take an anger management course specifically addressing staff interaction, due to his disruptive behaviors and interactions, such as tone of voice and word choices. On December 8-10, 2022, Dr. Iskander attended *Improving Inter-Professional Communication: Working Effectively in Medical Teams*, a seminar conducted by The Center for Personalized Education for Professionals. The seminar report indicated that Dr. Iskander fell below expectations in the following categories: Presented as interested in learning; Was actively engaged and attentive during sessions (i.e. not on other devices); Demonstrated self-awareness; Demonstrated an understanding of the concepts covered in the seminar and the ability to apply concepts and suggestions to their own situation; and Initiated creation and sharing of an Action Plan with goals related to reasons for referral and/or new learnings or awareness.

6. Dr. Iskander told the Committee that he has created an accountability plan for himself and with his family, that he has decreased the burden of his practice, so he is not burned out and making misjudgments, and that he utilizes a chaperone for all patient encounters.

7. Dr. Iskander submitted documentation to the Committee of his registration for the *PBI Professional Boundaries, Extended Edition* course to be held on April 26-28, 2024.

8. Dr. Iskander submitted to the Committee a letter dated April 24, 2024, from his Virginia Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP") case manager, documenting his entry into HPMP under a three-year contract requiring individual therapy, regular follow-up appointments with a psychiatrist, regular follow-up with a physician, the submission of monthly report forms, and participation in the screening program. The case manager stated Dr. Iskander has been fully compliant with the requirements of the program.

9. Dr. Iskander told the Committee that he has learned from his mistakes and is working very hard to correct them, that he blamed his mistakes on taking on too much work and the pressures of work, and that he understands the seriousness of boundary violations.

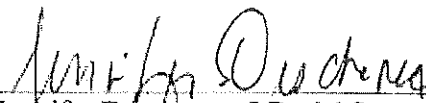
ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Virginia Board of Medicine hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. George Bahgat Hafez Iskander, M.D., is REPRIMANDED.
2. Dr. Iskander shall remain in HPMP and continue to comply fully with the terms of his contract(s), and any addenda thereto, until he successfully completes the program. In accordance with Dr. Iskander's contract, the Board will be notified of any noncompliance with, or dismissal or resignation from, HPMP.
3. Any violation of the foregoing terms and conditions of this Order or any statute or regulation governing the practice of medicine shall constitute grounds for further disciplinary action.

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4023 and 54.1-2400.2, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

FOR THE BOARD



Jennifer Duschenes, J.D., M.S.
Deputy Executive Director, Discipline
Virginia Board of Medicine

ENTERED AND MAILED: 5/6/2024

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400(10), Dr. Iskander may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on June 10, 2024, notify William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director, Board of Medicine, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, in writing that he desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board. Upon the filing with the Executive Director of a request for the hearing, this Order shall be vacated. This Order shall become final on June 10, 2024, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.