

**IN THE MATTER OF**  
**JAMES K. LIGHTFOOT, M.D.**

**Respondent**

**License Number D52326**

**\* BEFORE THE**  
**\* MARYLAND STATE**  
**\* BOARD OF PHYSICIANS**  
**\* Case Number 7721-0021**

\* \* \* \* \*

**ORDER TERMINATING SUSPENSION AND IMPOSING PROBATION**

On April 16, 2019, Disciplinary Panel A (“Panel A”) of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”) charged James K. Lightfoot, M.D., (the “Respondent”) under the Maryland Medical Practice Act (the “Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 14-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2019 Supp.).

Following an evidentiary hearing at the Office of Administrative Hearings and an exceptions hearing before Disciplinary Panel B (“Panel B”) of the Board, Panel B issued a Final Decision and Order on August 17, 2020 that concluded that the Respondent was guilty of unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine, in violation of Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(3)(ii). Pursuant to the Final Decision and Order, the Respondent was reprimanded and his license to practice medicine in Maryland was suspended for five (5) business days commencing on the day after the effective date of the Final Decision and Order, and provided that, when the suspension of his license was terminated, he would be placed on probation for a minimum of one (1) year with terms and conditions.

Five (5) business days have passed from August 18, 2020; it is thus hereby:

**ORDERED** that the suspension imposed by the August 17, 2020 Final Decision and Order, is **TERMINATED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent is hereby placed on probation for a minimum period of **ONE (1) YEAR**. During the probationary period, the Respondent shall comply with the following terms and conditions:

(1) The Respondent shall enroll in the Maryland Professional Rehabilitation Program (MPRP) as follows:

- (a) Within 5 business days, the Respondent shall contact MPRP to schedule an initial consultation for enrollment;
- (b) Within 15 business days, the Respondent shall enter into a Participant Rehabilitation Agreement and Participant Rehabilitation Plan with MPRP;
- (c) The Respondent 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 Respondent 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 from MPRP records and files in a public order. The Respondent shall not withdraw his release/consent;
- (e) The Respondent shall also sign any written release/consent forms to authorize MPRP to exchange with (i.e., disclose to and receive from) outside entities (including all of The Respondent's current therapists and treatment providers) verbal and written information concerning the Respondent and to ensure that MPRP is authorized to receive the medical records of the Respondent, including, but not limited to, mental health and drug or alcohol evaluation and treatment records. The Respondent shall not withdraw his release/consent;
- (f) The Respondent'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 Order;

(2) Within **SIX (6) MONTHS**, the Respondent is required to take and successfully complete a course in professional boundaries. The following terms apply:

- (a) It is the Respondent's responsibility to locate, enroll in and obtain the disciplinary panel's approval of the course before the course is begun;
- (b) The disciplinary panel will not accept a course taken over the internet;
- (c) The Respondent must provide documentation to the disciplinary panel that he has successfully completed the course;
- (d) The course may not be used to fulfill the continuing medical education credits required for license renewal;
- (e) The Respondent is responsible for the cost of the course;

(3) Within **ONE (1) YEAR**, the Respondent shall pay a civil fine of \$10,000.00. 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. The Board will not renew or reinstate the Respondent's license if the Respondent fails to timely pay the fine to the Board; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall not apply for early termination of probation; and it is further

**ORDERED** that, after the Respondent has complied with all terms and conditions of probation and the minimum period of probation imposed by this Order has passed, the Respondent may submit to the Board a written petition for termination of probation. After consideration of the petition, the probation may be terminated through an order of the disciplinary panel. The Respondent may be required to appear before the disciplinary panel to discuss his petition for termination. The disciplinary panel may grant the petition to terminate the probation, through an order of the disciplinary panel, if the Respondent has complied with all probationary terms and conditions and there are no pending complaints relating to the charges; and it is further

**ORDERED** that a violation of probation constitutes a violation of this Order; and it is further

**ORDERED** that, if the Respondent allegedly fails to comply with any term or condition imposed by this 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 Order, the disciplinary panel may reprimand the Respondent, place the Respondent on probation with appropriate terms and conditions, or suspend with appropriate terms and conditions, or revoke the Respondent's license to practice medicine in Maryland. 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 the Respondent is responsible for all costs incurred in fulfilling the terms and conditions of this Order; and it is further

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

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

08/25/2020  
Date

***Signature on File***

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