

**IN THE MATTER OF**  
**ROBERT JAMES BALL, M.D.**

**Respondent**

**Licensed Number: D54991**

**\* BEFORE THE**  
**\* MARYLAND STATE**  
**\* BOARD OF PHYSICIANS**  
**\* Case Number: 7723-0004**

\* \* \* \* \*

**TERMINATION ORDER**

On July 21, 2022, Disciplinary Panel B (the “Panel”) of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”) and Robert James Ball, M.D., entered into a Consent Order, wherein the Panel concluded, as a matter of law, that Dr. Ball failed to meet the appropriate standards as determined by appropriate peer review for the delivery of quality medical and surgical care performed in an outpatient surgical facility, office, hospital or any other location in the State and failed to keep adequate medical records as determined by appropriate peer review. Pursuant to the Consent Order, the Respondent was reprimanded, placed on probation for a minimum of two (2) years, with certain terms and conditions. Further, the Respondent was prohibited from prescribing and dispensing opioids and Buprenorphine until after he successfully completed the required courses and obtained a Board disciplinary panel-approved supervisor.<sup>1</sup> The Respondent has completed the required courses and the Panel has approved the Respondent’s proposed supervisor. It is thus hereby

**ORDERED** that the prohibition on the Respondent’s ability to prescribe and dispense opioids and Buprenorphine is **TERMINATED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the reprimand remains in effect; and it further

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of the Consent Order is incorporated by reference and available upon request.

**ORDERED** that the **PROBATION** imposed by the July 21, 2022 Consent Order remains in effect;<sup>2</sup> and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent is still prohibited from certifying patients for the medical use of cannabis for the duration of probation; and it is further;

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall be subject to supervision for a minimum period of **ONE (1) YEAR** (four quarterly reports)<sup>3</sup> by his approved supervisor, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- (a) The Respondent shall grant the supervisor access to patient records selected by the supervisor from a list of all patients, which shall, to the extent practicable, focus on the type of treatment at issue in the Respondent's charges;
- (b) If the supervision for any reason ceases to provide supervision, the Respondent shall immediately notify the Board and shall not practice medicine beyond the 30th day after the supervisor has ceased to provide supervision and until the Respondent has submitted the name and professional background, and written notice of confirmation, from a proposed replacement supervisor to the disciplinary panel;
- (c) It shall be the Respondent's responsibility to ensure that the supervisor;
  - (1) reviews the records of 10 patients patients each month, such patients records to be chosen by the supervisor and not the Respondent;

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<sup>2</sup> If the Respondent's license expires during the period of probation, the probation and any condition will be tolled.

<sup>3</sup> If the Respondent is not practicing medicine, the supervision shall begin when Dr. Ball resumes the practice of medicine and the disciplinary panel has approved the proposed supervisor. Dr. Ball shall submit the name of a proposed supervisor at least 30 days before she returns to the practice of medicine and shall be subject to supervision by a disciplinary panel approved supervisor upon the return to the practice of medicine.

- (2) meets in-person with the Respondent at least once each month and discuss in-person with the Respondent the care the Respondent has provided for these specific patients;
  - (3) be available to the Respondent for consultations on any patient;
  - (4) maintains the confidentiality of all medical records and patients information;
  - (5) provides the Board with quarterly reports which detail the quality of the Respondent's practice, any deficiencies, concerns, or needed improvements, as well as any measures that have been taken to improve patient care; and
  - (6) immediately reports to the Board any indication that the Respondent may pose a substantial risk to patients;
- (d) The Respondent shall follow any recommendations of the supervisor;
  - (e) If the disciplinary panel, upon consideration of the supervisory reports and the Respondent response, if any, has a reasonable basis to believe that the Respondent is not meeting the standard of quality care or failing to keep adequate medical records in his or his practice; the disciplinary panel may find a violation of probation after a hearing; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the disciplinary panel may issue administrative subpoenas to the Maryland Drug Monitoring Program on a quarterly basis for the Respondent's CDS prescriptions. The administrative subpoenas will request the Respondent's CDS prescriptions from the beginning of each quarter; and it is further;

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

**ORDERED** that a violation of probation constitutes a violation of this Termination Order; 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 the July 21, 2022 Consent Order has passed, and after the Respondent's supervisor has submitted to the Board four quarterly reports that are satisfactory to the Panel, the Respondent may submit to the Board a written petition for termination of probation. After consideration of the petition, the probation may be administratively terminated through an order of the of the disciplinary panel if the Respondent has complied with all the probationary terms and conditions and there are no pending complaints relating to the charges; and it is further

**ORDERED** that this Termination Order goes into effect upon the signature of the Executive Director of the Board. The Executive Director sign the Termination Order on behalf of the Board Disciplinary Panel B; and it is further;

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

**ORDERED** that, if the Respondent allegedly fails to comply with any term or condition imposed by this Termination 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 Hearing 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 it 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 Termination 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 this Termination Order is a public document.

10/04/2022  
Date

***Signature On File***

Christine A. Farrelly  
Executive Director  
Maryland State Board of Physicians