

IN THE MATTER OF
MEEGAN CHESTNUT, M.D.

Respondent

License Number: D72639

* BEFORE THE
* MARYLAND STATE
* BOARD OF PHYSICIANS
* Case Number: 2219-0120A

* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER

On January 6, 2020, Disciplinary Panel A (“Panel A”) of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”) charged **Meegan Chestnut, M.D.** (the “Respondent”), License Number D72639, under the Maryland Medical Practice Act (the “Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. (“Health Occ.”) §§ 14-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2019 Supp.).

The pertinent provisions of the Act provide:

Health Occ. § 14-404. Denials, reprimands, probations, suspensions, and revocations –Grounds.

(a) *In general.* -- 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:

...

(3) Is guilty of: (ii) Unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine; [and/or]

...

(33) Fails to cooperate with a lawful investigation conducted by the Board or a disciplinary panel[.]

On March 11, 2020, Panel A was convened as a Disciplinary Committee for Case Resolution (“DCCR”) in this matter. Based on negotiations occurring as a result of the DCCR, the Respondent agreed to enter into this Consent Order, consisting of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Panel A finds:

1. At all times relevant to this case, the Respondent was and is licensed to practice medicine in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was originally licensed to practice medicine in Maryland on June 29, 2011. The Respondent’s license is presently active and is current through September 30, 2020.

2. The Respondent is board-certified in internal medicine and at all times relevant to these charges, practiced at a medical office in Howard County, Maryland.

3. Panel A initiated an investigation of the Respondent after reviewing a complaint (the “Complaint”), dated November 29, 2018, from a former patient (the “Complainant”)¹ of the Respondent. The Complainant alleged that in October 2018, she requested that the Respondent and her staff send in paperwork to a county health department so that she could get transportation for medical visits. The Complainant stated that the Respondent failed to send in the requested information, which caused her to miss her appointments. The Complainant stated that it was only after she informed the

¹ For confidentiality reasons, the name of the Complainant or any other individual referenced herein will not be disclosed in this document. The Respondent may obtain the identity of any individual referenced herein by contacting the assigned administrative prosecutor.

Respondent's staff that she would contact the Board that the Respondent sent in the requested information.

4. In a letter to the Respondent's address of record, dated December 13, 2018, the Board notified the Respondent that a complaint had been filed against her and that it had opened a preliminary investigation of the matter. The Board provided the Respondent with a copy of the Complaint and directed her to submit a written response to the Complaint within ten business days. In this mailing, the Board also sent the Respondent a subpoena duces tecum for the Complainant's medical record, also to be returned within ten business days of the date of the subpoena. The Respondent did not provide a written response to the Complaint or provide the Complainant's medical record within ten business days. The mailing was not returned as undeliverable.

5. In an email to the Respondent's registered email address, dated January 11, 2019, the Board notified the Respondent that it had not received a response to its December 13, 2018, mailing. The Board attached its previously-issued letter and subpoena duces tecum and directed the Respondent to provide the responsive information on or before January 16, 2019. The Board further advised the Respondent that her failure to provide the responsive information may result in disciplinary action pursuant to Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(33). The Respondent did not respond to the Board's email.

6. In a facsimile transmission dated January 25, 2019, the Board notified the Respondent that it had not received a response to its December 13, 2018, mailing or its January 11, 2019, email. The Board notified the Respondent that her failure to respond may result in disciplinary action pursuant to Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(33). The Board

directed the Respondent to provide a response on or before January 28, 2019. The Respondent did not respond within this time frame.

7. On February 4, 2019, the Board received a facsimile transmission from the Chief Compliance and Quality Improvement Officer (“Staff Person A”) of the Respondent’s practice, providing the Complainant’s medical records.

8. On February 5, 2019, the Board received a facsimile transmission from the Department Manager (“Staff Person B”) of the Respondent’s practice, providing the Respondent’s written response to the Complainant’s Complaint.

9. In an email dated September 20, 2019, the Board requested that the Respondent provide further information in response to one of the specific allegations the Complainant raised in her Complaint. The Board directed the Respondent to respond within seven days. On this same date, the Board also sent an email to Staff Person A informing her that it had sent an email to the Respondent. In this email, the Board requested that Staff Person A encourage the Respondent to respond to its September 20, 2019, email. The Respondent did not respond to the Board’s email within this time frame.

10. In an email dated October 3, 2019, the Board sent the Respondent a *subpoena ad testificandum*, which directed her to report to the Board’s offices on October 21, 2019, at 1:00 p.m., to provide a written response in a Board matter. The *subpoena ad testificandum* stated that the Respondent’s failure to comply may result in disciplinary action pursuant to Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(33). On this same date, the Board also sent a copy of the *subpoena ad testificandum* to the Respondent at her address of record by

certified mail, which was delivered on October 9, 2019. The Respondent did not appear in response to the *subpoena ad testificandum* on October 21, 2019.

11. In an email dated October 23, 2019, the Respondent provided a response to the questions the Board posed in its September 20, 2019, email. The Respondent stated that she had little information to provide concerning the information the Board was seeking and was unclear as to what the Complainant was alleging.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, Panel A concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent is guilty of unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine, in violation of Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(3)(ii), and failed to cooperate with a lawful investigation conducted by the Board or a disciplinary panel, in violation of Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(33).

ORDER

It is thus by Disciplinary Panel A of the Board, hereby:

ORDERED that the Respondent is **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that within **SIX (6) MONTHS**, the Respondent is required to take and successfully complete a course in professional ethics. 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 the Respondent 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; and it is further

ORDERED that within **SIX (6) MONTHS**, the Respondent shall pay a civil fine of **ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00)**. 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 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 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 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 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).

04/23/2020
Date

Signature on File

Christine A. Farrelly
Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Physicians

CONSENT

I, Meegan Chestnut, M.D., acknowledge that I have consulted with counsel before signing this document.

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.

4/9/2020
Date

Signature on File

Meegan Chestnut, M.D.
Respondent

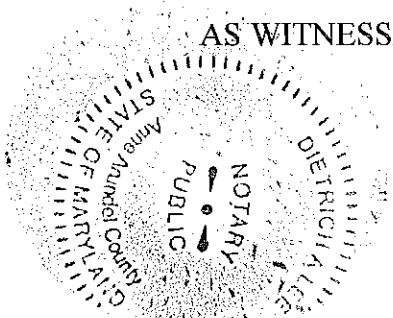
NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland

CITY/COUNTY OF Anne Arundel

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 9 day of April 2020, before me, a Notary Public of the foregoing State and City/County, personally appeared Meegan Chestnut, M.D., and made oath in due form of law that signing the foregoing Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESSETH my hand and notarial seal.



Dietrich A. Lee
Notary Public

My Commission expires: Nov 12, 2023