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|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>IN THE MATTER OF</b>         | * | <b>BEFORE THE</b>               |
| <b>BELLA TARI SPEIGHT, M.D.</b> | * | <b>MARYLAND STATE</b>           |
| <b>Respondent</b>               | * | <b>BOARD OF PHYSICIANS</b>      |
| <b>License Number: D78645</b>   | * | <b>Case Number: 2218-0217 A</b> |

\* \* \* \* \*

**CONSENT ORDER**

On May 9, 2019, Disciplinary Panel A (“Panel A”) of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”) notified **BELLA TARI SPEIGHT, M.D.** (the “Respondent”), License Number D78645, of the Board’s Intent to Revoke the Respondent’s license to practice medicine in the State of Maryland pursuant to the Maryland Medical Practice Act (the “Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 14-401 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2018 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:
  - (1) Fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain a license for the applicant or licensee or for another;
  - (3) Is guilty of:
    - (ii) Unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine;
  - (33) Fails to cooperate with a lawful investigation conducted by the Board or a disciplinary panel;

- (36) Willfully makes a false representation when seeking or making application for licensure or any other application related to the practice of medicine;
- (42) Fails to submit to a criminal history records check under § 14-308.1 of this title[.]

**Health Occ. § 14-308.1. Criminal history records check through Central Repository.**

- (a) In this section, “Central Repository” means the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.
- (b) An applicant, a licensee, or a certificate holder shall apply to the Central Repository for a State and national criminal history records check.
- (c) As part of the application required under subsection (b) of this section, an individual shall submit to the Central Repository:
  - (1) Two complete sets of legible fingerprints taken on forms approved by the Director of the Central Repository and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
  - (2) The fee authorized under § 10-221(b)(7) of the Criminal Procedure Article for access to State criminal history records; and
  - (3) The mandatory processing fee required by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history records check.

On October 16, 2019, Panel A was convened as a Disciplinary Committee for Case Resolution (“DCCR”) in this matter. Based on negotiations occurring as a result of this DCCR, the Respondent agreed to enter into this Consent Order, consisting of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

## I. FINDINGS OF FACT

Panel A finds the following:

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was and is licensed to practice medicine in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was initially licensed to practice medicine in Maryland on October 16, 2014, under License Number D78645. The Respondent's license is currently active through September 30, 2021.

2. On or about September 24, 2017, the Respondent submitted an online application (the "Application") for the renewal of the Respondent's license using the Board's online renewal application process.

3. When a licensee applies online to renew his or her license, a notice appears that informs the licensee that the Board may not renew a license if it has not received the licensee's Criminal History Record Check ("CHRC") information, which includes the licensee's submission of his or her fingerprints to the Criminal Justice Information Services ("CJIS") before attempting to complete the renewal application.

4. The Respondent's signed Application states, "Failure to submit to a [CHRC] may result in disciplinary action." Prior to submitting the online Application, the Respondent checked a box attesting to completing the CHRC.

5. By e-mail dated November 1, 2017, Board staff informed the Respondent that the Board had not received the CHRC she had attested to during the renewal process.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Board staff used the e-mail address provided by the Respondent on the Application as her "most current e-mail address where [the Board] may contact [her] regarding [her] license."

Board staff further informed the Respondent that she had ten business days to submit the CHRC.

6. The Respondent did not reply to the email.

7. By letter dated January 16, 2018, to the Respondent's address of record, the Board informed the Respondent that it opened a preliminary investigation based upon her failure to obtain a CHRC for license renewal. The letter requested that Respondent submit documentation to the Board to support that she obtained a CHRC no later than ten business days after receipt of the letter.

8. The Respondent did not reply to the letter or notify the Board of a new mailing address.

9. By letter dated May 9, 2019, Panel A issued a Notice of Intent to Revoke the Respondent's Medical License<sup>2</sup>.

10. The Respondent submitted to a CHRC on September 12, 2019.

11. On September 16, 2019, the Board received the completed CHRC report pursuant to Health Occ. § 14-308.1.

## **II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, Panel A concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent violated Health Occ. §§ 14-404(a)(42) by failing to submit to a criminal

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<sup>2</sup> The May 9, 2019 letter and Notice of Intent to Revoke the Respondent's Medical License was returned as undeliverable by the U.S. Postal Service. On June 18, 2019, the Administrative Prosecutor mailed the Notice of Intent to Revoke the Respondent's Medical License to a different address for the Respondent via the U.S. Postal Service. The Notice was not returned by the US. Postal Service.

history records check under § 14-308.1. Panel A dismisses the remaining grounds under Health Occ. § 14-404(a) (1), (3)(ii), (33), and (36).

### **III. ORDER**

**IT IS HEREBY:**

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

**ORDERED** that within **SIX (6) MONTHS**, the Respondent shall pay a civil fine of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)**. The payment shall be made 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 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 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 Consent Order is a public document. *See* Health Occ. §§ 1-607, 14-411.1(b)(2) and Gen. Prov. § 4-333(b)(6); and it is further

11/13/2019  
Date

*Signature on File*

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

CONSENT

I, Bella Speight, M.D. assert that I am aware of my right to consult with and be represented by counsel in considering this Consent Order and in any proceedings that would otherwise result from the charges currently pending. 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.

11/16/19  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Signature on File*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bella Speight, M.D.

**NOTARY**

STATE OF: District of Columbia (DC)

CITY/COUNTY OF: Washington

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2019,  
before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared  
Bella Speight, M.D. and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Order  
was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS, my hand and Notary Seal.

Jaqueline Ireland  
Notary Public

My commission expires: 7/31/2023

