

IN THE MATTER OF

* BEFORE THE

CHRISTINE A. DEWITT, M.D.

* MARYLAND STATE

Respondent

* BOARD OF PHYSICIANS

License Number: D66351

* Case Number: 2220-0021B

* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER

On January 15, 2020, Disciplinary Panel B (“Panel B”) of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”) notified **CHRISTINE A. DEWITT, M.D.** (the “Respondent”), License Number **D66351**, that it was charging 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. (“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:
 - (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; [and]
- (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.

The pertinent provisions of the Board’s regulations under COMAR 10.32.02 provide:

.14 Proposed Orders; . . .

- A. Nothing in this chapter prohibits the issuance of a charging document with a proposed order which will go into effect if the respondent fails to request a hearing.

After receiving the charging document but before Panel B was convened as a Disciplinary Committee for Case Resolution (“DCCR”) in this matter, the Respondent after talking with her counsel, agreed to enter into this Consent Order, consisting of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Panel B finds:

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 June 27, 2007, under License Number D66351. The Respondent’s license is currently active through September 30, 2020.

2. On or about August 1, 2018, 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, the licensee checks a box attesting that he or she has completed a Criminal History Record Check (“CHRC”) and acknowledges on the same application that a licensee faces disciplinary action if the licensee fails to comply with the CHRC requirement.

4. Prior to completion of the application a pop-up screen appears that informs the licensee that the Board may not renew a license if the Board has not received the licensee's 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. The pop-up notice also notifies the licensee that failure to submit to a CHRC may result in disciplinary action.

5. The Respondent's signed Application contains two acknowledgments /affirmations by the Respondent that the Respondent had completed a CHRC.

6. By e-mail dated on or about December 13, 2018, Board staff informed the Respondent that the Board had not received the CHRC.¹ Board staff further informed the Respondent that the Respondent had ten business days to submit the CHRC.

7. The Respondent did not reply to the e-mail.

8. By letter dated March 6, 2019, sent to the Respondent's address of record, the Board informed the Respondent that it opened a preliminary investigation based upon the failure to obtain a CHRC for license renewal and the attestation that the Respondent submitted to a CHRC. The letter notified Respondent that she was subject to potential disciplinary action and requested that the Respondent submit documentation to the Board to support that the Respondent obtained a CHRC within ten business days.

9. The Respondent did not reply to the letter.

10. By letter dated May 28, 2019, sent to the Respondent's address of record, the Board again notified the Respondent that she was subject to potential disciplinary action and instructed the Respondent to contact the Board and submit evidence that the Respondent obtained a CHRC.

¹ Board staff used the e-mail address provided by the Respondent on the Application as the "Official Email Address . . . the board will use for official correspondence."

11. The Respondent did not reply to the letter and did not provide documentation to the Board that the Respondent obtained a CHRC before Panel B voted to issue charges.

12. On or about October 18, 2019, the Board received the completed CHRC report pursuant to Health Occ. § 14-308.1.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the Findings of Fact, Panel B concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent violated Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(42) by failing to submit to a criminal history records check under Health Occ. § 14-308.1. Panel B dismisses the remaining grounds under Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(1), (3)(ii), (33), and (36).

ORDER

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

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

ORDERED that within **TWELVE (12) MONTHS**, the Respondent shall pay a civil fine of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)**. 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 unless stated in the order, any time period prescribed in this order begins when the Consent Order goes into effect. The Consent Order goes into effect upon the signature of the Board's Executive Director, who signs on behalf of the Panel; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Respondent allegedly fails to comply with any term or condition of this Consent Order, the Respondent shall be given notice and an opportunity for a hearing. If 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. If 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 a disciplinary panel determines that the Respondent has failed to comply with any term or condition of this Consent Order, the disciplinary panel may reprimand the Respondent, place the Respondent on probation with appropriate terms and conditions, or suspend 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 an additional civil monetary fine upon the Respondent; 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 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).

06/17/2020
Date

Signature on File

Christine A. Farrelly
Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Physicians

CONSENT

I, Christine A. Dewitt, M.D., acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to consult 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 these rights 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 their 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.

6/15/2020
Date

Signature on File

Christine A. Dewitt, M.D.
Respondent

NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland
CITY/COUNTY OF Montgomery

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 15th day of June 2020, before me, a Notary Public of the foregoing State and City/County, personally appeared Christine A. Dewitt, M.D., and made oath in due form of law that signing the foregoing Consent Order was his voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESSETH my hand and notarial seal.



Notary Public

My Commission expires: 03/22/2021

