

IN THE MATTER OF
Susan G. Andrews, M.D.
Respondent.

*** BEFORE THE MARYLAND**
*** STATE BOARD OF**
*** PHYSICIANS**
*** Case No. 7718-0118A**

License No. D67708

* * * * *

ORDER AFTER SHOW CAUSE HEARING

The issue in this case is whether Susan G. Andrews, M.D. has violated an Order of Disciplinary Panel A (“Panel A”) of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (“Board”). On December 14, 2017, Dr. Andrews entered into a Consent Order with Panel A wherein her medical license was suspended subject to certain terms and conditions. The Consent Order required Dr. Andrews to enroll in a Board-approved Program (“Program”), and to comply with all of the Program’s requirements. The Consent Order also permitted Dr. Andrews to apply for termination of her suspension once the Program found she was safe to return to medical practice. On May 25, 2018, after the Program endorsed her safe return to the practice of medicine, in an Order Terminating Suspension and Imposing Probation, Panel A terminated Dr. Andrews’s suspension, and imposed probation for a minimum period of three years. The May 25, 2018 Order required Dr. Andrews to remain enrolled in the Program and to continue in a Participant Rehabilitation Agreement and a Participant Rehabilitation Plan.

On August 13, 2019, the Program reported to the Board that Dr. Andrews had violated her Rehabilitation Agreement.¹ On September 6, 2019, Panel A issued a Violation of Board Order and Notice to Show Cause regarding Dr. Andrews’s alleged violation of her Rehabilitation Agreement.

¹ The nature of Dr. Andrews’s violation is confidential.

At a show cause hearing held before Panel A on October 16, 2019, Dr. Andrews admitted her violation.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Panel A finds the following facts by a preponderance of the evidence:

Background – Consent Order, December 14, 2017

Dr. Andrews was initially licensed to practice medicine in Maryland by the Board on May 27, 2008. Panel A and Dr. Andrews entered into a Consent Order on December 14, 2017, wherein Panel A found that Dr. Andrews violated Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(3)(ii) (unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine), (7) (is habitually intoxicated), and (9)(i) (provides professional services while under the influence of alcohol). Pursuant to the Consent Order, Dr. Andrews's medical license was suspended, and she was required to enroll in the Program, and to comply with its requirements. On December 18, 2017, Dr. Andrews entered into a Participant Rehabilitation Agreement and a Participant Rehabilitation Plan with the Program. Dr. Andrews petitioned Panel A in February 26, 2018, for termination of her suspension after the Program endorsed her safe return to the practice of medicine.

Order Terminating Suspension and Imposing Probation ("Order") - May 25, 2018

On May 25, 2018, Panel A issued an Order terminating Dr. Andrews's suspension and imposing probation for a minimum of three years. The Order provides:

Dr. Andrews shall remain enrolled in [the Program] for the length of time recommended by [the Program] and shall continue to be entered into a Participant Rehabilitation Agreement and a Participant Rehabilitation Plan with [the Program]. Dr. Andrews shall fully and timely cooperate with all of [the Program's] referrals, rules, and requirements.

The Order further states:

ORDERED, that after the appropriate hearing, if the Board or Panel A determines that Dr. Andrews has failed to comply with any term or condition of

probation or this Order, the Board or disciplinary panel may reprimand Dr. Andrews, place Dr. Andrews on probation with appropriate terms and conditions, or suspend or revoke Dr. Andrews's license to practice medicine in Maryland. The Board or disciplinary panel may, in addition to one or more of the sanctions set forth above, impose a civil monetary fine upon Dr. Andrews.

Violation of the Order and Participant Rehabilitation Agreement

In August, 2019, the Program reported to the Board that Dr. Andrews had violated her Rehabilitation Agreement. The Board requested a response from Dr. Andrews. By letter dated August 18, 2019, Dr. Andrews submitted a written acknowledgement that she engaged in conduct that violated the Rehabilitation Agreement and provided an explanation of the circumstances of her violation.

Show Cause Hearing – October 16, 2019

On September 6, 2019, Panel A issued a Violation of Board Order and Notice to Show Cause charging Dr. Andrews with violating the May 25, 2018 Order based on her admitted non-compliance with the Rehabilitation Agreement. At a show cause hearing held on October 16, 2019, Dr. Andrews appeared with counsel, and admitted that the facts indisputably showed that she violated the Rehabilitation Agreement and the May 2018 Order. Dr. Andrews requested that the Panel refrain from suspending her medical license, and instead impose a sanction of a reprimand and an extended period of probation with continued participation in and cooperation with the Program. The Administrative Prosecutor for the State also recommended a reprimand, a restart of the period of probation, and continued enrollment and participation in the Program.

Based upon the report from the Program and the information presented at the show cause hearing, Panel A finds that Dr. Andrews failed to comply with her Rehabilitation Agreement and the conditions of her May 25, 2018 Order Terminating Suspension and Imposing Probation. Dr. Andrews's violation is undisputed.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Panel A concludes that Dr. Andrews violated the terms and conditions of the May 25, 2018 Order Terminating Suspension and Imposing Probation by failing to comply with the terms of her Participant Rehabilitation Agreement in the Program.

ORDER

It is, on an affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum of Disciplinary Panel A, hereby

ORDERED that the probation imposed by the May 25, 2018 Order Terminating Suspension and Imposing Probation is terminated; and it is further

ORDERED that Dr. Andrews is **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that Dr. Andrews is placed on a new period of **PROBATION²** for a minimum period of **THREE (3) YEARS**. During the probationary period, Dr. Andrews shall comply with the following terms and conditions:

1. Dr. Andrews shall remain enrolled in the Program and continue in a Participant Rehabilitation Agreement and Participant Rehabilitation Plan with the Program;
2. Dr. Andrews shall fully and timely cooperate and comply with all Program 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 the Program, and shall fully participate and comply with all therapy, treatment, evaluations, and screenings as directed by the Program;
3. Dr. Andrews's failure to comply with any term or condition of the Participant Rehabilitation Agreement(s) or Participant Rehabilitation Plan(s) shall constitute a violation of this Order;
4. Dr. Andrews shall sign and update the written release/consent forms requested by the Board and the Program, including release/consent forms to authorize the Program to make verbal and written disclosures to the Board and to authorize the Board to disclose relevant information from Program records and files in a public order. A failure to, or withdrawal of, consent, is a violation of this Order;

² If Dr. Andrews's license expires during the period of probation, the probation and any conditions will be tolled.

5. Dr. Andrews shall also sign any written release/consent forms to authorize the Program to exchange with (i.e., disclose to and receive from) outside entities (including all of Dr. Andrews's current therapists and treatment providers) verbal and written information concerning Dr. Andrews and to ensure that the Program is authorized to receive the medical records of Dr. Andrews, including, but not limited to, mental health and drug or alcohol evaluation and treatment records; and it is further

ORDERED that Dr. Andrews shall not apply for early termination of probation; and it is further

ORDERED that after a minimum of three years has passed and Dr. Andrews has fully and satisfactorily complied with all terms and conditions of probation, Dr. Andrews may submit a written petition for termination of probation. After consideration of the petition, the probation may be terminated through an order of a disciplinary panel. Dr. Andrews may be required to appear before the disciplinary panel to discuss her petition for termination. The disciplinary panel may grant the petition to terminate the probation through an order of the disciplinary panel, if Dr. Andrews has successfully complied with all of the probationary terms and conditions and if there are no pending complaints related to the charges; and it is further

ORDERED that if Dr. Andrews allegedly fails to comply with any term or condition imposed by this Order, Dr. Andrews shall be given notice and an opportunity for a hearing. If the disciplinary panel determines that 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 the disciplinary panel determines that there is no genuine dispute as to a material fact, Dr. Andrews 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 Dr. Andrews has failed to comply with any term or condition imposed by this Order, the disciplinary panel may reprimand Dr. Andrews, place Dr. Andrews on probation with

appropriate terms and conditions, or suspend or revoke Dr. Andrews'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 upon Dr. Andrews; and it is further

ORDERED that Dr. Andrews 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. The Executive Director 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 is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 1-607 and 14-411.1, and Gen. Prov. § 4-333(b) (2014 & 2018 Supp.).

11/22/2019
Date

Signature on File

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