

IN THE MATTER OF	*	BEFORE THE
PREETI ROUT, M.D.	*	MARYLAND STATE
Respondent	*	BOARD OF PHYSICIANS
License Number: D72850	*	Case Number: 2016-0990B

● \* \* \* \* \*

**ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION OF LICENSE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE**

Disciplinary Panel B of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the "Board") hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDS** the medical license of **PREETI ROUT, M.D.** (the "Respondent"), License Number D72850. Disciplinary Panel B takes such action pursuant to its authority under the Administrative Procedure Act (the "APA"), Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c)(2)(i) (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2015 Supp.), concluding that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.

On November 29, 2017, Disciplinary Panel B held a pre-deprivation hearing for the Respondent to show cause why the Order for Summary Suspension of License to Practice Medicine should not be issued.

**INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS<sup>1</sup>**

Based on information received by, and made known to Disciplinary Panel B of the Board, and the investigatory information obtained by, received by and made known to and available to Disciplinary B and the Office of the Attorney General, including the

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<sup>1</sup> The statements regarding the Respondent's conduct are intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the basis of the suspension. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, to be offered against the Respondent in connection with this matter.

instances described below, Disciplinary Panel B has reason to believe that the following facts are true:

1. At all times relevant hereto, 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 August 1, 2011. Her license is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2017. The Respondent holds an active license in the District of Columbia and inactive licenses in Massachusetts and Virginia.
2. The Respondent is board-certified in internal medicine and nephrology.
3. The Respondent was not employed as a physician at the time the Board received a complaint regarding her.
4. On or about June 2, 2016, the Board received a complaint from an acquaintance of the Respondent regarding the Respondent's conduct at a mutual friend's house. The complainant expressed concern that the Respondent may be a risk to patients because of possible substance abuse.
5. Thereafter, the Board initiated an investigation. In furtherance of the Board's investigation, Board staff interviewed the complainant, former co-workers of the Respondent and the Respondent. Board staff also obtained the Respondent's quality assurance/personnel files from the Respondent's most recent former employers.
6. On December 6, 2016, Board staff interviewed the Respondent under oath. During the interview, the Respondent disclosed information that caused Board staff to request that she sign a waiver to permit the Board to obtain health-related medical records. The Respondent refused to sign the waiver.

7. The Board's investigation raised concerns regarding the Respondent's current ability to practice medicine in a safe and competent manner.<sup>2</sup> On January 9, 2017, the Board issued to the Respondent a subpoena to be re-interviewed by Board staff on January 27, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. In addition to the interview, Board staff intended to hand-deliver to the Respondent a letter directing her to appear at a toxicology screening facility immediately after the interview for a series of screening tests.
8. On January 27, 2017 at approximately 9:30 a.m., Board staff received a telephone call from the Respondent in which she questioned the need for a follow-up Board interview. The Respondent told Board staff that she "did not see the point in coming" and that she had felt "railroaded" during the first interview because she was alone while being interviewed by two Board staff members.
9. Throughout the January 27, 2017 telephone call, the Respondent repeatedly stated that she was not going to come to the interview later that day because she did not feel comfortable. Board staff advised the Respondent that if she chose not to appear for the interview, the Board may construe that as failure to cooperate with a lawful Board investigation.
10. At one point during the telephone call, the Respondent told Board staff that she had been out of town and did not receive the subpoena "until seven days ago." The Respondent requested the interview to be rescheduled.
11. A few minutes later, Board staff telephoned the Respondent to advise her that her request to reschedule the interview had been denied. The Respondent

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<sup>2</sup> To maintain confidentiality, the specific investigatory findings are not identified herein. The Respondent may obtain from the Administrative Prosecutor the investigatory file.

responded that she lives over an hour away and had “things to do today” and “other commitments.” The Respondent stated that she would appear for the interview if a friend could be present during the interview. Board staff denied the Respondent’s request.

12. The Respondent failed to present herself at the Board on January 27, 2017.
13. On January 30, 2017, Board staff sent to the Respondent by next-day mail a letter directing her to appear at the toxicology screening facility for testing on February 1, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. The letter further informed the Respondent that pursuant to Health Occ. § 14-402(c), unreasonable refusal or failure to submit to the screening constitutes prima facie evidence of a licensed medical practitioner’s inability to practice medicine, unless the Board finds that the failure or refusal was beyond control of the licensee.
14. On January 30, 2017, Board staff spoke to the Respondent by telephone and informed her that the Board had sent her correspondence that required her immediate attention. The Respondent stated that she would look for the letter and respond.
15. Board staff confirmed that the letter was delivered to the Respondent’s home on the morning of January 31, 2017.
16. On January 31, 2017, at 8:24 p.m., the Respondent emailed Board staff that she had received the letter directing her to report for screening on February 1, 2017. The Respondent further stated that she was traveling and was unable to return to Baltimore by the next day.

17. On February 1, 2017, at 10:12 a.m., Board staff emailed the Respondent and notified her that failure to appear for screening that day “could be construed as a violation of Health Occ. § 14-402 and 14-404(a)(4); is professionally, physically or mentally incompetent.”
18. On February 1, 2017 at 10:34 a.m., the Respondent emailed Board staff to advise that she was “many hours away” in “a place where flights are not easily available so I cannot book one last minute.”
19. The Respondent failed to appear on February 1, 2017 for toxicology screening.

#### **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing facts, Disciplinary Panel B concludes that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively require emergency action in this case, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't. § 10-226 (c)(2)(i).

#### **ORDER**

Based on the foregoing, it is, by a majority of the quorum of Disciplinary Panel B, **ORDERED** that pursuant to the authority vested by Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c)(2), the Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Maryland be and is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent may request within ten (10) calendar days an evidentiary hearing, such hearing to be held within thirty (30) calendar days of the request, before an Administrative Law Judge at the Office of Administrative Hearings, Administrative Law Building, 11101 Gilroy Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031-1301; and it is further

**ORDERED** that on presentation of this Order, the Respondent **SHALL SURRENDER** to the Board's Compliance Analyst, the following items:

- (1) the Respondent's original Maryland License D72850; and
- (2) the Respondent's current renewal certificate; and be it further

**ORDERED** that a copy of this Order of Summary Suspension shall be filed with the Board in accordance with Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 14-407 (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2015 Supp.); and it is further

**ORDERED** that this Order for Summary Suspension of License to Practice Medicine is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* and § 4-333 (2014).

11/29/2017  
Date

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