

IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE
ROBERT P. CATHOR, P.A. * MARYLAND STATE BOARD
Respondent * OF PHYSICIANS
License No. C03518 * Case No. 2012-0706

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**ORDER TERMINATING SUSPENSION AND
IMPOSING PROBATION**

On October 24, 2012, the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”) charged Robert P. Cathor, P.A. (the “Respondent”) with violating section 15-314 of the Health Occupations Article. The case arose because the Respondent wrote multiple prescriptions for controlled dangerous substances (“CDS”) for an adult family member of a pediatric patient, and then the family member obtained the CDS from various pharmacies for the Respondent to use. On March 1, 2013, in order to resolve the charges, the Board and the Respondent entered into a Consent Order. Under the Consent Order, the Board concluded that the Respondent’s conduct violated the Maryland Physician Assistants Act. Also, under the Consent Order, the Respondent agreed that his license would be suspended for a minimum of 90 days, and that, once the suspension was completed, the Respondent would be placed on probation for a minimum period of five years subject to specified terms and conditions. The suspension period has elapsed, and the Respondent has satisfactorily complied with the terms and conditions of suspension. It is thus

ORDERED that the suspension of the Respondent’s physician assistant (“P.A.”) license is **TERMINATED**; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent is placed on **PROBATION** for a minimum period of **FIVE YEARS**, during which period the Respondent must comply with the following probationary terms and conditions:

1. The Respondent must provide the Board with the names of his employers who employ the Respondent as a P.A. The Respondent must provide his employers who employ him as a P.A. with a copy of the Consent Order;
2. During the probationary period, the Respondent shall not prescribe or dispense any CDS;
3. After successfully completing a minimum period of one year probation, and if recommended by the Maryland Professional Rehabilitation Program (“MPRP”), the Respondent may petition the Board for permission to prescribe CDS, and if granted, the Board or Board panel may determine the conditions of supervision for the prescribing;

MPRP

4. The Respondent shall continue in the MPRP and continue in a Participant Rehabilitation Agreement and a Participant Rehabilitation Plan for the length of time recommended by the MPRP. The Respondent shall fully, timely, and satisfactorily cooperate and comply with all MPRP recommendations and requirements, including but not limited to, the terms and conditions of any Participant Rehabilitation Agreements and Participant Rehabilitation Plans entered into with the MPRP, complete abstinence, random monitored toxicology screens as required by the MPRP, self-help fellowship meetings and in-patient substance abuse treatment, if recommended by the MPRP;

5. The Respondent shall sign any written release/consent forms, and update them, as required by the Board and the MPRP. Specifically, the Respondent shall sign any written

release/consent forms as required by the Board to authorize the MPRP to make verbal and written disclosures to the Board, including disclosure of any and all MPRP records and files and confidential drug and alcohol abuse information about the Respondent. The Respondent shall also sign any written release/consent forms required by the MPRP to authorize the MPRP to exchange with (i.e., disclose to and receive from) outside entities (including all of the Respondent's current therapists and treatment providers) verbal and written information about him, including confidential drug and alcohol abuse information;

6. For the entire duration of the probationary period, the Respondent shall completely abstain from using alcohol, unprescribed CDS, narcotics, illegal drugs, and other mood-altering substances. The Respondent may take CDS, but only if prescribed by a licensed health care provider for a legitimate medical purpose and only as prescribed. Prior to accepting any CDS prescription from a licensed health care provider, the Respondent shall provide the prescribing licensed health care provider with a copy of the Consent Order. The Respondent shall immediately notify the Board of any CDS prescription and of the justification for the prescription;

Medical Ethics Tutorial

7. Within five months, the Respondent shall successfully complete a Board-approved one-to-one tutorial in medical ethics. The tutorial may not be used as continuing medical education credits required for license renewal. The Respondent is responsible for providing documentation to the Board of successful completion of the tutorial.

Follow All Laws

8. The Respondent shall comply with the Maryland Physician Assistants Act, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 15-101 – 15-502, and all laws, statutes, and regulations pertaining to the practice of a P.A.; and it is further

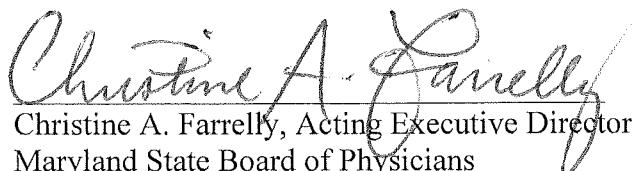
ORDERED that if the Respondent violates any term or condition of probation or this order, the Board or Board panel, after an opportunity for a show cause hearing before the Board or Board panel, if there is no genuine dispute as to any material facts, or an evidentiary hearing before an administrative law judge of the Office of Administrative Hearings, if there is a genuine dispute as to a material fact, may impose additional sanctions authorized under section 15-314 of the Health Occupations Article, including a reprimand, an additional suspension period, an additional period and terms and conditions of probation, or the revocation of his P.A. license; and it is further

ORDERED that after five years from the date of this order, the Respondent may submit a written petition to the Board requesting termination of probation. The Board or Board panel will terminate the probation if the Respondent has fully and satisfactorily complied with the conditions of probation and the order and there are no pending complaints against him. The probation will not be terminated until there is an order terminating the probation; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent is responsible for all costs incurred in fulfilling the terms and conditions of this order; and it is further

ORDERED that this order is a public document.

7/8/13
Date


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