

1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

2 In the Matter of

3 **LORENZO C. BOYCE, M.D.**

4 Holder of License No. 20584
5 For the Practice of Allopathic Medicine
6 In the State of Arizona

Case No. MD-09-1554A

**ORDER FOR LETTER OF REPRIMAND
AND CONSENT TO THE SAME**

7 Lorenzo C. Boyce, M.D. ("Respondent") elects to permanently waive any right to a
8 hearing and appeal with respect to this Order for Letter of Reprimand; admits the
9 jurisdiction of the Arizona Medical Board ("Board"); and consents to the entry of this Order
10 by the Board.

11 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

12 1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of
13 the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

14 2. Respondent is the holder of license number 20584 for the practice of
15 allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

16 3. The Board initiated case number MD-09-1554A after receiving notification of
17 a malpractice settlement involving Respondent's care and treatment of a 24 year-old
18 female patient ("ZC") alleging failure/delay in referral or consultation, and failure to properly
19 care for and treat ZC.

20 4. On September 13, 2008, ZC presented to the hospital at 35 weeks gestation
21 with contractions. ZC was admitted and evaluated by nursing staff. ZC reported that her
22 contractions had been present and were occurring every 2-3 minutes. ZC had an elevated
23 blood pressure, edema, and displayed symptoms of headache and nausea. Respondent
24 was the on-call obstetrician who was contacted regarding ZC's arrival, and was advised of
25 her elevated blood pressure along with a pregnancy induced hypertension ("PIH")

1 assessment. Respondent ordered labs and intravenous fluids were initiated. Three hours
2 later, the lab studies were reported to Respondent as well as the blood pressure and
3 continued contractions. Respondent ordered Terbutaline. ZC's lab studies revealed a 3+
4 proteinuria and her contractions decreased. She was subsequently discharged.

5 5. On the morning of September 14, 2008, ZC was found unresponsive at
6 home and was transported to the emergency room. She was in asystole upon arrival and a
7 full code was initiated. ZC was revived and an emergency cesarean section was
8 performed. The infant was delivered with apgars of 1/1/5. ZC's abdomen was closed, but
9 continued blood loss was noted. Blood products were ordered and ZC was transferred to
10 another hospital for further care. She was evaluated and no brainstem function was
11 identified. ZC expired five hours later and the cause of death was determined to be a
12 probable seizure due to eclampsia.

13 6. The standard of care requires a physician to evaluate the patient with lab
14 studies and observation in the hospital for a patient presenting to the hospital at 35 weeks
15 gestation in possible labor with signs and symptoms of PIH. The standard of care also
16 requires that a cervical examination be performed to evaluate for labor and degree of
17 dilation in a patient presenting at 35 weeks gestation with contractions.

18 7. Respondent deviated from the standard of care by failing to properly review
19 the lab tests he ordered and by failing to recognize the potential severity of ZC's condition
20 and further evaluate the patient in the hospital, resulting in a delay in diagnosis leading to
21 ZC's demise. Respondent also deviated from the standard of care by failing to ensure that
22 cervical examination was performed to evaluate ZC for labor and degree of dilation.

23 8. The failure to diagnose pre-eclampsia led to the demise of ZC and her infant.
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1 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

2 1. The Board possesses jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof and over
3 Respondent.

4 2. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional
5 conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(q) ("[a]ny conduct or practice that is or might be
6 harmful or dangerous to the health of the patient or the public.").

7 ORDER

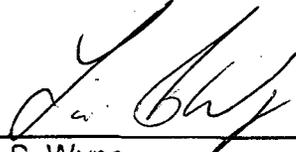
8 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT Respondent is issued a Letter of Reprimand.

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10 DATED AND EFFECTIVE this 11TH day of AUGUST, 2010.



ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

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By 
Lisa S. Wynn
Executive Director

CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER

1. Respondent has read and understands this Consent Agreement and the stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Order"). Respondent acknowledges he has the right to consult with legal counsel regarding this matter.

2. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that this Order is entered into freely and voluntarily and that no promise was made or coercion used to induce such entry.

3. By consenting to this Order, Respondent voluntarily relinquishes any rights to a hearing or judicial review in state or federal court on the matters alleged, or to challenge this Order in its entirety as issued by the Board, and waives any other cause of action related thereto or arising from said Order.

1 4. The Order is not effective until approved by the Board and signed by its
2 Executive Director.

3 5. All admissions made by Respondent are solely for final disposition of this
4 matter and any subsequent related administrative proceedings or civil litigation involving
5 the Board and Respondent. Therefore, said admissions by Respondent are not intended
6 or made for any other use, such as in the context of another state or federal government
7 regulatory agency proceeding, civil or criminal court proceeding, in the State of Arizona or
8 any other state or federal court.

9 6. Upon signing this agreement, and returning this document (or a copy thereof)
10 to the Board's Executive Director, Respondent may not revoke the consent to the entry of
11 the Order. Respondent may not make any modifications to the document. Any
12 modifications to this original document are ineffective and void unless mutually approved
13 by the parties.

14 7. This Order is a public record that will be publicly disseminated as a formal
15 disciplinary action of the Board and will be reported to the National Practitioner's Data
16 Bank and on the Board's web site as a disciplinary action.

17 8. If any part of the Order is later declared void or otherwise unenforceable, the
18 remainder of the Order in its entirety shall remain in force and effect.

19 9. If the Board does not adopt this Order, Respondent will not assert as a
20 defense that the Board's consideration of the Order constitutes bias, prejudice,
21 prejudgment or other similar defense.

22 10. Any violation of this Order constitutes unprofessional conduct and may result
23 in disciplinary action. A.R.S. § § 32-1401(27)(r) ("[v]iolating a formal order, probation,
24 consent agreement or stipulation issued or entered into by the board or its executive
25 director under this chapter") and 32-1451.

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Lorenzo C Boyce
LORENZO C. BOYCE, M.D.

DATED: 8-9-2010

EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing mailed
this 17th day of August, 2010 to:

Lorenzo C. Boyce, M.D.
Address of Record

ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed
this 17th day of August, 2010 with:

Arizona Medical Board
9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Chris Basso
Arizona Medical Board Staff