

1 **BEFORE THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD**

2  
3 In the Matter of

4 **FRANK H. SNIPES, M.D.**

5 Holder of License No. 20832  
6 For the Practice of Medicine  
In the State of Arizona.

Case No. MD-10-0706A

**ORDER FOR SURRENDER OF  
LICENSE AND CONSENT TO THE  
SAME**

7 Frank H. Snipes, M.D. ("Respondent") elects to permanently waive any right to a  
8 hearing and appeal with respect to this Order for Surrender of License; 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 20832 for the practice of  
15 allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

16 3. On May 21, 2010, the Board initiated case number MD-10-0706A after  
17 receiving notification from the Board's Physician Health Program (PHP) Monitor that  
18 Respondent may have been impaired while practicing medicine on May 20, 2010.

19 4. On October 19, 1996, Respondent entered into a Stipulated Rehabilitation  
20 Agreement (SRA) with the Board that required him to participate in PHP. The SRA was  
21 successfully completed and terminated in April 2001.

22 5. On January 12, 2003, Respondent admitted to a relapse in chemical  
23 dependency. On February 20, 2003, Respondent signed an Inactive with Cause Order  
24 which automatically inactivated his medical license while he underwent long term  
25 residential treatment.

1           6.     On September 11, 2003, Respondent entered into a Consent Agreement for  
2 License Reactivation and Probation which required him to participate in PHP. After  
3 successfully completing the terms of the PHP probation, the Consent Agreement was  
4 terminated on September 17, 2008.

5           7.     On May 21, 2010, the Board received information indicating that Respondent  
6 may have been impaired while practicing medicine. Board staff referred him to the  
7 Board's Addiction Medicine Consultant, who recommended that Respondent undergo an  
8 inpatient evaluation.

9           8.     On July 5, 2010, Respondent underwent an evaluation for substance abuse  
10 at a Board approved facility. The PHP contractor reported that the results of the  
11 evaluation determined that Respondent had relapsed. Long term residential treatment  
12 was recommended and Respondent entered into a Practice Restriction on July 30, 2010,  
13 pending the outcome of the Board's investigation.

14           9.     Medical Consultants reviewed medical records of nine patients that were  
15 seen or treated by Respondent between May 20, 2010 and May 21, 2010. One Medical  
16 Consultant stated that for patients TD, CG, EB, JR and DA, "the recurrent concern in this  
17 review is that (Respondent) was responsible for seeing these patients daily and apparently  
18 did not."

19           10.    The standard of care in hospital medicine requires a physician to see and  
20 evaluate every patient under their responsibility daily. The physician is responsible for  
21 coordinating care for patients during their time in the hospital including communicating  
22 both in writing (through the chart) and verbally with the patient, other physicians, ancillary  
23 staff, and sometimes the patient's family regarding the thought processes, test results, and  
24 plan of care as necessary to ensure safe, efficient and quality care.  
25



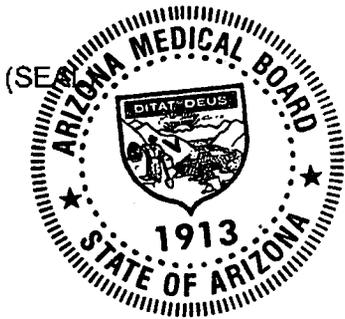
1 an act of unprofessional conduct, A.R.S. § 32-1451(T), or to being impaired by alcohol or  
2 drug abuse. A.R.S. § 32-1452(G).

3  
4 **ORDER**

5 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT Respondent immediately surrender License  
6 Number 20832, issued to Frank H. Snipes, M.D., for the practice of allopathic medicine in  
7 the State of Arizona, and return his wallet card and certificate of licensure to the Board.

8  
9 DATED and effective this 7th day of April, 2011.

10  
11 ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD



17 By: \_\_\_\_\_

18 Lisa S. Wynn  
19 Executive Director

20  
21 **CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER**

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

25 2. Respondent consents to the entry of the order set forth above as a  
compromise of a disputed matter between Respondent and the Board, and does so only  
for the purpose of terminating the disputed matter by agreement. Respondent  
acknowledges it is the Board's position that, if this matter proceeded to formal hearing, the  
Board could establish sufficient evidence to support a conclusion that certain aspects of  
Respondent's conduct constitute unprofessional conduct or render him unable to safely

1 engage in the practice of medicine. Respondent agrees not to contest the validity of the  
2 Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in the Order in present or future  
3 administrative proceedings before the Board (or any other state agency in the State of  
4 Arizona), concerning the denial or issuance of any license or registration required by the  
5 state to engage in the practice or any business or profession.

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

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

12 5. The Order is not effective until approved by the Board and signed by its  
13 Executive Director.

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

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

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

24  
25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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

Frank Snipes MD  
FRANK H. SNIPES, M.D.

Dated: 3/11/11

EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing mailed by  
US Mail this 11th day of April 2011 to:

Frank H. Snipes, M.D.  
ADDRESS OF RECORD

ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed this  
11th day of April 2011 with:

The Arizona Medical Board  
9545 East Doubletree Ranch Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Chris Camp  
Arizona Medical Board Staff