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BEFORE THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

In the Matter of
KATHLEEN M. STROHMEYER, M.D.
Holder of License No. 44670
For the Practice of Allopathic Medicine
In the State of Arizona.

Case No. MD-14-1211A

**ORDER FOR A LETTER OF
REPRIMAND AND PROBATION;
AND CONSENT TO THE SAME**

Kathleen M. Strohmeyer, M.D. ("Respondent"), elects to permanently waive any right to a hearing and appeal with respect to this Order for a Letter of Reprimand and Probation; admits the jurisdiction of the Arizona Medical Board ("Board"); and consents to the entry of this Order by the Board.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.
2. Respondent is the holder of License No. 44670 for the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.
3. The Board initiated case number MD-14-1211A after receiving a self-report of narcotic use and diversion from Respondent on August 25, 2014.
4. In her self-report, Respondent admitted to diverting Fentanyl for approximately one year. Respondent reported that she began working through recovery approximately six months prior to the self-report; however, she admitted to relapsing approximately two months prior to the self-report for approximately two to three weeks.
5. On August 26, 2014, Respondent underwent an initial assessment by the Board's Physician Health Program (PHP) Contractor. The PHP Contractor determined that Respondent was unsafe to practice and additional treatment was recommended.

1 3. Respondent's license is placed on Probation for **five years**¹ and is subject to
2 her continued participation in the Board's Physician Health Program ("PHP") and
3 compliance with the following terms and conditions:

4 4. Respondent shall not consume alcohol or any food or other substance
5 containing poppy seeds or alcohol.

6 5. Respondent shall not take any illegal drugs or mood altering medications.

7 6. Respondent shall attend the PHP's relapse prevention group therapy
8 sessions one time per week for the duration of this Order, unless excused by the relapse
9 prevention group facilitator for good cause. Individual relapse therapy may be substituted
10 for one or more of the group therapy sessions, if PHP pre-approves substitution. The
11 relapse prevention group facilitators or individual relapse prevention therapist shall submit
12 monthly reports to the PHP regarding attendance and progress.

13 7. If requested by the PHP, Respondent shall attend ninety 12-step meetings or
14 other self-help group meetings appropriate for substance abuse and approved by the
15 PHP, for a period of ninety days. Upon completion of the ninety meetings in ninety days,
16 Respondent shall participate in a 12-step recovery program or other self-help program
17 appropriate for substance abuse as recommended by the PHP. Respondent shall attend a
18 minimum of three 12-step or other self-help program meetings per week. Two meetings
19 per month must be Caduceus meetings. Respondent must maintain a log of all self-help
20 meetings.

21 8. Respondent shall promptly obtain a primary care physician and shall submit
22 the name of the physician to the PHP in writing for approval. The approved primary care
23 physician ("PCP") shall be in charge of providing and coordinating Respondent's medical
24

25 ¹ Respondent's PHP participation shall be retroactive to December 18, 2014.

1 care and treatment. Except in an Emergency, Respondent shall obtain medical care and
2 treatment only from the PCP and from health care providers to whom the PCP refers
3 Respondent. Respondent shall promptly provide a copy of this Order to the PCP.
4 Respondent shall also inform all other health care providers who provide medical care or
5 treatment that Respondent is participating in PHP. "Emergency" means a serious accident
6 or sudden illness that, if not treated immediately, may result in a long-term medical
7 problem or loss of life.

8 9. All prescriptions for controlled substances shall be approved by the PHP
9 prior to being filled except in an Emergency. Controlled substances prescribed and filled
10 in an emergency shall be reported to the PHP within 48 hours. Respondent shall take no
11 Medication unless the PCP or other health care provider to whom the PCP refers
12 Respondent prescribes and the PHP approves the Medication. Respondent shall not self-
13 prescribe any Medication. "Medication" means a prescription-only drug, controlled
14 substance, and over-the counter preparation, other than plain aspirin, plain ibuprofen, and
15 plain acetaminophen. Respondent shall submit to random biological fluid, hair and nail
16 testing for five years from the date of this Interim Consent Agreement (as specifically
17 directed below) to ensure compliance with PHP.

18 10. Respondent shall continue the use of Naltrexone, either Vivitrol 380 mg IM
19 every four weeks or oral Naltrexone 50 mg daily. This term may be modified based on
20 continuing review of Respondent's progress and compliance with PHP.

21 11. Respondent shall provide the PHP in writing with one telephone number that
22 shall be used to contact Respondent on a 24 hour per day/seven day per week basis to
23 submit to biological fluid, hair and nail testing to ensure compliance with PHP. For the
24 purposes of this section, telephonic notice shall be deemed given at the time a message to
25 appear is left at the contact telephone number provided by Respondent. Respondent

1 authorizes any person or organization conducting tests on the collected samples to
2 provide testing results to the PHP. Respondent shall comply with all requirements for
3 biological fluid, hair and nail collection. Respondent shall pay for all costs for the testing.

4 12. Respondent shall provide the PHP with written notice of any plans to travel
5 out of state.

6 13. Respondent shall immediately notify the Board and the PHP in writing of any
7 change in office or home addresses and telephone numbers.

8 14. Respondent provides full consent for the PHP to discuss the Respondent's
9 case with the Respondent's PCP or any other health care providers to ensure compliance
10 with PHP.

11 15. The relationship between the Respondent and the PHP is a direct
12 relationship. Respondent shall not use an attorney or other intermediary to communicate
13 with the PHP on participation and compliance issues. Any questions or concerns must be
14 addressed to Board staff.

15 16. Respondent shall be responsible for all costs, including PHP costs
16 associated with participating in PHP at the time service is rendered, or within 30 days of
17 each invoice sent to the Respondent. An initial deposit of two months PHP fees is due
18 upon entering the program. Failure to pay either the initial PHP deposit or monthly fees 60
19 days after invoicing will be reported to the Board by the PHP and may result in disciplinary
20 action up to and including revocation.

21 17. Respondent shall immediately provide a copy of this Order to all employers,
22 hospitals and free standing surgery centers where Respondent currently has or in the
23 future gains employment or privileges. Within 30 days of the date of this Order,
24 Respondent shall provide the PHP with a signed statement of compliance with this
25 notification requirement. Respondent is further required to notify, in writing, all employers,

1 hospitals and free standing surgery centers where Respondent currently has or in the
2 future gains employment or privileges, of a chemical dependency relapse or a violation of
3 this Order.

4 18. In the event Respondent resides or practices as a physician in a state other
5 than Arizona, Respondent shall participate in the rehabilitation program sponsored by that
6 state's medical licensing authority or medical society. Respondent shall cause the
7 monitoring state's program to provide written quarterly reports to the PHP regarding
8 Respondent's attendance, participation, and monitoring. The monitoring state's program
9 and Respondent shall immediately notify the PHP if Respondent: a) is non-compliant with
10 any aspect of the monitoring requirements; b) relapses; c) tests positive for controlled
11 substances; d) has low specific gravity urine drug test(s), missed and/or late urine drug
12 tests, or otherwise rejected urine drug tests; and e) is required to undergo any additional
13 treatment.

14 19. The PHP shall immediately notify the Board if Respondent is non-compliant
15 with any aspect of the monitoring requirements or this Order.

16 20. In the event of chemical dependency relapse by Respondent or
17 Respondent's use of controlled substances or alcohol in violation of this Order,
18 Respondent shall promptly enter into an Interim Consent Agreement for Practice
19 Restriction that requires, among other things, that Respondent not practice medicine until
20 such time as Respondent successfully completes long-term inpatient treatment for
21 chemical dependency designated by the PHP and obtains affirmative approval from the
22 Executive Director, in consultation with the Lead Board Member and Chief Medical
23 Consultant, to return to the practice of medicine. Prior to approving Respondent's request
24 to return to the practice of medicine, Respondent may be required to undergo any
25 combination of physical examination, psychiatric or psychological evaluation. In no respect

1 shall the terms of this paragraph restrict the Board's authority to initiate and take
2 disciplinary action for violation of this Order.

3 21. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, and all rules
4 governing the practice of medicine in the State of Arizona.

5 22. Respondent shall appear in person before the Board and/or its staff and PHP
6 for interviews upon request, with reasonable notice.

7 23. This Order supersedes all previous consent agreements and stipulations
8 between the Board and/or the Executive Director and Respondent and is the final
9 resolution of this matter.

10 24. Prior to the termination of Probation, Respondent must submit a written
11 request to the Board for release from the terms of this Order. Respondent's request for
12 release will be placed on the next pending Board agenda, provided a complete submission
13 is received by Board staff no less than 14 days prior to the Board meeting. Respondent's
14 request for release must provide the Board with evidence establishing that she has
15 successfully satisfied all of the terms and conditions of this Order. The Board has the sole
16 discretion to determine whether all of the terms and conditions of this Order have been
17 met or whether to take any other action that is consistent with its statutory and regulatory
18 authority.

19 DATED AND EFFECTIVE this 5th day of August, 2016.

21 ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

22 By Patricia E. McSorley
23 Patricia E. McSorley
24 Executive Director
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