

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of

**RICHARD M. WILLIAMS, M.D.**

Holder of License No. **26165**  
For the Practice of Medicine  
In the State of Arizona.

**Investigation No. 13242**

**CONSENT AGREEMENT FOR  
ORDER OF PROBATION AND  
LETTER OF REPRIMAND**

IT IS HEREBY AGREED by and between RICHARD M. WILLIAMS, M.D., holder of License No. 26165, and the Arizona Board of Medical Examiners (Board), that the accompanying Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order (Consent Agreement) be entered in the above-entitled matter and be effective as of the date issued. DR. WILLIAMS acknowledges that any violation of this Consent Agreement constitutes unprofessional conduct within A.R.S. § 32-1401(25)(r), and will result in his license being automatically summarily suspended pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1451 (D). Alternatively, DR. WILLIAMS may surrender his Board license if he admits to misconduct and so stipulates, pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1451(S); however, the Board reserves the authority to take disciplinary action and there not accept the surrender of his license.

In the event of DR. WILLIAMS' Board license being revoked or surrendered he agrees that he will not reapply for a license for five (5) years from the date of revocation or surrender. Furthermore, by signing this Consent Agreement, DR. WILLIAMS waives and relinquishes any right to appeal from or challenge this Order by initiating any type of administrative or judicial review of this Order.

Richard M. Williams, M.D. Dated: 6/23/00  
RICHARD M. WILLIAMS, M.D.

1 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

2 1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of  
3 the practice of allopathic medicine in the state of Arizona.

4 2. RICHARD M. WILLIAMS, M.D. is the holder of License No. 26165 for the  
5 practice of allopathic medicine in the state of Arizona.

6 3. DR. WILLIAMS had previously accepted and was subject to the Board's  
7 Stipulated Rehabilitation Agreement (dated April 14, 1998). DR. WILLIAMS subsequently  
8 violated the terms of the Stipulated Rehabilitation Agreement by testing positive for a  
9 controlled substance (Serax), missing group therapy meetings, missing AA meetings, and  
10 not having a local sponsor. In addition, DR. WILLIAMS violated the Stipulated  
11 Rehabilitation Agreement by not notifying his primary care physician that he was taking a  
12 controlled substance, prescribed by another physician, in this case, his dentist.  
13

14 4. This matter was presented to the Board for its final review and approval as  
15 part of its public meeting on June 23, 2000.  
16

17 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

18 1. The Board possesses jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof and over  
19 RICHARD M. WILLIAMS, M.D.

20 2. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1403(A)(5), §32-1401(25)(r), § 32-1451(F) and §  
21 32-1452(A), the Board may enter the following order.  
22

23 **ORDER**

24 Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby agreed that DR. WILLIAMS be issued a  
25 Letter of Reprimand for violating the terms of his Stipulated Rehabilitation Agreement

1 dated April 14, 1998 and that his license to practice medicine in Arizona is placed on  
2 Probation for a period of three (3) years.

3 A. At the conclusion of the 3 years of probation, DR. WILLIAMS' Consent  
4 Agreement for Order of Probation will be terminated if the Board's Diversion Committee  
5 determines that he remained in full compliance with the terms of this Agreement.

6 B. In the event that DR. WILLIAMS violates any term of his probation, his  
7 license will be summarily suspended and he is prohibited from reapplying for a license for  
8 five (5) years.

9 C. DR. WILLIAMS shall promptly enroll and participate in the Monitored  
10 Aftercare Program for the treatment and rehabilitation of physicians who are impaired by  
11 alcohol or drug abuse. The terms and conditions are as follows:  
12

### 13 I. DEFINITIONS

14 "Medication" means "prescription-only drug, controlled substance, and over-the  
15 counter preparation, other than plain aspirin and plain acetaminophen."

16 "Emergency" means "a serious accident or sudden illness that, if not treated  
17 immediately, may result in a long-term medical problem or loss of life."  
18

### 19 II. TERMS

20 1. Participation. DR. WILLIAMS shall promptly enroll in and participate in the  
21 Board's substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation program (the "program") in  
22 accordance with this Consent Agreement

23 2. Group Therapy. Physician shall attend the program's group therapy  
24 sessions one time per week for the duration of this Probation, unless excused by the  
25 group therapist for good cause such as illness or vacation. Physician shall instruct the

1 program group therapist to release to the Board, upon its request, all records relating to  
2 Physician's treatment, and to submit monthly reports to the Board regarding attendance  
3 and progress. The reports shall be submitted on or before the 10th day of each month.

4  
5 **3. 12 Step or Self-Help Group Meetings.** DR. WILLIAMS shall participate in  
6 a 12-step recovery program or other self-help program appropriate for substance abuse  
7 as recommended by the group therapist and approved by the Board. DR. WILLIAMS  
8 shall attend a minimum of three (3) 12-step or other self-help program meetings per week.

9 **4. Board-Approved Primary Care Physician.** DR. WILLIAMS shall promptly  
10 obtain a primary care physician and shall submit the name of the physician to Board staff  
11 in writing for approval.

12 **5.** The Board-approved primary care physician shall be in charge of providing  
13 and coordinating DR. WILLIAMS' medical care and treatment. Except in an *Emergency*,  
14 DR. WILLIAMS shall obtain his medical care and treatment only from the Board-approved  
15 primary care physician and from health care providers to whom the Board-approved  
16 primary care physician refers DR. WILLIAMS from time to time. DR. WILLIAMS shall  
17 request that the Board-approved primary care physician document all referrals in the  
18 medical record.

19  
20 **6.** DR. WILLIAMS shall promptly inform the Board-approved primary care  
21 physician of his rehabilitation efforts and provide a copy of this Consent Agreement to that  
22 physician. DR. WILLIAMS shall also inform all other health care providers who provide  
23 medical care or treatment that he is participating in the Board's rehabilitation program.

24  
25 **7. Medication.** Except in an *Emergency*, DR. WILLIAMS shall take no  
*Medication* unless the *Medication* is prescribed by his Board-approved primary care

1 physician or other health care provider to whom the Board-approved primary care  
2 physician makes referral. DR. WILLIAMS shall not self-prescribe any *Medication*.

3       **8.**     If a controlled substance is prescribed, dispensed, or is administered to DR.  
4 WILLIAMS by any person other than the Board-approved primary care physician, he shall  
5 notify the Board-approved primary care physician in writing within 48 hours. The  
6 notification shall contain all information required for the medication log entry specified in  
7 paragraph 9. DR. WILLIAMS shall request that the notification be made a part of the  
8 medical record. This paragraph does not authorize DR. WILLIAMS to take any  
9 *Medication* other than in accordance with paragraph 7.  
10

11       **9.     Medication Log.** DR. WILLIAMS shall maintain a current legible log of all  
12 *Medication* taken by or administered to him, and shall make the log available to the Board  
13 and its staff upon request. For *Medication* (other than controlled substances) taken on an  
14 on-going basis, DR. WILLIAMS may comply with this paragraph by logging the first and  
15 last administration of the *Medication* and all changes in dosage or frequency. The log, at  
16 a minimum, shall include the following:

- 17       a.     Name and dosage of *Medication* taken or administered;
- 18       b.     Date taken or administered;
- 19       c.     Name of prescribing or administering physician;
- 20       d.     Reason *Medication* was prescribed or administered.

21  
22 This paragraph does not authorize DR. WILLIAMS to take any *Medication* other than in  
23 accordance with paragraph 7.

24       **10.    No Alcohol or Poppy Seeds.** DR. WILLIAMS shall not consume alcohol or  
25 any food or other substance containing poppy seeds.

1           **11. Biological Fluid Collection.** During all times that DR. WILLIAMS is  
2 physically present in the state of Arizona and such other times as board staff may direct,  
3 DR. WILLIAMS shall promptly comply with requests from Board staff, the group therapist,  
4 or the program director to submit to witnessed biological fluid collection. If DR. WILLIAMS  
5 is directed to contact an automated telephone message system to determine when to  
6 provide a specimen, he shall do so within the hours specified by Board staff. For the  
7 purposes of this paragraph, in the case of an in-person request, "promptly comply" means  
8 "immediately". In the case of a telephonic request, "promptly comply" means that, except  
9 for good cause shown, DR. WILLIAMS shall appear and submit to specimen collection not  
10 later than two hours after telephonic notice to appear is given. The Board in its sole  
11 discretion shall determine good cause.  
12

13           **12.** DR. WILLIAMS shall provide Board staff in writing with one telephone  
14 number which shall be used to contact him on a 24 hours per day/seven days per week  
15 basis to submit to biological fluid collection. For the purposes of this section, telephonic  
16 notice shall be deemed given at the time a message to appear is left at the contact  
17 telephone number provided by DR. WILLIAMS. DR. WILLIAMS authorizes any person or  
18 organization conducting tests on the collected samples to provide testing results to the  
19 Board and the program director.  
20

21           **13.** DR. WILLIAMS shall cooperate with collection site personnel regarding  
22 biological fluid collection. Repeated complaints from collection site personnel regarding  
23 DR. Williams' lack of cooperation regarding collection may be grounds for termination  
24 from the program.  
25

**14. Payment for Services.** DR. WILLIAMS shall pay for all costs, including

1 personnel and contractor costs, associated with participating in the Monitored Aftercare  
2 Program (MAP) at time service is rendered, if required, or within 30 days of each invoice  
3 sent to physician.

4       **15. Examination.** DR. WILLIAMS shall submit to mental, physical, and medical  
5 competency examinations at such times and under such conditions as directed by the  
6 Board to assist the Board in monitoring his ability to safely engage in the practice of  
7 medicine and compliance with the terms of this Consent Agreement.

8       **16. Treatment.** DR. WILLIAMS shall submit to all medical, substance abuse,  
9 and mental health care and treatment ordered by the Board, or recommended by the  
10 program director.

11       **17. Obey All Laws.** DR. WILLIAMS shall obey all federal, state and local laws,  
12 and all rules governing the practice of medicine in the state of Arizona.

13       **18. Interviews.** DR. WILLIAMS shall appear in person before the Board and its  
14 staff and committees for interviews upon request, upon reasonable notice.

15       **19. Address and Phone Changes, Notice.** DR. WILLIAMS shall immediately  
16 notify the Board in writing of any change in office or home addresses and telephone  
17 numbers. DR. WILLIAMS shall provide Board staff at least three business days advance  
18 written notice of any plans to be away from office or home for more than five (5)  
19 consecutive days. The notice shall state the reason for the intended absence from home  
20 or office, and shall provide a telephone number, which may be used to contact DR.  
21 WILLIAMS.

22       **20. Relapse, Violation.** See paragraph B of this Order.

23       **21. Notice Requirements.** DR. WILLIAMS shall immediately provide a copy  
24  
25

1 of this Consent Agreement to all hospitals and free standing surgery centers at which DR.  
2 WILLIAMS has any privileges. Within 30 days of signing this Consent Agreement, DR.  
3 WILLIAMS shall provide the Board with a signed statement that he has complied with this  
4 notification requirement.

5 DR. WILLIAMS is further required to notify, in writing, all hospitals and free  
6 standing surgery centers at which he has any privileges of a chemical dependency  
7 relapse, use of drugs or alcohol in violation of this Consent Agreement and/or entry into a  
8 treatment program. DR. WILLIAMS shall provide the Board, within seven days of any of  
9 these events, written confirmation that he has complied with this notification requirement.  
10

11 **22. Public Record.** This Consent Agreement is a public record.

12 **23. Out-of State.** In the event DR. WILLIAMS resides or practices medicine in  
13 a state other than Arizona, he shall participate in the physician rehabilitation program  
14 sponsored by that state's medical licensing authority or medical society. DR. WILLIAMS  
15 shall cause the other state's program to provide written reports to the Board regarding his  
16 attendance, participation, and monitoring. The reports shall be due on or before the 15th  
17 day of March and September of each year, until this requirement is terminated in writing  
18 by the Board.  
19

20 **24.** DR. WILLIAMS shall immediately obtain a treating psychiatrist approved by  
21 Board staff and shall remain in treatment with the psychiatrist until further order of the  
22 Board. Dr. WILLIAMS shall instruct the psychiatrist to release to the Board, upon its  
23 request, all records relating to treatment of Physician, and to submit quarterly written  
24 reports to the Board regarding diagnosis, prognosis, and recommendations for continuing  
25 care and treatment of Physician. The reports shall be submitted on or before the 15th day



1 Executed Copy of the foregoing mailed by certified  
2 mail this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2000 to:

3 Richard M. Williams, M.D.  
4 13832 N. Medinan  
5 Phoenix, Arizona 85022

6 Copy of the foregoing mailed this 25<sup>th</sup>  
7 day of June, 2000 to:

8 Holly Gieszl, Esq.  
9 212 E. Indianola  
10 Phoenix, Arizona 85012  
11 (Attorney for Dr. Williams)

12 Copy of the foregoing hand delivered this  
13 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2000, to:

14 Rick Albrecht  
15 Assistant Attorney General  
16 Arizona Board of Medical Examiners  
17 9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road  
18 Scottsdale, AZ 85258

19 Annalee Diehl  
20 Board Operations  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25