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STATE OF WISCONSIN

BEFORE THE CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

AGAINST:

RICHARD J. RANICKE, D.C.,

**ORDER MODIFYING CONDITIONS ON
LICENSE**

RESPONDENT

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On May 22, 1997, the Wisconsin Chiropractic Examining Board issued a Final Decision and Order suspending Dr. Ranicke's license to practice chiropractic for a period of two years commencing June 22, 1997. The order was stayed for one year.

The order was modified on July 29, 1997. A petition to stay the remainder of the term of suspension was denied on July 23, 1998. A petition to stay the remainder of the term of suspension was granted on December 28, 1999, at which time the period of suspension was extended to December 22, 2000. A petition to modify the order was granted in part on April 30, 1999. A petition to further modify the order to authorize bi-monthly visits rather than weekly visits was denied on January 13, 2000. Another petition to modify the order to authorize bi-monthly rather than weekly visits was denied on April 13, 2000.

By petition dated January 4, 2001, Dr. Ranicke requested the removal of all conditions and limitations on his license. The grounds for the petition were:

1. Dr. Ranicke has demonstrated full compliance with all the terms of the Order since he was permitted to return to the practice of chiropractic more than two years ago.
2. Dr. Nagy, his supervising chiropractor, has reported to the Board each quarter and has repeatedly recommended that the mentoring program be discontinued in Dr. Ranicke's case and has cited Dr. Ranicke's "steady compliance."
3. Dr. Charles Lodl, Ph.D., has reported to the Board each quarter and repeatedly reported full compliance with the conditions and limitations in the order of December 1, 1998.
4. Dr. Ranicke voluntarily agreed to a re-entry plan with which he has completely and fully complied for the past two years. This plan had the concurrence of the counsel for the Division of Enforcement, and has now been fully implemented.
5. Dr. Ranicke has demonstrated remorse for the actions leading to the limitations on his license and demonstrated his complete commitment to his rehabilitation.

The petition included letters from Dr. Lodl and Dr. Nagy; Dr. Nagy recommended that his meetings with Dr. Ranicke be discontinued, and Dr. Lodl recommended "that the requirement that Dr. Ranicke submit surveillance forms and patient surveys be discontinued". On January 18, 2001, the Chiropractic Examining Board considered the petition and requested further information. On January 24, 2001, Dr. Ranicke provided

1. his rules of probation

2. an addendum to his clinic policy
3. acknowledgements of his clinic policy signed by his office staff, and
4. a sexual harassment manual used by Dr. Ranicke in developing his clinic policy.

The board again considered Dr. Ranicke's petition at its meeting on February 8, 2001. The board agreed to relieve Dr. Ranicke of the financial and time burden of meeting with Doctors Nagy and Lodl, and of having them submit reports to the board. The board did not agree to remove all limitations and conditions from Dr. Ranicke's license. Although Dr. Ranicke's clinic policy was not an element of the original order, it is his adherence to and enforcement of this policy, as well as his continued monitoring by his probation agent, that allows the board to remove the meeting and reporting requirements. Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that the requirement that Dr. Ranicke engage in psychotherapy is hereby terminated, along with all attendant requirements such as the requirement that Dr. Ranicke's psychotherapist submit reports to the board.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the requirement that Dr. Ranicke practice only under the supervision of a chiropractor approved by the board is hereby terminated, along with all attendant requirements such as the requirement that Dr. Ranicke's supervisor submit reports to the board.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED

(1) that Dr. Ranicke continue to enforce the clinic policy as presented to the Chiropractic Examining Board on January 18th and February 8th, 2001;

(2) that Dr. Ranicke shall report to the Chiropractic Examining Board (a) any change in his clinic policy, or (b) any change in the terms of his probation, in writing within ten working days of the change.

(3) that Dr. Ranicke shall transmit a letter to the Chiropractic Examining Board annually from the date of this order reporting his continued compliance with this order, and offering to appear before the board if requested.

These requirements shall continue until Dr. Ranicke is released from probation, or until the board modifies this limitation, whichever occurs first.

If the board receives information that Dr. Ranicke has failed to comply with this order, the board, after providing Dr. Ranicke an opportunity to respond, may modify the order to re-impose the original conditions. If information indicates that Dr. Ranicke has wilfully disobeyed this order, the board, after providing Dr. Ranicke an opportunity to respond, may impose new conditions or summarily suspend Dr. Ranicke's license.

Dated March 8, 2001.

WISCONSIN CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINING BOARD, by

Dale Strama

A Member of the Board