

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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FILE COPY

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
STEPHEN THORNGATE, M.D.,	:	90 MED 317
RESPONDENT.	:	

The parties to this action for the purposes of Wis. Stats. sec. 227.53 are:

Dr. Stephen Thorngate
205 Linden Street
Park Falls, Wisconsin 54552

Wisconsin Medical Examining Board
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Department of Regulation and Licensing
Division of Enforcement
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation, incorporated by reference into this Order, as the final decision of this matter, subject to the approval of the Medical Examining Board. The Board has reviewed the Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Stephen Thorngate, M.D. (D.O.B. 07/15/26) is and was at all times relevant to the facts set forth herein registered to practice medicine and surgery in the State of Wisconsin (license #25876). Throughout his career, Dr. Thorngate has practiced as a general surgeon.

2. Dr. Thorngate's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board is 205 Linden Street, Park Falls, Wisconsin 54552.

3. The Department of Regulation and Licensing has opened investigative file #90 MED 317 concerning Dr. Thorngate's practice of medicine and surgery. This file was opened based on a report from the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance of a settled malpractice suit against Dr. Thorngate concerning surgery performed by Dr. Thorngate on patient SJ as described below.

4. On January 2, 1986, Dr. Thorngate performed a carpal tunnel release procedure on patient SJ's left hand to decompress the median nerve. Subsequent to the surgery, the patient suffered a "dead" sensation in the

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little finger of her left hand, paraesthesia of both the little and ring fingers of the left hand, intolerance of the hand to hot and cold, and weakness in the hand. Conduction studies performed on SJ's left hand post surgery showed increased function in the patient's median nerve, and decreased function in her ulnar nerve. Suit was brought against Dr. Thorngate, in which it was alleged that Dr. Thorngate cut the patient's left ulnar nerve while making his incision. SJ eventually required decompression surgery of the left ulnar nerve, to treat the nerve damage she allegedly suffered as a result of the procedure Dr. Thorngate had performed.

5. Since January 2, 1986, Dr. Thorngate has voluntarily restricted himself from performing any further carpal tunnel release surgical procedures.

6. In resolution of these proceedings, Dr. Thorngate consents to issuance of the following Conclusions of Law and Order:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board has jurisdiction over this matter, pursuant to sec. 448.02(3), Wis. Stats.

2. The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation, pursuant to Secs. 227.44(5) and 448.02, Wis. Stats.

3. Respondent's conduct, as set out above subjects respondent to discipline pursuant to sec. 448.02(3)(b), Wis. Stats., and sec. MED 10.02(2)(h), Wis. Adm. Code.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that

1. Dr. Thorngate's license to practice medicine and surgery in Wisconsin is hereby LIMITED, such that Dr. Thorngate may not perform any surgical procedures involving a patient's tendons, nerves, bones and joints without prior approval of the Medical Examining Board. This limitation does not include laceration repair, which is permitted under the terms of this Order.

2. Dr. Thorngate may petition for removal of this restriction on his license to practice medicine and surgery upon submission of proof that he has completed continuing medical education or other training acceptable to the Medical Examining Board in areas specified by the Board.

To be acceptable, any retraining taken pursuant to this Order shall be pre-approved by a member or a designated agent of the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board. Acceptable documentation of completion of retraining shall include certification from the sponsoring organization (if applicable), as well as an affidavit executed by Dr. Thorngate verifying that he successfully completed the coursework and/or practicum in its entirety.

The Medical Examining Board may, in its discretion, require Dr. Thorngate to appear before the Board in conjunction with its consideration of a petition under this paragraph. Denial in whole or part of a petition under this paragraph shall not constitute denial of a license and shall not give rise to a contested case within the meaning of Wis. Stats. secs. 227.01(3) and 227.42.

3. This Order shall become effective upon the date of its signing.

MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

By: James L. Esswein, M.D.
~~Clark Olson, M.D.~~ James Esswein, M.D.
~~Secretary~~ Chairman
Medical Examining Board

3/24/94
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF	:	
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	STIPULATION
STEPHEN THORNGATE, M.D.,	:	90 MED 317
RESPONDENT	:	

It is hereby stipulated between Stephen Thorngate, M.D., personally on his own behalf and Steven M. Gloe, Attorney for the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement, as follows that:

1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation of Dr. Thorngate's licensure by the Division of Enforcement. Dr. Thorngate consents to the resolution of this investigation by stipulation and without the issuance of a formal complaint.

2. Dr. Thorngate understands that by the signing of this Stipulation he voluntarily and knowingly waives his rights, including: the right to a hearing on the allegations against him, at which time the state has the burden of proving those allegations by a preponderance of the evidence; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to call witnesses on his behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena; the right to testify himself; the right to file objections to any proposed decision and to present briefs or oral arguments to the officials who are to render the final decision; the right to petition for rehearing; and all other applicable rights afforded to him under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, and the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

3. Dr. Thorngate is aware of his right to seek legal representation and has obtained legal advice prior to signing this Stipulation.

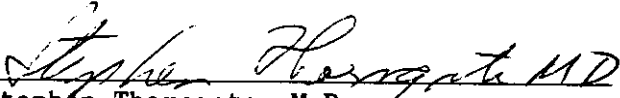
4. Dr. Thorngate agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Medical Examining Board. The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Respondent waives all rights to any appeal of the Board's order, if adopted in the form as attached.

5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall be returned to the Division of Enforcement for further proceedings. In the event that this Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

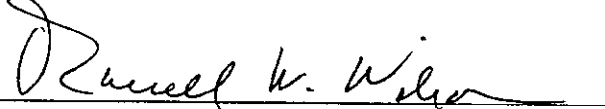
6. The parties to this stipulation agree that the attorney for the Division of Enforcement and the member of the Medical Examining Board assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Medical Examining Board for the purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and

answering questions that the members of the Board may have in connection with their deliberations on the stipulation.

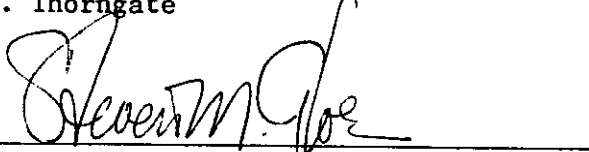
7. The Division of Enforcement joins Dr. Thorngate in recommending the Medical Examining Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.


Stephen Thorngate, M.D.

3-3-94
Date


Russell Wilson, Attorney for
Dr. Thorngate

3/4/94
Date


Steven M. Gloe, Attorney
Division of Enforcement

3.8.94
Date

mkj
5268

NOTICE OF APPEAL INFORMATION

Notice Of Rights For Rehearing Or Judicial Review, The Times Allowed For Each, And The Identification Of The Party To Be Named As Respondent.

Serve Petition for Rehearing or Judicial Review on:

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD.

1400 East Washington Avenue

P.O. Box 8935

Madison, WI 53708.

The Date of Mailing this Decision is:

MARCH 28, 1994

1. REHEARING

Any person aggrieved by this order may file a written petition for rehearing within 20 days after service of this order, as provided in sec. 227.49 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*, a copy of which is reprinted on side two of this sheet. The 20 day period commences the day of personal service or mailing of this decision. (The date of mailing this decision is shown above.)

A petition for rehearing should name as respondent and be filed with the party identified in the box above.

A petition for rehearing is not a prerequisite for appeal or review.

2. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

Any person aggrieved by this decision may petition for judicial review as specified in sec. 227.53, *Wisconsin Statutes* a copy of which is reprinted on side two of this sheet. By law, a petition for review must be filed in circuit court and should name as the respondent the party listed in the box above. A copy of the petition for judicial review should be served upon the party listed in the box above.

A petition must be filed within 30 days after service of this decision if there is no petition for rehearing, or within 30 days after service of the order finally disposing of a petition for rehearing, or within 30 days after the final disposition by operation of law of any petition for rehearing.

The 30-day period for serving and filing a petition commences on the day after personal service or mailing of the decision by the agency, or the day after the final disposition by operation of the law of any petition for rehearing. (The date of mailing this decision is shown above.)

SECTIONS 227.49 AND 227.53, OF THE WISCONSIN STATUTES

227.49 Petitions for rehearing in contested cases. (1) A petition for rehearing shall not be a prerequisite for appeal or review. Any person aggrieved by a final order may, within 20 days after service of the order, file a written petition for rehearing which shall specify in detail the grounds for the relief sought and supporting authorities. An agency may order a rehearing on its own motion within 20 days after service of a final order. This subsection does not apply to s. 17.025 (3) (e). No agency is required to conduct more than one rehearing based on a petition for rehearing filed under this subsection in any contested case.

(2) The filing of a petition for rehearing shall not suspend or delay the effective date of the order, and the order shall take effect on the date fixed by the agency and shall continue in effect unless the petition is granted or until the order is superseded, modified, or set aside as provided by law.

(3) Rehearing will be granted only on the basis of:

(a) Some material error of law

(b) Some material error of fact.

(c) The discovery of new evidence sufficiently strong to reverse or modify the order, and which could not have been previously discovered by due diligence.

(4) Copies of petitions for rehearing shall be served on all parties of record. Parties may file replies to the petition.

(5) The agency may order a rehearing or enter an order with reference to the petition without a hearing, and shall dispose of the petition within 30 days after it is filed. If the agency does not enter an order disposing of the petition within the 30-day period, the petition shall be deemed to have been denied as of the expiration of the 30-day period.

(6) Upon granting a rehearing, the agency shall set the matter for further proceedings as soon as practicable. Proceedings upon rehearing shall conform as nearly may be to the proceedings in an original hearing except as the agency may otherwise direct. If in the agency's judgment, after such rehearing it appears that the original decision, order or determination is in any respect unlawful or unreasonable, the agency may reverse, change, modify or suspend the same accordingly. Any decision, order or determination made after such rehearing reversing, changing, modifying or suspending the original determination shall have the same force and effect as an original decision, order or determination.

227.53 Parties and proceedings for review. (1) Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, any person aggrieved by a decision specified in s. 227.52 shall be entitled to judicial review thereof as provided in this chapter.

(a) 1. Proceedings for review shall be instituted by serving a petition therefor personally or by certified mail upon the agency or one of its officials, and filing the petition in the office of the clerk of the circuit court for the county where the judicial review proceedings are to be held. If the agency whose decision is sought to be reviewed is the tax appeals commission, the banking review board, the consumer credit review board, the credit union review board, the savings and loan review board or the savings bank review board, the petition shall be served upon both the agency whose decision is sought to be reviewed and the corresponding named respondent, as specified under par. (b) 1 to 5.

2. Unless a rehearing is requested under s. 227.49, petitions for review under this paragraph shall be served and filed within 30 days after the service of the decision of the agency upon all parties under s. 227.48. If a rehearing is requested under s. 227.49, any party desiring judicial review shall serve and file a petition for review within 30 days after service of the order finally disposing of the application for rehearing, or within 30 days after the final disposition by operation of law of any such application for rehearing. The 30-day period for serving and filing a petition under this paragraph commences on the day after personal service or mailing of the decision by the agency.

3. If the petitioner is a resident, the proceedings shall be held in the circuit court for the county where the petitioner resides, except that if the petitioner is an agency, the proceedings shall be in the circuit court for the county where the respondent resides and except as provided in ss. 77.59 (6) (b), 182.70 (6) and 182.71 (5) (g). The proceedings shall be in the circuit court for Dane county if the petitioner is a nonresident. If all parties stipulate and the court to which the parties desire to transfer the proceedings agrees, the proceedings may be held in the county designated by the parties. If 2 or more petitions for review of the same decision are filed in different counties, the circuit judge for the county in which a petition for review of the decision was first filed shall determine the venue for judicial review of the decision, and shall order transfer or consolidation where appropriate.

(b) The petition shall state the nature of the petitioner's interest, the facts showing that petitioner is a person aggrieved by the decision, and the grounds specified in s. 227.57 upon which petitioner contends that the decision should be reversed or modified. The petition may be amended, by leave of court, though the time for serving the same has expired. The petition shall be entitled in the name of the person serving it as petitioner and the name of the agency whose decision is sought to be reviewed as respondent, except that in petitions for review of decisions of the following agencies, the latter agency specified shall be the named respondent:

1. The tax appeals commission, the department of revenue.

2. The banking review board or the consumer credit review board, the commissioner of banking.

3. The credit union review board, the commissioner of credit unions.

4. The savings and loan review board, the commissioner of savings and loan, except if the petitioner is the commissioner of savings and loan, the prevailing parties before the savings and loan review board shall be the named respondents.

5. The savings bank review board, the commissioner of savings and loan, except if the petitioner is the commissioner of savings and loan, the prevailing parties before the savings bank review board shall be the named respondents.

(c) A copy of the petition shall be served personally or by certified mail or, when service is timely admitted in writing, by first class mail, not later than 30 days after the institution of the proceeding, upon each party who appeared before the agency in the proceeding in which the decision sought to be reviewed was made or upon the party's attorney of record. A court may not dismiss the proceeding for review solely because of a failure to serve a copy of the petition upon a party or the party's attorney of record unless the petitioner fails to serve a person listed as a party for purposes of review in the agency's decision under s. 227.47 or the person's attorney of record.

(d) The agency (except in the case of the tax appeals commission and the banking review board, the consumer credit review board, the credit union review board, the savings and loan review board and the savings bank review board) and all parties to the proceeding before it, shall have the right to participate in the proceedings for review. The court may permit other interested persons to intervene. Any person petitioning the court to intervene shall serve a copy of the petition on each party who appeared before the agency and any additional parties to the judicial review at least 5 days prior to the date set for hearing on the petition.

(2) Every person served with the petition for review as provided in this section and who desires to participate in the proceedings for review thereby instituted shall serve upon the petitioner, within 20 days after service of the petition upon such person, a notice of appearance clearly stating the person's position with reference to each material allegation in the petition and to the affirmance, vacation or modification of the order or decision under review. Such notice, other than by the named respondent, shall also be served on the named respondent and the attorney general, and shall be filed, together with proof of required service thereof, with the clerk of the reviewing court within 10 days after such service. Service of all subsequent papers or notices in such proceeding need be made only upon the petitioner and such other persons as have served and filed the notice as provided in this subsection or have been permitted to intervene in said proceeding, as parties thereto, by order of the reviewing court.