

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY :
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :
 : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
WILLIAM B. HOBBS, M.D., : Case Number LS0410211MED
RESPONDENT. :

[Division of Enforcement Case No. 01 MED 320]

William B. Hobbins, M.D.
5510 Medical Circle
Madison, WI 53719

Division of Enforcement
Department of Regulation and Licensing
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Wisconsin Medical Examining Board
Department of Regulation and Licensing
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

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

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. William B. Hobbins, M.D., Respondent, date of birth August 16, 1924, is licensed and currently registered by the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board to practice medicine and surgery in the state of Wisconsin pursuant to certificate number 10149, which was first granted January 15, 1948.
2. Respondent's last address reported to the Department of Regulation and Licensing is 5510 Medical Circle Madison, WI 53719.
3. Respondent's practice specialty listed with the Department is general surgery.
4. At the time of the events set out below, Respondent was, and currently is, practicing as a physician at the Holistic Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin.
5. Ms. A, a 32-year-old woman, saw Respondent on August 6, 2001 with concerns relating to anemia and infertility problems. During that appointment:
 - a. Respondent performed a thorough physical examination of Ms. A, including a pelvic and rectal examination.
 - b. Respondent's nurse, who has been in his employment for 21 years, was present in the room during the examination.
 - c. Respondent made comments to Ms. A regarding sexuality. The comments were not seductive, but were very graphic. They caused Ms. A extreme discomfort and were not appropriate in those circumstances. Respondent did not recognize that his comments had caused discomfort to Ms. A.
6. On January 7, 2005, a Madison psychiatrist acceptable to the Division of Enforcement reported the results of

his evaluation of Respondent. It is the professional opinion of the psychiatrist that:

- a. Respondent does not suffer from any psychiatric illness.
- b. Respondent has limited insight into how his comments had bothered the patient.
- c. Respondent would benefit from an individualized education program on physician-patient boundaries provided by a psychologist experienced in working with individuals who have had problems with boundary violations.

PAST DISCIPLINE

7. On October 22, 1997, the Board found that Respondent had engaged in conduct which tended to constitute a danger to patients by having failed to obtain pulmonary oncology consultations regarding radiographic findings. The Board limited Respondent's license by requiring him to obtain 20 hours of continuing education in the area of the treatment of breast cancer, within 18 months.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.02(3) and authority to enter into this stipulated resolution of this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

2. Respondent, by making the comments to Ms. A, engaged in conduct which subjects him to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.02(3).

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. William B. Hobbins, M.D., is hereby REPRIMANDED for the above conduct.

2. Respondent's license is hereby LIMITED, as follows:

a. Respondent shall, within 90 days of the date of this Order, take and complete an individualized educational program on physician-patient boundaries from Madison psychologist Dr. Jack Bailey, or another professional who shall first be approved by the Board or its designee and who is experienced in working with individuals who have had problems with boundary violations.

b. The educational program shall be designed by its provider to address the issues raised by this case. Prior to Respondent beginning the program, Dr. Bailey or other program provider shall provide information about the proposed program to the Board or its designee so a decision can be made whether to approve the program as appropriate. The information provided shall include:

- 1) The number and length of meetings the provider will have with Respondent.
- 2) Identification of any readings to be assigned to Respondent.
- 3) The goals of the program.
- 4) Any other information which will assist in determining the appropriateness of the proposed program.

c. If Respondent is unable to complete the educational program required by the preceding paragraph within 90 days because of illness or other circumstances determined to be acceptable by the Board or its designee, Respondent shall be granted a reasonable extension of time to complete the program.

d. Within 30 days of completion of the approved program, the program provider shall provide written notice to the Department Monitor of:

- 1) When Respondent completed the program.
- 2) Whether the goals of the program have been accomplished.

e. Upon receipt of the notice that Respondent completed the program within the required time period and that the goals of the program were accomplished, the Board or its designee shall terminate this limitation and Respondent's license will be unlimited.

3. Respondent shall, within 60 days of the date of this Order, pay \$500 to the Department of Regulation and

Licensing, which represents most of the costs of this proceeding.

4. Requests for approval of educational programs, notification of completion of educational programs and payment of costs shall be mailed, faxed or delivered to:

Department Monitor
Department of Regulation and Licensing
Division of Enforcement
1400 East Washington Ave.
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935
Fax: (608) 266-2264

5. Violation of any term or condition of this Order may constitute grounds for revocation of Respondent's license to practice medicine and surgery in Wisconsin. Should the Board determine that there is probable cause to believe that Respondent has violated the terms of this Order, the Board may order that Respondent's license be summarily suspended pending investigation of and hearing on the alleged violation.

Wisconsin Medical Examining Board

By: A.L. Franger, M.D.
A Member of the Board

June 15, 2005
Date