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STATE OF WISCONSIN BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

ROBIN R. FERRON, M.D., RESPONDENT. LS0602152MED

05 MED 119

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

Robin R. Ferron MD 2715 Chadwick Ct Brookfield, WI 53045

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

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 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. Respondent Robin Ruth Ferron (dob 12/22/56) is and was at all times relevant to the facts set forth herein a physician and surgeon licensed in the State of Wisconsin pursuant to license #25927, first granted on 7/1/84. Respondent is an anesthesiologist certified by the American Board of Anesthesiology, specializing in pain medicine.
- 2. During and before 1994 Respondent was diagnosed with and treated for alcohol and opioid dependency affecting her practice; Respondent was also later diagnosed with a mental health condition related to the facts set forth in par.3, below, which affected her ability to manage her medical practice.
- 3. On 3/14/03, respondent was convicted in US District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin of bank fraud, contrary to 18 USC § 1344, in that while engaged in the practice of medicine as a solo practitioner, she sold a piece of medical equipment from her medical office, which had been pledged to a bank as collateral for a loan obtained to finance her practice. Respondent was sentenced to six months imprisonment, followed by five years of supervised release (the first 180 days of which were to be served in home confinement), plus a fine and costs of \$10,100 and to pay full restitution of \$23,349. This matter resulted in disciplinary action taken by the Board in file 03 Med 185, which suspended her license and then stayed the suspension on a quarterly basis, on conditions that related to her substance abuse history, mental health condition, and status as a solo practitioner. She was released from confinement in November, 2003. Since that time, she has been monitored by her federal parole agent, and has continued in treatment with her addictionologist including twice weekly urine screens, and with 12 step meetings.
- 4. On December 15, 2004, the three month stay of the suspension of the license of Respondent expired and was not renewed, and the underlying suspension took effect. The Board found that Respondent had failed to abide by the call-in protocol for her urine screens, failed to attend therapy at the frequency required, failed to obtain pre-approval for her work setting, failed to arrange for billing, bookkeeping and accounting services if she engaged in solo practice, and failed to pay the costs of the investigation and prosecution of her disciplinary case, which was assessed by the Board. Respondent's license has

at all times been suspended since that date. Additionally, her registration was not renewed when the biennial registration period for physicians expired on 10/31/05; she has not been currently registered to practice medicine or surgery since 11/1/05.

- 5. On December 7, 2005, Respondent was arrested by local police officers at her home office. At that time, she was actively engaged in the practice of medicine, in that she was seeing patients (who were present when police arrived) and purporting to clinically evaluate them, and to issue prescription orders for controlled substances and other medications, which had been pre-signed in blank by another physician. Misdemeanor charges have been filed in the Circuit Court for Waukesha County as a result of this incident, and if she is convicted, the Board will not take further action solely on the basis of such conviction.
- 6. On December 16, 2005, Respondent was observed by police officers in a department store in Brookfield, Wisconsin, to give a man two prescriptions for controlled substances in exchange for \$150. The prescription was purportedly signed by the same physician described in par. 5, above, but filled out by Respondent. If she is convicted of any offense growing out of this incident, the Board will not take further action solely on the basis of such conviction.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- A. The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.02(3), and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).
- B. The conduct described in ¶5 and 6, above, violated Wis. Stat. § 448.07(1), and Wis. Adm. Code § Med 10.02(2)(a), (b), and (p). Such conduct constitutes unprofessional conduct within the meaning of the Code and statutes.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the attached Stipulation is accepted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the SURRENDER of the license to practice medicine and surgery of Robin R. Ferron M.D., is ACCEPTED. Respondent shall not practice medicine or surgery in Wisconsin without being licensed and registered to do so.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that Respondent shall comply with Wis. Adm. Code ch. Med 21, regarding any patient health care records she may have.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that Respondent may petition the Board for reinstatement of a license which shall be granted but limited as set forth in the Board's order of September 15, 2004, and further limited to her participation in a residency program approved by the American Council on Graduate Medical Education, or a fellowship program conducted by an institution which has such an approved residency program. Before such reinstatement is granted, Respondent shall have taken and satisfactorily completed a program in medical ethics and professionalism which has been pre-approved by the Board or its designee; she shall also have been accepted by a residency or fellowship program of at least 12 months in length, which shall agree to share all program evaluations with the Board, as they are performed. Following satisfactory completion of a residency or fellowship program, and upon recommendation of her supervisor, the Board shall reinstate Respondent's license with the limitations set forth in the Board's order of September 15, 2004, which may then be further modified as set forth therein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that respondent shall pay the COSTS of investigating and prosecuting this matter of \$900, concurrent with any petition for reinstatement.

Dated this February 15, 2006.

WISCONSIN MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

by: Bhupinder Saini a member of the Board