

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF :
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :
WILLIAM C. STEVENSON, M.D., :
RESPONDENT. :

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
LS0612206MED

Division of Enforcement Case Nos. 04 MED 033 and 06 MED 013

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

William C. Stevenson, M.D.
13220 N. Windsor Ct.
Mequon, WI 53097-2015

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

Medical Examining Board
Department of Regulation & 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 the attached Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. William C. Stevenson, M.D., (DOB 10/27/1955) is duly licensed as a physician in the State of Wisconsin (license #20-40381). This license was first granted on August 28, 1998. Respondent is also licensed in Ohio.
2. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board is 13220 N. Windsor Court, Mequon, Wisconsin, 53097-2015. However, Respondent is currently residing and practicing medicine in Ohio.

3. In or about June, 2003, Respondent began using methylphenidate, a Schedule II controlled substance, which he procured from a family member. From that time until May 23, 2005, he obtained methylphenidate for his own use on numerous occasions, first by taking a family member's methylphenidate, then by writing prescriptions for his own use in the names of family members.

4. On May 23, 2005, Respondent attempted to board an airline flight with methylphenidate, from a prescription issued in the name of a family member, in his luggage. Airport security seized the methylphenidate.

5. On May 26, 2005, Respondent entered inpatient treatment for chemical dependence. He was discharged on June 21, 2005.

6. On or about December 14, 2005, the State Medical Board of Ohio disciplined Respondent based on his abuse of methylphenidate. Respondent is required to participate in drug testing and therapy in order to maintain his Ohio license.

7. On or about January 13, 2006, Respondent self-reported both his abuse of methylphenidate and his Ohio discipline to the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board.

04 MED 033

8. On or about June 10, 2003, an incident occurred at an Aurora Hospital in Milwaukee which raised concerns regarding Respondent's knowledge of laparoscopic procedures.

9. On or about September 2, 2003, Respondent performed a lengthy and complicated laparoscopic cholecystectomy. The procedure had to be converted to an open cholecystectomy after hemorrhaging occurred. The surgical procedure, which would normally be expected to take 90 minutes, took over five hours.

10. The anesthesiologist on the case stated that approximately three hours into the surgery, Respondent severed the right hepatic artery. Respondent states that the hepatic artery was not injured, but a clip was dislodged from the cystic artery.

11. After unsuccessful attempts to control the bleeding laparoscopically, the patient's abdomen was opened and the artery was clamped. The anesthesiologist stated that the patient had lost 1000 ccs of blood and he was concerned that they would lose the patient. He therefore called another surgeon and asked him to assist. Respondent states that the patient did not lose that much blood, and the patient was stable at all times. Respondent stated that he left the room to get his surgical telescopes, and the anesthesiologist agreed that he could leave if another surgeon were present in case the patient's condition suddenly changed.

12. According to the other surgeon, he responded to the call from the anesthesiologist and immediately went to the operating room. He asked Respondent if he could scrub in and Respondent agreed. Then Respondent left the room, with no explanation. The surgeon and the anesthesiologist discussed how to proceed. The surgeon then stitched the injury to the artery and completed the cholecystectomy. He was placing the drainage catheter when Respondent returned and took over. Respondent states that he never gave the other surgeon permission to scrub in.

13. Subsequent to this incident, Respondent agreed with Aurora Sinai Samaritan Medical Center in Milwaukee that he would not perform any additional laparoscopic surgery at Aurora hospitals until he had completed a course on laparoscopic surgery. However, without seeking any additional training in laparoscopic surgery, he performed a laparoscopic cholecystectomy at an Aurora hospital on September 18, 2003, and the procedure resulted in complications.

14. Respondent's medical privileges at Aurora were suspended due to these incidents.

15. Respondent underwent an evaluation of his surgical and laparoscopic skills from July 15, 2004 through August

15, 2004. His evaluator concluded that he had demonstrated adequate knowledge, skill and judgment capacity to justify his being qualified for privileges to practice the spectrum of general abdominal surgery as well as basic and intermediate laparoscopic surgical cases.

16. Respondent states that he was abusing the drug methylphenidate during the questionable surgeries, which directly contributed to the difficulties he experienced with those surgeries.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.02, and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation and Order, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

2. The conduct described in paragraphs 3-7 above constitutes a violation of Wisconsin Administrative Code § MED 10.02(2)(p), and subjects Respondent to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. §448.02.

3. The conduct described in paragraph 16 above constitutes negligence and a violation of Wis. Admin. Code § MED 10.02(2)(h), and subjects Respondent to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. §448.02.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that the attached stipulation is accepted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, effective the date of this Order, that Respondent's license to practice as a physician in the State of Wisconsin is SUSPENDED for an indefinite period as described in Section A below. That suspension MAY BE STAYED as described in Section B below. In the event that the suspension is stayed, Respondent's license will be LIMITED as described in Section C below.

SUSPENSION

- A.1. The license of William C. Stevenson, M.D. to practice as a physician in the State of Wisconsin is SUSPENDED for an indefinite period.
- A.2. Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine and surgery in any capacity unless his suspension is stayed and he is in full compliance with this Order. Respondent shall mail or physically deliver all indicia of registration to the Department Monitor within 14 days of the effective date of this order. The Department shall then issue limited registration credentials to Respondent.
- A.3. Upon a showing by Respondent of continuous, successful compliance for a period of at least five (5) years of active practice under the terms of this Order, the Board may grant a petition by the Respondent under paragraph D.5. for return of full licensure.
- A.4. The Board may, on its own motion or at the request of the Department Monitor, grant full licensure at any time.

STAY OF SUSPENSION

- B.1. The suspension shall be stayed upon Respondent petitioning the Board and providing proof, which is determined by the Board or its designee to be sufficient, that Respondent's treater feels that he can safely practice, and that Respondent is in compliance with the provisions of Sections C and D of this Order.
- B.2. The Board or its designee may, without hearing, remove the stay upon receipt of information that Respondent is in substantial or repeated violation of any provision of Sections C or D of this Order. Repeated violation is defined as the multiple violation of the same provision or violation of more than one provision. The Board may, in conjunction with any removal of any stay, prohibit the Respondent for a specified period of time from seeking a reinstatement of the stay under paragraph B.4.
- B.3. This suspension becomes reinstated immediately upon notice of the removal of the stay being provided to Respondent either by:
 - (a) Mailing to Respondent's last-known address provided to the Department of Regulation and Licensing pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.11; or
 - (b) Actual notice to Respondent or Respondent's attorney.

- B.4. The Board or its designee may reinstate the stay, if provided with sufficient information that Respondent is in compliance with the Order and that it is appropriate for the stay to be reinstated. Whether to reinstate the stay shall be wholly in the discretion of the Board or its designee.
- B.5. If Respondent requests a hearing on the removal of the stay, a hearing shall be held using the procedures set forth in Wis. Admin. Code ch. RL 2. The hearing shall be held in a timely manner with the evidentiary portion of the hearing being completed within 60 days of receipt of Respondent's request, unless waived by Respondent. Requesting a hearing does not stay the suspension during the pendency of the hearing process.

CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Treatment Required

- C.1. Respondent shall enter into, and shall continue, in a drug and alcohol treatment program at a treatment facility (Treater) acceptable to the Board or its designee. Professional Recovery Network and its affiliated programs are acceptable treatment facilities. Respondent shall participate in, cooperate with, and follow all treatment recommended by Treater.
- C.2. Respondent shall immediately provide Treater with a copy of this Final Decision and Order and all other subsequent orders.
- C.3. Treater shall be responsible for coordinating Respondent's rehabilitation, drug monitoring and treatment program as required under the terms of this Order, and shall immediately report any relapse, violation of any of the terms and conditions of this Order, and any suspected unprofessional conduct, to the Department Monitor (See D.1., below). If Treater is unable or unwilling to serve as Treater, Respondent shall immediately seek approval of a successor Treater by the Board or its designee.
- C.4. The rehabilitation program shall include individual and/or group therapy sessions at a frequency to be determined by Treater. Therapy may end only upon a determination by the Board or its designee after receiving a petition for modification as required by D.5., below.
- C.5. Treater shall submit formal written reports to the Department Monitor on a quarterly basis, as directed by the Department Monitor. These reports shall assess Respondent's progress in the drug and alcohol treatment program. Treater shall report immediately to the Department Monitor any violation or suspected violation of this Order.

Releases

- C.6. Respondent shall provide and keep on file with Treater, all treatment facilities and personnel, laboratories and collections sites current releases complying with state and federal laws. The releases shall allow the Board, its designee, and any employee of the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement to: (a) obtain all urine, blood and hair specimen screen results and patient health care and treatment records and reports, and (b) discuss the progress of Respondent's treatment and rehabilitation. Copies of these releases shall immediately be filed with the Department Monitor.

AA/NA Meetings

- C.7. Respondent shall attend Narcotics Anonymous and/or Alcoholic Anonymous meetings or an equivalent program for recovering professionals, at the frequency recommended by Treater. Attendance of Respondent at such meetings shall be verified and reported monthly to Treater and the Department Monitor.

Sobriety

- C.8. Respondent shall abstain from all personal use of alcohol.
- C.9. Respondent shall abstain from all personal use of controlled substances as defined in Wis. Stat. § 961.01(4), except when prescribed, dispensed or administered by a practitioner for a legitimate medical condition. Respondent shall disclose Respondent's drug and alcohol history and the existence and nature of this Order to the practitioner prior to the practitioner ordering the controlled substance. Respondent shall at the time the controlled substance is ordered immediately sign a release in compliance with state and federal laws authorizing the practitioner to discuss Respondent's treatment with, and provide copies of treatment records to, Treater and the Board or its designee.
- C.10. Respondent shall abstain from all use of over-the-counter medications or other substances which may mask consumption of controlled substances or of alcohol, create false positive screening results, or interfere with Respondent's treatment and rehabilitation.
- C.11. Respondent shall report all medications and drugs, over-the-counter or prescription, taken by Respondent to Treater and the Department Monitor within 24 hours of ingestion or administration, and shall identify the person or persons

who prescribed, dispensed, administered or ordered said medications or drugs. If Respondent has not provided a release as required by C.9 above, within 24 hours of a request by Treater or the Board or its designee, Respondent shall provide releases in compliance with state and federal laws. The releases shall authorize the person who prescribed, dispensed, administered or ordered the medication to discuss Respondent's treatment with, and provide copies of treatment records to, the requester.

Drug and Alcohol Screens

- C.12. Respondent shall enroll and begin participation in a drug and alcohol monitoring program which is approved by the Department pursuant to Wis. Adm. Code § RL 7.11 ("Approved Program"). A list of Approved Programs is available from the Department Monitor.
- C.13. At the time Respondent enrolls in the Approved Program, Respondent shall review all of the rules and procedures made available by the Approved Program. Failure to comply with all requirements for participation in drug and alcohol monitoring established by the Approved Program is a substantial violation of this Order. The requirements shall include:
- (a.) Contact with the Approved Program as directed on a daily basis, including vacations, weekends and holidays.
 - (b.) Production of a urine specimen at a collection site designated by the Approved Program within five (5) hours of notification of a test.
- C.14. The Approved Program shall require the testing of urine specimens at a random frequency of not less than 52 times per year, for the first year of this Order. After the first year, the frequency may be reduced only upon a determination by the Board or its designee after receiving a petition for modification as required by D.5., below.
- C.15. If any urine, blood or hair specimen is positive or suspected positive for any controlled substances or alcohol, Respondent shall promptly submit to additional tests or examinations as the Treater or the Board or its designee shall determine to be appropriate to clarify or confirm the positive or suspected positive test results.
- C.16. In addition to any requirement of the Approved Program, the Board or its designee may require Respondent to do any or all of the following: (a) submit additional urine specimens, (b) submit blood, hair or breath specimens, (c) furnish any specimen in a directly witnessed manner.
- C.17. All confirmed positive test results shall be presumed to be valid. Respondent must prove by a preponderance of the evidence an error in collection, testing or other fault in the chain of custody.
- C.18. The Approved Program shall submit information and reports to the Department Monitor in compliance with the requirements of Wis. Adm. Code § RL 7.11.

Practice Limitations

- C.19. Respondent shall furnish a copy of this Order to all Wisconsin employers immediately upon issuance of this Order or commencement of employment, to any Wisconsin hospital at which he has privileges or at which he applies for privileges, and to any prospective Wisconsin employer when Respondent applies for employment as a health care provider. EMPLOYERS WHO ARE DEA REGISTRANTS ARE INFORMED THAT IF RESPONDENT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ANY FELONY RELATING TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, THE EMPLOYER MUST RECEIVE A WAIVER OF 21 CFR §1301.76 UNDER 21 CFR §1307.03 BEFORE EMPLOYING RESPONDENT.
- C.20. Respondent may work as a physician or other health care provider in a setting in which Respondent has access to controlled substances. If Treater subsequently recommends restrictions on such access, the Board or its designee may impose such restrictions.
- C.21. Respondent shall practice only under the supervision of a Professional Mentor approved by the Board and only in a work setting pre-approved by the Board or its designated agent.
- C.21. Respondent is responsible for obtaining a Professional Mentor acceptable to the Board. A Professional Mentor shall have no prior or current business or personal relationship with Respondent, or other relationship that could reasonably be expected to compromise the ability of the monitor to render fair and unbiased reports to the Department (including but not limited to any bartering relationship, mutual referral of patients, etc.). A Professional Mentor shall be actively practicing in Respondent's field of practice, hold a valid license in the state in which Respondent is practicing, shall be board certified by an ABMS-recognized board in a specialty relevant to Respondent's field of practice, and shall have read this Final Decision & Order and agree to be Respondent's Professional Mentor.
- C.21. Supervision by the Professional Mentor shall include weekly meetings, review of charts selected by the Professional Mentor, and any other actions deemed appropriate by the Professional Mentor to determine that Respondent is practicing in a professional and competent manner.
- C.22. Respondent shall arrange for his Professional Mentor to provide formal written reports to the Department Monitor on a

quarterly basis, as directed by the Department Monitor. These reports shall assess Respondent's work performance. Respondent's Professional Mentor shall immediately report to the Department Monitor and the Respondent's Supervising Health Care Provider any conduct or condition of the Respondent which may constitute unprofessional conduct, a violation of this Order, or a danger to the public or patient.

- C.23. The Professional Mentor may designate another qualified physician or other health care provider acceptable to the Board to exercise the duties and responsibilities of the Professional Mentor in an absence of more than three weeks.
- C.24. In the event that the Professional Mentor is unable or unwilling to continue to serve as Respondent's professional mentor, the Board may in its sole discretion select a successor Professional Mentor.
- C.25. The Professional Mentor shall have no duty or liability to any patient or third party, and the Mentor's sole duty is to the Board.

MISCELLANEOUS

Department Monitor

- D.1. Any requests, petitions, reports and other information required by this Order shall be mailed, e-mailed, faxed or delivered to:

Department Monitor
Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing
Division of Enforcement
1400 East Washington Ave.
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935
Fax: (608) 266-2264
Telephone: (608) 267-3817
department.monitor@drl.state.wi.us

Required Reporting by Respondent

- D.2. Respondent is responsible for compliance with all of the terms and conditions of this Order, including the timely submission of reports by others. Respondent shall promptly notify the Department Monitor of any failures of the Professional Mentor, the Treater, treatment facility, Approved Program or collection sites to conform to the terms and conditions of this Order. Respondent shall promptly notify the Department Monitor of any violations of any of the terms and conditions of this Order by Respondent. Additionally, every three (3) months the Respondent shall notify the Department Monitor of the Respondent's compliance with the terms and conditions of the Order, and shall provide the Department Monitor with a current address and home telephone number.
- D.3. Respondent shall report to the Board any change of employment status, residence, address or telephone number within five (5) days of the date of a change.

Change of Treater or Approved Program by Board

- D.4. If the Board or its designee determines the Treater or Approved Program has performed inadequately or has failed to satisfy the terms and conditions of this Order, the Board or its designee may direct that Respondent continue treatment and rehabilitation under the direction of another Treater or Approved Program.

Petitions for Modification of Limitations or Termination of Order

- D.5. Respondent may petition the Board for modification of the terms of this Order or termination, however no such petition for modification shall occur earlier than one year from the date of this Order and no such petition for termination shall occur other than in compliance with paragraph A.3. Any such petition for modification shall be accompanied by a written recommendation from Respondent's Treater expressly supporting the specific modifications sought. Denial of a petition in whole or in part shall not be considered a denial of a license within the meaning of Wis. Stat. § 227.01(3)(a), and Respondent shall not have a right to any further hearings or proceedings on the denial.

Costs of Compliance

- D.6. Respondent shall be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred in conjunction with the monitoring, screening, supervision and any other expenses associated with compliance with the terms of this Order. Being dropped from a program for non-payment is a violation of this Order.

Costs of Proceeding

- D.7. Respondent shall pay costs of One Thousand, Six Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,650.00) to the Department of Regulation and Licensing, within ninety (90) days of this Order. In the event Respondent fails to timely submit any payment of costs, the Respondent's license (# 20-40381) SHALL BE SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms of this Order.

Additional Discipline

- D.8. In addition to any other action authorized by this Order or law, violation of any term of this Order may be the basis for a separate disciplinary action pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin this 20th day of December, 2006.

By: Gene Musser MD
A member of the Board

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF :
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :
 :
WILLIAM C. STEVENSON, M.D., :
 :
 :
RESPONDENT. :

STIPULATION
LS# _____

Division of Enforcement Case Nos. 04 MED 033 and 06 MED 013

Respondent William C. Stevenson, M.D., personally on his own behalf; and Jeanette Lytle, attorney for the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement, stipulate:

1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation of Respondent's licensure by the Division of Enforcement (case nos. 04 MED 033 and 06 MED 013). Respondent consents to the resolution of this investigation by stipulation.

2. Respondent understands that by signing 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, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and any other provisions of state or federal law.

3. Respondent has been provided an opportunity to obtain the advice of legal counsel prior to signing this stipulation.

4. Respondent 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 consideration of this attempted resolution.

6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Enforcement and any member of the Medical Examining Board ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of the Respondent or his attorney, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that any member of the Board may have in connection with the Board's deliberations on the Stipulation. Additionally, any such Board advisor may vote on whether the Board should accept this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

7. Respondent is informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's final decision and order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

8. The Division of Enforcement joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

William C. Stevenson, M.D.
13220 N. Windsor Ct.
Mequon, WI 53097-2015

Date

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

Date