

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY :
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :
 :
 : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
DOUGLAS E. RAPISARDA, M.D., :
RESPONDENT. : **ORDER 0006588**

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 19 MED 104

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

Douglas E. Rapisarda, M.D.
Aurora Health Care
5300 Memorial Dr.
Two Rivers, WI 54241

Wisconsin Medical Examining Board
P.O. Box 8366
Madison, WI 53708-8366

Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final disposition of this matter, subject to the approval of the Medical Examining Board (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, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Douglas E. Rapisarda, M.D. (DOB January 14, 1957), is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice medicine and surgery, having license number 36195-20, first issued on December 16, 1994, with registration current through October 31, 2021. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is Aurora Health Care, 5300 Memorial Drive, Two Rivers, Wisconsin 54241.

2. Respondent specializes in Otolaryngology.

3. On June 12, 2013, Respondent saw Patient A, a male born in 1955, upon referral by the patient's primary physician to evaluate a six-month history of hoarseness. Respondent completed a physical examination and laryngoscopy.

4. Respondent concluded that Patient A's hoarseness was related to a paralyzed left vocal cord and ordered a chest and neck MRI to evaluate for tumor. Patient A was instructed to follow up with Respondent in two weeks after imaging was completed.

5. On June 21, 2013, Patient A underwent CT scan¹ which was interpreted by the radiologist, in part, as follows:

Included upper abdomen: Approximately 5 cm left renal mass consistent with a renal cell cancer.

CONCLUSION:

1. No abnormality along the intrathoracic course of the recurrent laryngeal nerve.
2. 5 cm left renal cell cancer.

6. On June 26, 2013, Respondent saw Patient A at a follow-up office visit. Respondent informed Patient A that the CT scan was negative for laryngeal tumor. Respondent recommended follow-up in three months.

7. Respondent did not appreciate the finding of an abnormal renal mass consistent with renal cancer and; therefore, did not inform Patient A of the same. The 5 cm left renal cell cancer was a significant unexpected finding located in an area of Patient A's body that Respondent was not treating. Respondent was not verbally informed by the radiologist of the finding and Respondent would have expected the radiologist to directly communicate such a finding to him as was the previous practice.

8. In resolution of this matter, Respondent consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. 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).

2. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent Douglas E. Rapisarda, M.D., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § Med

¹ The order was changed to a CT by the Facility.

10.02(2)(h) (September 2009) by engaging in any practice or conduct which tends to constitute a danger to the health, welfare, or safety of patient or public.²

3. As a result of the above conduct, Douglas E. Rapisarda, M.D., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.02(3).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. Respondent Douglas E. Rapisarda, M.D., is REPRIMANDED.
3. Within 90 days from the date of this Order, Douglas E. Rapisarda, M.D., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$500.00.
4. Payment of costs shall be made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services and sent to the Department Monitor at the address below:

Department Monitor
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190
Telephone (608) 267-3817; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

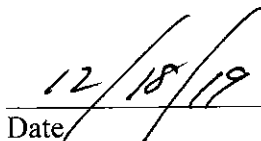
You may also submit payment online via DSPS' Monitoring Case Management System,
here: <https://app.wi.gov/DSPSMonitoring>

5. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license (no. 36195-20), or Respondent's right to renew his license, may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms of the Order. The Board may, in addition and/or in the alternative refer any violation of this Order to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further investigation and action.

6. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

by: 
A Member of the Board


Date

² Wisconsin Administrative Code citation is to the code version in effect at the time of the conduct at issue.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

DOUGLAS E. RAPISARDA, M.D.,
RESPONDENT.

STIPULATION

ORDER 0006588

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 19 MED 104

Respondent Douglas E. Rapisarda, M.D., and the Division of Legal Services and Compliance, Department of Safety and Professional Services stipulate as follows:


1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation by the Division of Legal Services and Compliance. Respondent consents to the resolution of this investigation by Stipulation.
2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation, Respondent voluntarily and knowingly waives the following rights:
 - the right to a hearing on the allegations against Respondent, 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 Respondent;
 - the right to call witnesses on Respondent's behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena;
 - the right to testify on Respondent's own behalf;
 - 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 Respondent under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and other provisions of state or federal law.
3. Respondent is aware of Respondent's right to seek legal representation and has been provided an opportunity to obtain legal counsel before signing this Stipulation. Respondent is represented by Attorney Maria Schneider.
4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board (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 then be returned to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the 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 or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Board ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent or Respondent's attorney, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that any member of the Board may have in connection with deliberations on the Stipulation. Additionally, any such 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 Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.




Douglas E. Rapisarda, M.D., Respondent
Aurora Health Care
5300 Memorial Dr.
Two Rivers, WI 54241
License no. 36195-20

12/2/2019
Date



Maria Schneider, Attorney for Respondent
Gutglass, Erickson, ~~Bonville~~ & Larson, ~~S.C.~~
735 N. Water St., Ste 1400 and Schneider, S.C.,
Milwaukee, WI 53202

12/4/19
Date



Colleen L. Meloy, Attorney
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190

12/06/2019
Date