

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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- Reported decisions may have an appeal pending, and discipline may be stayed during the appeal. Information about the current status of a credential issued by the Department of Safety and Professional Services is shown on the Department's Web Site under "License Lookup."

The status of an appeal may be found on court access websites at:

<http://ccap.courts.state.wi.us/InternetCourtAccess> and <http://www.courts.state.wi.us/wscca>

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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

KAREN L. BUTLER, M.D.,  
RESPONDENT.

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FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

**ORDER 0007776**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 MED 397

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

Karen L. Butler, M.D.  
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

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 Karen L. Butler, M.D., (Year of Birth 1956) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice medicine and surgery, having license number 43732-20, first issued on August 23, 2001, with registration current through October 31, 2021.<sup>1</sup> Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Respondent's license remains in active status pending review by the Department's credentialing unit.

<sup>2</sup> Respondent is also licensed or has been previously licensed in Michigan, Illinois, Tennessee, and Georgia.

### Prior Discipline

2. On April 18, 2012, the Board issued Order No. 1493 which reprimanded Respondent for falsely answering questions related to the USMLE examination and a prior income tax conviction when applying for her license to practice medicine and surgery.

3. On February 18, 2015, the Board issued Order No. 3758 which reprimanded Respondent for prescribing incorrect medication after a miscommunication with a jail nurse.

### Current Case

4. The Department received a Federation of State Medical Boards report dated September 24, 2021, that Respondent's Michigan license to practice medicine and surgery had been revoked. The Department opened Case No. 21 MED 397 for investigation related to the report.

5. On July 16, 2020, Respondent pled guilty and was convicted in the United States District Court Southern District of Georgia, Savannah District, Criminal Case No. 4:19CR00166-1 of one count of Conspiracy to Make False Statements Relating to Health Care Matters, a felony, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1035(a) and 18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conviction).

6. On September 21, 2020, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation issued an Order that accepted the permanent relinquishment of Respondent's Illinois license.

7. On March 17, 2021, the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners issued a Consent Order that permanently revoked Respondent's Tennessee license as a result of Respondent's Conviction.

8. On April 5, 2021, the Michigan Board of Medicine Disciplinary Subcommittee (Michigan Board) summarily suspended Respondent's Michigan license due to Respondent's Conviction. On August 3, 2021, Respondent's Michigan license was revoked after Respondent failed to provide a response to the Michigan Board.

9. On October 13, 2021, the Georgia Composite Medical Board issued a Public Consent Order that ordered Respondent to successfully complete 10 hours of CME in ethics and pay a \$5,000 fine as a result of Respondent's Conviction.

10. Respondent failed to report the Illinois, Tennessee, Michigan, or Georgia actions to the Board.

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

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The 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. Based on the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § Med 10.03(3)(a) by failing, within 30 days, to report to the Board any final adverse action taken against the licensee's authority to practice medicine and surgery by another licensing jurisdiction concerned with the practice of medicine and surgery.

3. Based on the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § Med 10.03(3)(c) by having any credential pertaining to the practice of medicine and surgery or any act constituting the practice of medicine and surgery become subject to adverse determination by any agency of this or another state, or by any federal agency or authority.

4. Based on the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § Med 10.03(3)(i) by violating or being convicted of any laws or rules of this state, or of any other state, or any federal law or regulation that is substantially related to the practice of medicine and surgery.

5. As a result of the above violations, Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.02(3).

#### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. The PERMANENT SURRENDER by Respondent Karen L. Butler, M.D., of her license and registration to practice medicine and surgery in the state of Wisconsin (license number 43732-20), and her right to renew that license and registration, is accepted.

3. This surrender constitutes Respondent's permanent relinquishment of her license to practice medicine and surgery in the state of Wisconsin, and any appurtenant right to renew that license and registration. The Board will not, at any time in the future, process or otherwise consider an application or attempt at renewal by Respondent of credentials necessary to practice medicine and surgery in the state of Wisconsin.

4. If Respondent ever seeks any other credential under Wis. Stat. chs. 440-480, Respondent, shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$515.00 before any petition or application for a credential will be considered by the applicable board or Department.

5. If applicable, payment of costs should 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) 266-2112; Fax (608) 266-2264  
[DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov)

Respondent may also submit payment online at <https://dspsmonitoring.wi.gov/>.

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

WISCONSIN MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

By: Stephen A. Wacker, MD  
A Member of the Board

19 January 2022  
Date

RECEIVED

DEC 22 2021

DIV LEGAL SERVICES & COMPLIANCE  
DEPT SAFETY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

KAREN L. BUTLER, M.D.,  
RESPONDENT.

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STIPULATION

**ORDER 0007776**

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 MED 397

Respondent Karen L. Butler, 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.

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.

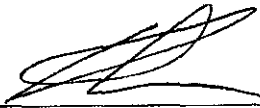
5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the Division

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, 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.

  
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Karen L. Butler, M.D., Respondent  
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235  
License No. 43732-20

  
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Date

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

12/23/2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date