

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE PODIATRY AFFILIATED CREDENTIALING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF :  
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER  
: FOR REMEDIAL EDUCATION  
ALYSSA K. STEPHENSON, D.P.M., :  
LICENSEE. :

**ORDER 0007872**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case Nos. 21 POD 003, 21 POD 004, 21 POD 005,  
21 POD 006, 21 POD 008, and 21 POD 010

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

Alyssa K. Stephenson, D.P.M.  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Wisconsin Podiatry Affiliated Credentialing 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 Podiatry Affiliated Credentialing 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. Licensee Alyssa K. Stephenson, D.P.M., (Year of Birth 1972) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin as a podiatrist, having license number 866-25, first issued on April 21, 2003, and with registration current through October 31, 2022. Licensee's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54935.

2. At all times relevant to the proceedings, Licensee was employed as a podiatrist at a medical facility (Facility) located in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

3. In March 2021, the Department received complaints from patients related to Licensee's care and treatment as follows:

- a. In January 2014, Licensee performed surgery on Patient A (male born in 1954) to repair an ankle fracture. Post-operatively, Patient A developed an infection and required surgery performed by another provider.
- b. In February 2015, Licensee performed a lapidus first metatarsal first cuneiform arthrodesis and phalangeal osteotomy on the left foot of Patient B (female born in 1962). Post-surgery, Patient B reported to Licensee that she was experiencing extreme pain and discomfort in the foot. Patient B sought a second opinion from another provider who performed surgery to address a nonunion.
- c. In February 2018, Patient C (male born in 1959) consulted Licensee for an ulcer on his right greater toe. Licensee performed amputation of the right distal phalanx due to osteomyelitis. Patient C continued to have problems with wound care.
- d. Patient D (female born in 1952) saw Licensee in July 2016 after injuring her right foot after a fall. Licensee did not order an MRI of Patient D's foot until November of 2016.
- e. In November 2014, Licensee performed a lapidus first metatarsal first cuneiform arthrodesis and phalangeal osteotomy for removal of a bunion on the right foot of Patient E (female born in 1957). Post-operatively, Patient E expressed concerns about abnormalities of her foot and pain to Licensee. Patient E saw another provider who performed surgery to address the hardware placed by Licensee.
- f. In October 2017, Licensee performed a total ankle arthroplasty on Patient F (female born in 1972) to treat post-traumatic osteoarthritis. Patient F underwent four additional surgeries performed by Licensee to address issues from the original and subsequent surgeries and developed a prosthetic joint infection.

Division Case Nos. 21 POD 003, 21 POD 004, 21 POD 005, 21 POD 006, 21 POD 008, and 21 POD 010 were opened to investigate the above allegations (Division Cases).

4. Licensee is currently employed at a Veteran's Affairs Medical Facility located in Phoenix, Arizona (VA) and holds privileges to admit patients and perform foot and ankle surgery at the VA.

5. Licensee works in a collaborative environment as the VA is a teaching facility. She does not have her own individual patients and sees patients in conjunction with students, residents and other attending physicians. Prior to any surgery being performed, all cases are reviewed as a group to discuss the appropriateness of the procedures and risks or concerns. Most of the surgeries performed by Licensee are infection and debridement surgeries rather than elective surgeries.

6. Licensee has attended numerous conferences, workshops and cadaver labs which address the care and treatment at issue in the Division Cases. The education undertaken by Licensee includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- a. The American Podiatric Medical Association Annual Scientific Meeting in Denver, Colorado, which included education on complications and infections (July 2021).
- b. The American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery - Cognitive Examination Committee which included discussion on perioperative management, imaging, and complications in procedural planning (2021).
- c. Arthrex Cadaver Lab training on new methodologies for performance of the Lapidus procedure, ankle arthroscopy and hammertoe repairs (2016, 2017, 2019, 2021).
- d. Wright Medical Cadaver Lab training on Lapidus procedures, bunion repairs, hammertoe repairs and arthrodesis techniques (August 2021).
- e. Synthes Cadaver Lab training on arthrodesis techniques, trauma techniques and biologics (September 2021).
- f. Lapiplasty workshop which addressed Lapidus first metatarsal first cuneiform arthrodesis techniques (September 2019).
- g. APMA National Scientific Conference (2017 and 2018).

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

8. This Order does not constitute disciplinary action.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Podiatry Affiliated Credentialing Board is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

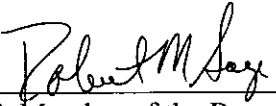
#### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. The Board accepts the continuing education courses set forth in Findings of Fact paragraph No. 6 in satisfaction of continuing education the Board would otherwise require.

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

WISCONSIN PODIATRY AFFILIATED CREDENTIALING BOARD

By:   
A Member of the Board

3/3/2022  
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE PODIATRY AFFILIATED CREDENTIALING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF

ALYSSA K. STEPHENSON, D.P.M.,  
LICENSEE.

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STIPULATION

**ORDER 0007872**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case Nos. 21 POD 003, 21 POD 004,  
21 POD 005, 21 POD 006, 21 POD 008, and 21 POD 010

Licensee Alyssa K. Stephenson, D.P.M., 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. Licensee consents to the resolution of this investigation by Stipulation.

2. Licensee understands that by signing this Stipulation, Licensee voluntarily and knowingly waives the following rights:

- the right to a hearing on the allegations against Licensee, 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 Licensee;
- the right to call witnesses on Licensee's behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena;
- the right to testify on Licensee'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 Licensee under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and other provisions of state or federal law.

3. Licensee is aware of Licensee's right to seek legal representation and has been provided an opportunity to obtain legal counsel before signing this Stipulation. Licensee is represented by Attorney Lori Gendelman.

4. Licensee agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order for Remedial Education by the Wisconsin Podiatry Affiliated Credentialing Board (Board). The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order for Remedial Education without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Licensee 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 Licensee or Licensee'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 for Remedial Education.

7. Licensee is informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order for Remedial Education is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

8. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Licensee in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order for Remedial Education.



Alyssa K. Stephenson, D.P.M., Licensee  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935  
License No. 866-25

12/27/21

Date



Lori Gendelman, Attorney for Licensee  
Otjen Law Firm, S.C.  
20935 Swenson Dr., Ste. 310  
Waukesha, WI 53186

1/3/22

Date



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

1/12/22

Date