

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
SAAGAR K. RAJU, M.D., :
RESPONDENT. : **ORDER 0008310**

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 22 MED 115

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

Saagar K. Raju, M.D.
Riverside, CA 92504

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 Saagar K. Raju, M.D., (Year of Birth 1980) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice medicine and surgery, having license number 1033-320, first issued on October 20, 2020, with registration current through October 31, 2023. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Riverside, California 92504.

2. On October 31, 2019, Respondent voluntarily enrolled in a five-year monitoring agreement with Pacific Assistance Group Professional Support and Monitoring (PAG) in California. Respondent had been sober since September 26, 2019, after an earlier period of substance abuse and treatment. PAG functions as Respondent's primary monitoring program.

3. When Respondent applied for a Wisconsin medical license through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (Compact) on September 15, 2020, he was not asked, and therefore did not answer, questions about substance abuse history.

4. On August 20, 2021, the Texas Medical Board (TX Board) issued an Order that required Respondent to complete continuing medical education and also referred Respondent to the Texas Physician Health Program (Texas PHP) (Texas Order). The TX Board found that Respondent was untruthful on his initial application when he answered “No” to a question asking if he ever resigned in lieu of further investigation or action and when he answered “No” to a question regarding impairment. The TX Board further found that he failed to report to the TX Board his history of substance abuse.

5. Respondent did not report the TX Order to the Wisconsin Board within 30 days.

6. On September 28, 2021, Respondent applied for renewal of his Wisconsin medical license through the Compact, at which time he was asked “Have you held a license authorizing the practice of medicine subjected to discipline by a licensing agency in any state, federal or foreign jurisdiction, excluding any action related to non-payment of fees related to ‘Renewal’ of a license?” Respondent answered “No” to this question despite the Texas Order dated August 20, 2021. Respondent also signed an attestation on September 28, 2021, stating the information in the renewal application was true and accurate.

7. On February 7, 2022, the Commonwealth of Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure (KY Board) issued an Order placing Respondent on probation for five (5) years, referring Respondent to the Kentucky Physician Health Foundation, and requiring compliance with the Texas PHP agreement. The KY Order was based on the facts underlying the TX Order, as well as the fact that Respondent failed to report the TX Order to the KY Board within ten (10) days as required.

8. On February 24, 2022, Respondent reported the KY Order to the Wisconsin Board, and this case was opened to further investigate.

9. On May 12, 2022, the West Virginia Board of Medicine (WV Board) issued an Order placing Respondent on probation, referring Respondent to the West Virginia Medical Professional Health Program, and requiring Respondent to comply with any agreement or treatment program he participates in (WV Order). The WV Order was based on the TX and KY Orders.

10. 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 in Wis. Admin. Code § Med 10.03(1)(b), by knowingly engaging in fraud or

misrepresentation or dishonesty in applying for or procuring a medical license, by examination for a medical license, or in connection with applying for or procuring periodic renewal of a medical license or in otherwise maintaining such license.

3. Based on the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined in 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.

4. Based on the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined in 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.

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. Respondent is REPRIMANDED.

3. Respondent's license and registration to practice medicine and surgery in Wisconsin (number 1033-320), and his right to renew that license and registration, is LIMITED as follows:

- a. Respondent shall maintain full and complete compliance with all terms, limitations, and conditions imposed against his Texas medical license by the TX Order dated August 20, 2021.
- b. Respondent shall maintain full and complete compliance with all terms, limitations, and conditions imposed against his Kentucky medical license by the KY Order dated February 7, 2022.
- c. Respondent shall maintain full and complete compliance with all terms, limitations, and conditions imposed against his West Virginia medical license by the WV Order dated May 12, 2022.
- d. Respondent shall provide the Board with a copy of any document issued by the TX Board, the KY Board, or the WV Board which alters the conditions of Respondent's continued practice of medicine in the states of Texas, Kentucky, or West Virginia, including any document advising reinstatement of full licensure, within fifteen (15) days of issuance of such document.

- e. In the event the Respondent intends to practice medicine in Wisconsin during the pendency of this Order, Respondent shall provide the Board or its designee with notice in writing at least ninety (90) days prior to the commencement of practice in Wisconsin. The notice shall include identity of the employer, work location(s) including addresses and phone numbers, and the type of practice.
- f. A determination by the TX Board, the KY Board, or the WV Board, that Respondent has violated any term, limitation, and/or condition imposed on his TX, KY or WV licenses by the respective Orders, is a violation of this Order.
- g. The Board shall remove this limitation from Respondent's license and registration when Respondent has petitioned the Board and has satisfied the Board or its designee that Respondent has successfully complied with all the requirements of the TX Order, the KY Order, and the WV Order, and his TX, KY and WV licenses have been returned to full and unrestricted status.

3. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$691.00.

4. Any submissions required under this order, and payments of costs (made payable to Department of Safety and Professional Services), shall be submitted to:

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

Respondent may also submit this information online at: <https://dpsmonitoring.wi.gov>.

5. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license and registration (number 1033-320) or Respondent's right to renew his license and registration, 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: Stephan A. Wacker, MD
A Member of the Board

12/21/22
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

SAAGAR K. RAJU, M.D.,
RESPONDENT.

STIPULATION

ORDER 0008310

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 22 MED 115

Respondent Saagar K. Raju, 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 Andrew Sparks.

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. Respondent is further informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order will be reported as required by the National Practitioner Databank (NPDB) Guidebook and as otherwise required by any licensure compact or any other state or federal law.

9. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.



Saagar K. Raju, M.D., Respondent
Riverside, CA 92504
License No. 1033-320

11/7/22

Date



Andrew Sparks, Attorney for Respondent
Dickinson Wright PLLC
300 W. Vine Street, Ste 1700
Lexington, KY 40507

11-8-22

Date



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

11/09/2022

Date