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**BEFORE THE
DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Petition for Penalty)
Relief of:)
)
)
EDWARD ALAN RIDGILL, M.D.)
)
)
Physician and Surgeon's)
Certificate No. G-40690)
)
_____)
Petitioner.)

File No: 06-1997-78021

OAH No: N2003100732

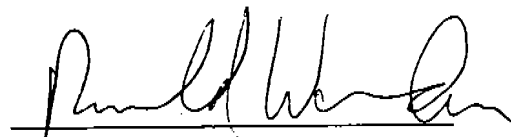
DECISION

The attached Proposed Decision of the Administrative Law Judge is hereby accepted and adopted as the Decision and Order by the Division of Medical Quality of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on February 25, 2004 .

DATED January 26, 2004

**DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**



**Ronald Wender, M.D.
Chair of Panel B
Division of Medical Quality**

BEFORE THE
DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Petition for Termination
of Probation of:

EDWARD ALAN RIDGILL, M.D.,

Petitioner.

OAH No. N2003100732

PROPOSED DECISION

This matter came on regularly for hearing before Jaime René Román, Administrative Law Judge, Office of Administrative Hearings, in Sacramento, California, on December 3, 2003.

Petitioner Edward Alan Ridgill ("petitioner") appeared and represented himself.

The Attorney General of the State of California was represented by Stephen M. Boreman, Deputy Attorney General, Health Quality Enforcement Section, Department of Justice.

Evidence was received and the matter submitted on December 3, 2003.

FACTUAL FINDINGS

1. On August 24, 1979, the Medical Board of California issued Physician and Surgeon's Certificate No. G-40690 to petitioner. On January 8, 2001, the Division of Medical Quality, Medical Board of California, issued its Decision in *In the Matter of Edward A. Ridgill, M.D.*, Case No. 06-1997-78021, wherein petitioner's license, effective February 7, 2001, was revoked, stayed for five years on terms and conditions of probation.
2. On July 8, 2003, petitioner filed a Petition for Penalty Relief praying for termination of his probation.

3. The discipline imposed on petitioner's license occurred as a result of several violations of the Medical Practice Act relating to conviction of a crime (Business and Professions Code §§2234 and 2236), dishonest or corrupt acts (Business and Professions Code §2234(e)), excessive prescribing (Business and Professions Code §725), gross negligence (Business and Professions Code §2234(b)), repeated acts of negligence (Business and Professions Code §2234(c)), incompetence (Business and Professions Code §2235(d)), inappropriate record maintenance (Business and Professions Code §2266), and false documents (Business and Professions Code §2261).

4. The factual underpinnings of petitioner's discipline arise from a series of discrete acts of misconduct relating to a federal mail fraud conviction (for which he served a period of incarceration), the perpetration of fraud to the Employment Development Department wherein petitioner would falsely certify the disability of particular patients when, in fact, they were not, excessively prescribing controlled substances or dangerous drugs, and falsely developed medical records.

5. Petitioner, with particularly and sincerely felt eloquence, articulates the significance his errant conduct, conviction, and discipline have imposed on himself and insight into their import on Board licensure. Ascribing his conduct to significant errors in judgment and arrogance derived from a successful 18-year solo practice wherein there existed no credible or competent checks, he has since aligned himself with a small practice group and developed a deeper appreciation for licensure professionalism and responsibility, and professional collegiality. Petitioner seeks the termination of his probation primarily to obtain the salutary fiscal and professional opportunities attendant to a practitioner not laboring with Board probationary terms and conditions.

6. Petitioner's probation terminates on February 7, 2006. To his credit, he successfully completed his federal probation and continues to comply with all terms and conditions of his Board probation. He displays a genuine interest in safe medicine, demonstrates no guile, and clearly bears remorse for his past errant conduct and its effect on himself and his profession.

LEGAL CONCLUSION


Early termination of probation requires more than abiding by and with the terms of a petitioner's probation. Petitioner, to his credit, has followed the regimen set out by the Board. Nevertheless, to terminate probation early, petitioner bears a burden of demonstrating that no further gain may be had by extant Board probation. In the instant case, petitioner has laudably embarked on a path of rehabilitation that has facilitated both insight and the development of safe and appropriate clinical skills. His path, however, is recently tread when balanced against an 18-year history of solo practice compounded with serious misconduct. As the Attorney General cogently notes (referencing the Board's Disciplinary Guidelines), petitioner's probation period is particularly abbreviated. At this juncture, no cogently

compelling reason is advanced that would compel the undersigned to conclude that probation should be terminated at this time; accordingly, cause does not exist to grant the petition to terminate probation pursuant to Business and Professions Code §2307 and as set forth in Findings 1 – 6.¹

ORDER

The Petition for Penalty Relief of Edward Alan Ridgill, M.D., Physician and Certificate No. G-40690, for termination of probation is denied.

Dated: 12-29-03



JAIME RENE ROMAN
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings

¹ Although the legal conclusion and order are adverse to petitioner, he must not lose heart. Simply put, petitioner is being granted an opportunity to return at a more opportune time with further evidence clearly establishing rehabilitation sufficiently compelling the termination of his probation.