

**BEFORE THE
BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**In the Matter of the Petition to Revoke)
Probation Against:)**

BILL JAMES RELEFORD, JR., D.P.M.)

Case No. 500-2017-000473

**Doctor of Podiatric Medicine)
License No. E-3630)**

Respondent)

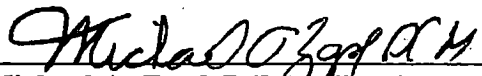
DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of Board of Podiatric Medicine, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on December 15, 2017.

IT IS SO ORDERED November 17, 2017.

BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE

By: 
Michael A. Zapf, D.P.M., President

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Attorney General of California
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8
9 **BEFORE THE**
BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

11 In the Matter of the Petition to Revoke Probation
12 Against:

Case No. 500-2017-000473

13 **BILL JAMES RELEFORD, JR., D.P.M.**
14 **515 E. Hazel St., #9**
Inglewood, CA 90302

STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER

15 **Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No. E-3630,**
16 **Respondent.**

17
18 **IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED** by and between the parties to the above-
19 entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

20 **PARTIES**

21
22 1. Brian Naslund (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Board of Podiatric
23 Medicine (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this
24 matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Wendy Widlus, Deputy
25 Attorney General.

26 2. Respondent Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M. (Respondent) is representing himself in
27 this proceeding and has chosen not to exercise his right to be represented by counsel.

28 3. On or about August 31, 1989, the Board issued Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License

1 No. E-3630 to Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M. (Respondent). The Doctor of Podiatric Medicine
2 License is renewed and current, and will expire on February 28, 2019, unless renewed.

3 JURISDICTION

4 4. Petition to Revoke Probation No. 500-2017-000473 was filed before the Board, and is
5 currently pending against Respondent. The Petition to Revoke Probation and all other statutorily
6 required documents were properly served on Respondent on May 22, 2017. Respondent timely
7 filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Petition to Revoke Probation.

8 5. A copy of Petition to Revoke Probation No. 500-2017-000473 is attached as exhibit
9 A and incorporated herein by reference.

10 ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

11 6. Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in Petition
12 to Revoke Probation No. 500-2017-000473. Respondent has also carefully read, and understands
13 the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.

14 7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a
15 hearing on the charges and allegations in the Petition to Revoke Probation; the right to be
16 represented by counsel at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses
17 against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the
18 issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents;
19 the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded
20 by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

21 8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and
22 every right set forth above.

23 CULPABILITY

24 9. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Petition to
25 Revoke Probation No. 500-2017-000473.

26 10. Respondent agrees that his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License is subject to
27 discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the
28 Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board of Podiatric Medicine. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Podiatric Medicine may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

12. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No. E-3630 issued to Respondent Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for an additional two (2) years beyond the seven year probationary term he is currently serving pursuant to the Board's Decision and Order dated May 23, 2014, the terms and conditions of which remain in full force and effect. After fully satisfying the current seven year probationary term, Respondent shall fully serve an additional two years of probation on the following terms and conditions.

1. **OBTAIN CURRENT LICENSE** Respondent must renew his California doctor of podiatric medicine's license within 30 days of the effective date of this Decision and Order.

2. **NOTIFICATION** Prior to engaging in the practice of medicine, the respondent

1 shall provide a true copy of the Decision(s) and Petition to Revoke Probation to the Chief of Staff
2 or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to
3 respondent, at any other facility where respondent engages in the practice of podiatric medicine,
4 including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief
5 Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to
6 respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Division or its designee within
7 15 calendar days.

8 This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

9 **3. PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS** Prior to receiving assistance from a physician
10 assistant, Respondent must notify the supervising physician of the terms and conditions of his/her
11 probation.

12 **4. OBEY ALL LAWS** Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules
13 governing the practice of podiatric medicine in California and remain in full compliance with any
14 court ordered criminal probation, payments, and other orders.

15 **5. QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS** Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations
16 under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been
17 compliance with all the conditions of probation. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations
18 not later than 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.

19 **6. PROBATION COMPLIANCE UNIT** Respondent shall comply with the Board's
20 probation unit. Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of Respondent's business
21 and residence addresses. Changes of such addresses shall be immediately communicated in
22 writing to the Board or its designee. Under no circumstances shall a post office box serve as an
23 address of record, except as allowed by Business and Professions Code section 2021(b).

24 Respondent shall not engage in the practice of podiatric medicine in Respondent's place of
25 residence. Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California doctor of podiatric
26 medicine's license.

27 Respondent shall immediately inform the Board or its designee, in writing, of travel to any
28 areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than 30

1 calendar days.

2 **7. INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE** Respondent shall be
3 available in person for interviews either at Respondent's place of business or at the probation unit
4 office with the Board or its designee, upon request, at various intervals and either with or without
5 notice throughout the term of probation.

6 **8. RESIDING OR PRACTICING OUT-OF-STATE** In the event Respondent
7 should leave the State of California to reside or to practice, Respondent shall notify the Board or
8 its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of departure and return. Non-practice is
9 defined as any period of time exceeding 30 calendar days in which Respondent is not engaging in
10 any activities defined in section 2472 of the Business and Professions Code.

11 All time spent in an intensive training program outside the State of California which has
12 been approved by the Board or its designee shall be considered as time spent in the practice of
13 medicine within the State. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a
14 period of non-practice. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside
15 California will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term. Periods of temporary or
16 permanent residence or practice outside California will relieve Respondent of the responsibility to
17 comply with the probationary terms and conditions, with the exception of this condition, and the
18 following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Law; Probation Unit Compliance; and
19 Cost Recovery.

20 Respondent's license is subject to cancellation if Respondent's periods of temporary or
21 permanent residence or practice outside California totals two years. However, Respondent's
22 license shall not be cancelled as long as Respondent is residing and practicing podiatric medicine
23 in another state of the United States and is on active probation with the medical licensing
24 authority of that state, in which case the two year period shall begin on the date probation is
25 completed or terminated in that state.

26 **9. FAILURE TO PRACTICE PODIATRIC MEDICINE - CALIFORNIA**
27 **RESIDENT** In the event the Respondent resides in the State of California and for any reason
28 Respondent stops practicing podiatric medicine in California, Respondent shall notify the Board

1 or its designee in writing within 30 calendar days prior to the dates of non-practice and return to
2 practice. Any period of non-practice within California as defined in this condition will not apply
3 to the reduction of the probationary term and does not relieve Respondent of the responsibility to
4 comply with the terms and conditions of probation. Non-practice is defined as any period of time
5 exceeding thirty calendar days in which Respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in
6 section 2472 of the Business and Professions Code.

7 All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Board or its
8 designee shall be considered time spent in the practice of medicine. For purposes of this
9 condition, non-practice due to a Board-ordered suspension or in compliance with any other
10 condition of probation shall not be considered a period of non-practice.

11 Failure to practice while in California for a total of two years, in any of the activities
12 described in Business and Professions Code section 2472 shall be a violation of probation.

13 **10. COMPLETION OF PROBATION** Respondent shall comply with all financial
14 obligations (e.g., cost recovery, restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior
15 to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's
16 certificate will be fully restored.

17 **11. VIOLATION OF PROBATION** If Respondent violates probation in any respect,
18 the Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation
19 and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an accusation or petition to revoke
20 probation is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing
21 jurisdiction until the matter is final, the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is
22 final, and no petition for modification of penalty shall be considered while there is an accusation
23 or petition to revoke probation pending against Respondent.

24 **12. COST RECOVERY** Within 90 calendar days from the effective date of the
25 Decision or other period agreed to by the Board or its designee, Respondent shall reimburse the
26 Board the amount of \$2,815.00 for its prosecution costs. The filing of bankruptcy or period of
27 non-practice by Respondent shall not relieve the Respondent of his/her obligation to reimburse
28 the Board for its costs.

1 **13. LICENSE SURRENDER** Following the effective date of this Decision, if
2 Respondent ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons, or is otherwise unable to satisfy
3 the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request the voluntary surrender of
4 Respondent's license. The Board reserves the right to evaluate the Respondent's request and to
5 exercise its discretion whether to grant the request or to take any other action deemed appropriate
6 and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Respondent
7 shall within 15 calendar days deliver Respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its
8 designee and Respondent shall no longer practice podiatric medicine. Respondent will no longer
9 be subject to the terms and conditions of probation and the surrender of Respondent's license
10 shall be deemed disciplinary action. If Respondent re-applies for a podiatric medical license, the
11 application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.

12 **14. PROBATION MONITORING COSTS** Respondent shall pay the costs associated
13 with probation monitoring each and every year of probation as designated by the Board, which
14 may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Board of Podiatric
15 Medicine and delivered to the Board or its designee within 60 days after the start of the new fiscal
16 year. Failure to pay costs within 30 calendar days of this date is a violation of probation.

17 **15. NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES** Respondent shall, upon or before the effective date of
18 this Decision, post or circulate a notice which actually recites the offenses for which Respondent
19 has been disciplined and the terms and conditions of probation to all employees involved in
20 his/her practice. Within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall
21 cause his/her employees to report to the Board in writing, acknowledging the employees have
22 read the Accusation and Decision in the case and understand Respondent's terms and conditions
23 of probation.

24 **16. CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT** Respondent shall notify the Board in writing,
25 through the assigned probation officer, of any and all changes of employment, location, and
26 address within thirty (30) days of such change.

27 **17. COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIRED CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION**
28 Respondent shall submit satisfactory proof biennially to the Board of compliance with the

1 requirement to complete fifty hours of approved continuing medical education, and meet
2 continuing competence requirements for re-licensure during each two (2) year renewal period.

3 **18. ETHICS COURSE** Within 60 days of the effective date of this Decision,
4 Respondent shall enroll in a course in ethics, at Respondent's expense, approved in advance by
5 the Board or its designee. Failure to successfully complete the course during the first year is a
6 violation of probation.

7 An ethics course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but
8 prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee,
9 be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have been approved by
10 the Board or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

11 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
12 designee not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision.

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ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Podiatric Medicine.

DATED: August 14, 2017


BILL JAMES RELEFORD, JR., D.P.M.
Respondent


ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Podiatric Medicine.

Dated: 8/15/17

Respectfully submitted,

XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
E. A. JONES III
Supervising Deputy Attorney General


WENDY WIDLUS
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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Stipulated Settlement Disciplinary Order (0002).docx

Exhibit A

Petition to Revoke Probation No. 500-2017-000473

1 XAVIER BECERRA
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Attorneys for Complainant
8

9 **BEFORE THE**
BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

11 In the Matter of the Accusation/Petition to
12 Revoke Probation Against,

Case No. 500-2017-000473

13 **BILL JAMES RELEFORD, JR., D.P.M.**
14 **515 E. Hazel St., #9**
Inglewood, CA 90302

PETITION TO REVOKE PROBATION

15 **Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No. E-**
16 **3630,**

17 Respondent.
18

19 Complainant alleges:
20

21 **PARTIES**

22 1. Brian Naslund (Complainant) brings this Petition to Revoke Probation solely in his
23 official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Podiatric Medicine, Department of
24 Consumer Affairs (Board).

25 2. On or about August 31, 1989, the Board issued Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License
26 Number E-3630 to Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M. (Respondent). The Doctor of Podiatric
27 Medicine expired on February 28, 2015, and has not been renewed.

28 3. In a disciplinary action entitled *In the Matter of Accusation Against Bill James*

1 *Releford Jr., D.P.M.*, Case No. 1B-1998-91425 the Board issued a decision, effective November
2 8, 2001, in which Respondent's Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License was revoked. However,
3 the revocation was stayed and Respondent's Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License was placed on
4 probation for a period of five (5) years with certain terms and conditions. A copy of that decision
5 is attached as Exhibit A and is incorporated by reference.

6 4. In a disciplinary action entitled *In the Matter of Accusation Against Bill James*
7 *Releford Jr., D.P.M.*, Case No. 1B-2011-216393, the Board issued a decision, effective June 20,
8 2014, in which Respondent's Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License was revoked. However, the
9 revocation was stayed and Respondent's Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License was placed on
10 probation for a period of seven (7) years with certain terms and conditions. A copy of that
11 decision is attached as Exhibit B and is incorporated by reference.

12 JURISDICTION

13 5. This Petition to Revoke Probation is brought before the Board under the authority of
14 the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code)
15 unless otherwise indicated.

16 6. Section 2460.1 of the Code states:

17 "Protection of the public shall be the highest priority for the California Board of Podiatric
18 Medicine in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. Whenever the
19 protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection
20 of the public shall be paramount."

21 7. Section 2222 of the Code states:

22 "The California Board of Podiatric Medicine shall enforce and administer this article as to
23 doctors of podiatric medicine. Any acts of unprofessional conduct or other violations proscribed
24 by this chapter are applicable to licensed doctors of podiatric medicine and wherever the Medical
25 Quality Hearing Panel established under Section 11371 of the Government Code is vested with
26 the authority to enforce and carry out this chapter as to licensed physicians and surgeons, the
27 Medical Quality Hearing Panel also possesses that same authority as to licensed doctors of
28 podiatric medicine."

1 “The California Board of Podiatric Medicine may order the denial of an application or issue
2 a certificate subject to conditions as set forth in Section 2221, or order the revocation, suspension,
3 or other restriction of, or the modification of that penalty, and the reinstatement of any certificate
4 of a doctor of podiatric medicine within its authority as granted by this chapter and in conjunction
5 with the administrative hearing procedures established pursuant to Sections 11371, 11372, 11373,
6 and 11529 of the Government Code. For these purposes, the California Board of Podiatric
7 Medicine shall exercise the powers granted and be governed by the procedures set forth in this
8 chapter.”

9 8. Section 2227 of the Code states:

10 “(a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of the Medical
11 Quality Hearing Panel as designated in Section 11371 of the Government Code, or whose default
12 has been entered, and who is found guilty, or who has entered into a stipulation for disciplinary
13 action with the board, may, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter:

14 “(1) Have his or her license revoked upon order of the board.

15 “(2) Have his or her right to practice suspended for a period not to exceed one year upon
16 order of the board.

17 “(3) Be placed on probation and be required to pay the costs of probation monitoring upon
18 order of the board.

19 “(4) Be publicly reprimanded by the board. The public reprimand may include a
20 requirement that the licensee complete relevant educational courses approved by the board.

21 “(5) Have any other action taken in relation to discipline as part of an order of probation, as
22 the board or an administrative law judge may deem proper.

23 “(b) Any matter heard pursuant to subdivision (a), except for warning letters, medical
24 review or advisory conferences, professional competency examinations, continuing education
25 activities, and cost reimbursement associated therewith that are agreed to with the board and
26 successfully completed by the licensee, or other matters made confidential or privileged by
27 existing law, is deemed public, and shall be made available to the public by the board pursuant to
28 Section 803.1.”

1 9. Section 2497 of the Code states:

2 "(a) The board may order the denial of an application for, or the suspension of, or the
3 revocation of, or the imposition of probationary conditions upon, a certificate to practice podiatric
4 medicine for any of the causes set forth in Article 12 (commencing with Section 2220) in
5 accordance with Section 2222.

6 "(b) The board may hear all matters, including but not limited to, any contested case or may
7 assign any such matters to an administrative law judge. The proceedings shall be held in
8 accordance with Section 2230. If a contested case is heard by the board itself, the administrative
9 law judge who presided at the hearing shall be present during the board's consideration of the case
10 and shall assist and advise the board."

11 **COST RECOVERY**

12 10. Section 2497.5 of the Code states:

13 "(a) The board may request the administrative law judge, under his or her proposed decision
14 in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the board, to direct any licensee found guilty of
15 unprofessional conduct to pay to the board a sum not to exceed the actual and reasonable costs of
16 the investigation and prosecution of the case.

17 "(b) The costs to be assessed shall be fixed by the administrative law judge and shall not be
18 increased by the board unless the board does not adopt a proposed decision and in making its own
19 decision finds grounds for increasing the costs to be assessed, not to exceed the actual and
20 reasonable costs of the investigation and prosecution of the case.

21 "(c) When the payment directed in the board's order for payment of costs is not made by the
22 licensee, the board may enforce the order for payment by bringing an action in any appropriate
23 court. This right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights the board may have as to
24 any licensee directed to pay costs.

25 "(d) In any judicial action for the recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision shall be
26 conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment."(e)(1) Except
27 as provided in paragraph (2), the board shall not renew or reinstate the license of any licensee
28 who has failed to pay all of the costs ordered under this section."(2) Notwithstanding paragraph

(1), the board may, in its discretion, conditionally renew or reinstate for a maximum of one year the license of any licensee who demonstrates financial hardship and who enters into a formal agreement with the board to reimburse the board within one year period for those unpaid costs.

"(f) All costs recovered under this section shall be deposited in the Board of Podiatric Medicine Fund as a reimbursement in either the fiscal year in which the costs are actually recovered or the previous fiscal year, as the board may direct."

FIRST CAUSE TO REVOKE PROBATION

(Failure To Enroll In and Complete Ethics Course)

11. At all times after the effective date of Respondent's probation, Condition 3 stated:

"3. ETHICS COURSE Within 60 days after release from Federal custody, respondent shall enroll in a course in ethics, at respondent's expense, approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Failure to successfully complete the course during the first year is a violation of probation."

12. Respondent's probation is subject to revocation because he failed to comply with Probation Condition 3, referenced above. Respondent has failed to enroll in or complete an approved course in ethics.

SECOND CAUSE TO REVOKE PROBATION

(Failure To Pass A Written Examination)

13. At all times after the effective date of Respondent's probation, Condition 4 stated:

"4. EXAMINATION Within 60 days after release from Federal custody, respondent shall arrange to take and pass a written examination approved by the Board. Failure to successfully pass the examination within one year of the effective date of this Decision is a violation of probation. Respondent shall pay the costs of all examinations. For purposes of this condition, the exam shall be a passing score of the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners Part III examination consistent with Business and Professions Code section 2493."

14. Respondent's probation is subject to revocation because he failed to comply with Probation Condition 4, referenced above. Respondent has taken and failed the Part III examination three times since his release from federal custody.

1 **THIRD CAUSE TO REVOKE PROBATION**

2 (Failure to Maintain a Current Podiatric Medical License)

3 15. At all times after the effective date of Respondent's probation, Condition 11 stated:

4 "11. PROBATION COMPLIANCE UNIT Respondent shall maintain a current and
5 renewed California doctor of podiatric medicine's license."

6 16. Respondent's probation is subject to revocation because he failed to comply with
7 Probation Condition 11, referenced above. Respondent's license has been delinquent since
8 February 28, 2015.

9 **FOURTH CAUSE TO REVOKE PROBATION**

10 (Failure to Comply with Continuing Medical Education Requirements)

11 17. At all times after the effective date of Respondent's probation, Condition 22 stated:

12 "22. COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIRED CONTINUING MEDICAL
13 EDUCATION Respondent shall complete 50 hours of approved continuing medical education
14 and submit on a bi-annual basis satisfactory proof of compliance of same to the Board during
15 each two (2) year renewal period."

16 18. Respondent's probation is subject to revocation because he failed to comply with
17 Probation Condition 22, referenced above. The Board has not received any certificates of
18 continuing medical education since the Disciplinary Order took effect.

19 **FIFTH CAUSE TO REVOKE PROBATION**

20 (Failure to Comply with Probation Order)

21 19. Respondent's conditional license is subject to discipline pursuant to section 2227,
22 subdivision (5), of the Code in that he violated terms and conditions of the conditional license
23 issued by the Board. The circumstances are as follows:

24 20. The facts and circumstances alleged in paragraphs 11 through 18 are incorporated
25 here as if fully set forth.

26 **DISCIPLINE CONSIDERATIONS**

27 21. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent,
28 Complainant alleges that on or about November 8, 2001, in a prior disciplinary action entitled *In*


1 *the Matter of Accusation Against Bill James Releford Jr., D.P.M., Case No. 1B-1998-91425*
2 before the Board of Podiatric Medicine, Respondent's license was revoked, with the revocation
3 stayed and Respondent was placed on probation for a period of five (5) years with certain terms
4 and conditions as a result of his admissions to Gross Negligence, Repeated Negligent Acts,
5 Incompetency, Dishonest Acts, Failure to Maintain Accurate Records, Excessive Treatment, and
6 Unprofessional Conduct. That decision is now final and is incorporated by reference as if fully
7 set forth.

8 **PRAYER**

9 **WHEREFORE**, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,
10 and that following the hearing, the Board of Podiatric Medicine issue a decision:

- 11 1. Revoking the probation that was granted by the Board of Podiatric Medicine in Case
12 No. 1B-2011-216393 and imposing the disciplinary order that was stayed thereby revoking
13 Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No. E-3630 issued to Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M.;
- 14 2. Revoking or suspending Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No. E-3630, issued to
15 Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M.;
- 16 3. Ordering Respondent Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M., to pay to the Board the
17 reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case pursuant to Business and
18 Professions Code section 2497.5;
- 19 4. Ordering Respondent Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M., to pay the Board of Podiatric
20 Medicine all unpaid costs of probation monitoring, as well as all unpaid cost recovery amounts,
21 on the probation order issued May 23, 2014, in Case No. 1B-2011-216393; and
- 22 5. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

23
24 DATED: May 22, 2017


25 BRIAN NASLUND
26 Executive Officer
27 Board of Podiatric Medicine
28 Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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Exhibit A

Decision and Order

Board of Podiatric Medicine Case No. 1B-1998-91425

BEFORE THE
BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation
Against:

BILL JAMES RELEFORD, JR., D.P.M.

Podiatric Medical
License No. E-3630

Respondent.

File No: 1B-1998-91425

OAH No: L-2001030470

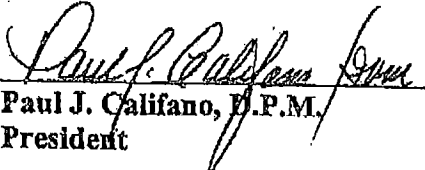
DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Board of Podiatric Medicine, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on November 8, 2001.

DATED October 9, 2001.

BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE


Paul J. Califano, D.P.M.
President

1 BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General
of the State of California
2 MARK T. ROOHK, State Bar No. 132698
Deputy Attorney General
3 California Department of Justice
300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702
4 Los Angeles, California 90013
Telephone: (213) 897-2568
5 Facsimile: (213) 897-1071

6 Attorneys for Complainant

7
8 **BEFORE THE**
9 **BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE**
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

12 BILL JAMES RELEFORD, JR., D.P.M.
656 E. Regent Street
13 Inglewood, CA 90301

14 Podiatrist License No. E 3630

15 Respondent.

Case No. 1B-1998-91425

OAH No. L-2001030470

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

16
17
18 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the
19 above-entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

20 PARTIES

21 1. Complainant James Rathlesberger is the Executive Officer of the Board of
22 Podiatric Medicine. He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in
23 this matter by Bill Lockyer, Attorney General of the State of California, by Mark T. Roohk,
24 Deputy Attorney General.

25 2. Respondent is representing himself in this proceeding and has chosen not
26 to exercise his right to be represented by counsel.

27 3. On or about August 31, 1989, the Board of Podiatric Medicine issued
28 Podiatrist License Number E 3630 to Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M. ("Respondent"). The

1 Podiatrist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought and will
2 expire on February 28, 2001, unless renewed.

3 JURISDICTION

4 4. Accusation No. 1B-1998-91425 was filed before the Board of Podiatric
5 Medicine of the Department of Consumer Affairs ("Board"), and is currently pending against
6 Respondent. The Accusation, together with all other statutorily required documents, was duly
7 served on Respondent on January 23, 2001, and Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense
8 contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 1B-1998-91425 is attached as Exhibit A
9 and incorporated herein by reference.

10 ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

11 5. Respondent has carefully read and fully understands the nature of the
12 charges and allegations in the Accusation and the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and
13 Disciplinary Order.

14 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the
15 right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation, the right to be represented by
16 counsel, at his own expense, the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him,
17 the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf, the right to the issuance of
18 subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents, the right to
19 reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision, and all other rights accorded by the
20 California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

21 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly and intelligently waives and gives up
22 each and every right set forth above.

23 CULPABILITY

24 8. Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in the
25 Accusation, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Podiatrist
26 License.

27 9. For the purpose of resolving Accusation No. 1B-1998-91425 without the
28 expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing,

1 Complainant could establish a factual basis for the charges in the Accusation, and that
2 Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest those charges.

3 10. Respondent agrees that his Podiatrist License is subject to discipline and
4 he agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Order below.

5 CONTINGENCY

6 11. This stipulation shall be subject to the approval of the Board. Respondent
7 understands and agrees that Board of Podiatric Medicine's staff and counsel for Complainant
8 may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without
9 notice to or participation by Respondent. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Order,
10 except for this paragraph the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or
11 effect, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be
12 disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

13 12. The parties agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and
14 Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as
15 the original Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and signatures.

16 13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties
17 agree that the Board shall, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the
18 following Disciplinary Order:

19 DISCIPLINARY ORDER

20 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Podiatrist License Number E 3630 issued to
21 Respondent Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and
22 Respondent is placed on probation for five (5) years on the following terms and conditions.

23 1. ACTUAL SUSPENSION As part of probation, respondent is suspended
24 from the practice of podiatric medicine for 30 days beginning the effective date of this decision.

25 2. POSTED NOTICE OF SUSPENSION Respondent shall prominently
26 post a notice of the Board's Order of Suspension, in a place clearly visible to the public. Said
27 notice, provided by the Board, shall remain so posted during the entire period of actual
28 suspension.

1 3. PHYSICIAN ASSESSMENT & CLINICAL EDUCATION (PACE)

2 PROGRAM Within 60 days of the effective date of this decision, respondent at his own
3 expense shall enroll in the PACE program and shall undergo assessment and clinical training.
4 After a full assessment by the PACE Evaluation Committee, respondent shall comply with all
5 PACE program requirements and recommendations, including but not limited to participation in
6 any clinical training recommended by the PACE program and submission to recommended
7 treatment of any medical or mental condition identified in the PACE program assessment.
8 Respondent shall complete the PACE program, including recommended clinical training and/or
9 treatment, within six (6) month after the initial enrollment, unless the Board or its designee
10 agrees in writing to a later completion date.

11 4. ETHICS Within 60 days of the effective date of this decision, respondent
12 shall submit to the Board of Podiatric Medicine for its prior approval a course in Ethics, which
13 respondent shall successfully complete during the first year of probation.

14 5. BILLING MONITOR Within 30 days of the effective date of this
15 decision, or at such time as the terms of condition 1 above have been satisfied, respondent's
16 billing practices will be monitored by another doctor of podiatric medicine. The Board shall,
17 within the exercise of reasonable discretion, appoint the monitor from its panel of consultants.
18 The monitor shall provide periodic reports to the Board or its designee. Respondent shall pay all
19 costs for such monitoring and shall otherwise comply with all requirements of his contract with
20 the monitor, a copy of which is contained in Appendix A. If the monitor terminates the contract
21 or is no longer available, the Board or its designee shall appoint a new monitor immediately.
22 Respondent shall not practice during the probation until he provides a copy of the contract with
23 the current monitor to the probation officer and such contract is approved by the Board.
24 Respondent shall be required to have a billing monitor for a period of one (1) year.

25 6. PROVISIONS FOR CESSATION OF PRACTICE In settlements or
26 orders which provide for a cessation of practice, respondent shall comply with procedures
27 provided by the Board probation officer regarding notification and management of patients.
28

1 7. NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES Respondent shall, upon or before the
2 effective date of this Decision, post or circulate a notice which actually recites the offenses for
3 which respondent has been disciplined and the terms and conditions of probation, to all
4 employees involved in his practice. Within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this
5 Decision, respondent shall cause his employees to report to the Board in writing, acknowledging
6 the employees have read the Accusation and Decision in the case and understand respondent's
7 terms and conditions of probation.

8 8. CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT Respondent shall notify the Board in
9 writing, through the assigned probation officer, of any and all changes of employment, location,
10 and address within thirty (30) days of such change.

11 9. PROBATION COSTS Respondent shall pay the administrative costs
12 incurred by the Board associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation.
13 Such costs shall be payable to the Board at the end of each fiscal year. Respondent will be
14 provided with an invoice at the close of each fiscal year which must be paid within 30 days of
15 receipt. The final invoice will be provided upon termination of probation and is also due and
16 payable within 30 days of receipt. Failure to pay such costs shall be considered a violation of
17 probation.

18 10. RECOVERY OF INVESTIGATION & PROSECUTION COSTS The
19 respondent is hereby ordered to reimburse the Board the amount of \$4,000 within one (1) year of
20 the effective date of this decision for the recovery of the actual and reasonable costs of the
21 investigation and prosecution of this matter as provided for in Section 2497.5 of the Business and
22 Professions Code. Payments shall be made in equal quarterly installments of \$1,000. Failure to
23 reimburse the Board's cost of its investigation and prosecution shall constitute a violation of the
24 probation order, unless the Board agrees in writing to payment by an alternative plan because of
25 financial hardship. The filing of bankruptcy shall not relieve respondent of his responsibility to
26 reimburse the Board for its investigative and prosecution costs.

27 11. OBEY ALL LAWS Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local
28 laws, and all rules governing the practice of podiatric medicine in California.

1 12. QUARTERLY REPORTS Respondent shall submit quarterly
2 declarations, under penalty of perjury, on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has
3 been compliance with all the conditions of probation.

4 Notwithstanding any provision for tolling of requirements of probation, during the
5 cessation of practice respondent shall continue to submit quarterly declarations under penalty of
6 perjury.

7 13. SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM Respondent shall comply with the
8 Board's probation surveillance program.

9 14. INTERVIEW WITH PODIATRIC MEDICAL CONSULTANT
10 Respondent shall appear in person for interviews with the Board's medical consultant, upon
11 request, at various intervals and with reasonable notice.

12 15. TOLLING FOR CESSATION OF PRACTICE In the event the
13 respondent fails to satisfactorily complete any provision of the order of probation, which results
14 in the cessation of practice, all other provisions of probation other than the submission of
15 quarterly reports shall be held in abeyance until respondent is permitted to resume the practice of
16 podiatry. All provisions of probation shall recommence on the effective date of resumption of
17 practice. Periods of cessation of practice will not apply to the reduction of the probationary
18 period.

19 16. TOLLING FOR OUT-OF-STATE PRACTICE OR RESIDENCE In the
20 event respondent should leave California to reside or to practice outside the state, respondent
21 must notify the Board in writing of the dates of departure and return. Periods of residency or
22 practice outside California will not apply to the reduction of this probationary period.

23 17. COMPLETION OF PROBATION Upon successful completion of
24 probation, respondent's certificate will be fully restored.

25 18. VIOLATION OF PROBATION If respondent violates probation in any
26 respect, the Board, after giving respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke
27 probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an accusation or petition to
28 revoke probation is filed against respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing

1 jurisdiction until the matter is final, the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is
2 final, and no petition for modification of penalty shall be considered while there is an accusation
3 or petition to revoke probation pending against respondent.

4 19. COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIRED CONTINUING MEDICAL
5 EDUCATION Respondent shall submit satisfactory proof biennially to the Board of
6 compliance with the requirements for re-licensure, including completing fifty (50) hours of
7 approved continuing medical education, meeting continuing competence requirements, and
8 possessing a current & valid certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), during
9 each two (2) year renewal period.

10 20. LICENSE SURRENDER Following the effective date of this decision, if
11 respondent ceases practice due to retirement or health reasons, or is otherwise unable to satisfy
12 the terms and conditions of probation, respondent may request voluntarily surrender of his
13 license to the Board. The Board reserves the right to evaluate respondent's request and to
14 exercise its discretion whether to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed
15 appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrendered
16 license, respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation.

17 ACCEPTANCE

18 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and I
19 fully understand the terms and conditions and other matters contained therein, as well as the
20 effect this stipulation will have on my Podiatrist License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement
21 voluntarily, knowingly and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Disciplinary Order and
22 Decision of the Board of Podiatric Medicine. I further agree that a facsimile copy of this
23 Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile copies of signatures, may be
24 used with the same force and effect as the originals.

25 DATED: July 30, 2001.

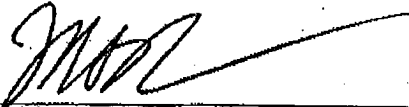
26
27 
28 BILL JAMES REELEFORD, JR., D.P.M.
Respondent

1 ENDORSEMENT

2 The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully
3 submitted for consideration by the Board of Podiatric Medicine of the Department of Consumer
4 Affairs.

5
6 DATED: 8/7/01

7 BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General
8 of the State of California

9 
10 MARK T. ROOHK
11 Deputy Attorney General

12 Attorneys for Complainant

13 DOJ Docket Number: 03576160-LA00AD1996
14 Stipulation 11/9/00
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Exhibit A:

Accusation Case No. 1B-1998-91425

1 BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General
of the State of California
2 MARK T. ROOHK, State Bar No. 132698
Deputy Attorney General
3 California Department of Justice
300 S. Spring Street, Rm 1702
4 Los Angeles, CA 90013
Telephone: (213) 897-2568
5 Facsimile: (213) 897-1071
6 Attorneys for Complainant

8 **BEFORE THE**
9 **BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE**
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 1B-1998-91425

12 BILL JAMES RELEFORD, JR., D.P.M.
13 656 E. Regent St.
Inglewood, CA 90301

ACCUSATION

14 Doctor of Podiatric Medicine
15 Certificate No. E 3630

16 Respondent

17
18 Complainant alleges:

19 **PARTIES**

20 1. James Rathlesberger ("Complainant") brings this accusation solely in his
21 official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Podiatric Medicine, Department of
22 Consumer Affairs, State of California.

23 2. On or about August 31, 1989, the Board of Podiatric Medicine issued
24 Doctor of Podiatric Medicine Certificate Number E 3630 to Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M.
25 ("Respondent"). The Doctor of Podiatric Medicine Certificate was in full force and effect at all
26 times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on February 28, 2001, unless
27 renewed.

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1 (e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption which is
2 substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.

3 (f) Any action or conduct which would have warranted the denial of a
4 certificate.

5 6. Section 2497 of the Code states:

6 (a) The board may order the denial of an application for, or the suspension of,
7 or the revocation of, or the imposition of probationary conditions upon, a certificate to
8 practice podiatric medicine for any of the causes set forth in Article 12 (commencing with
9 Section 2220) in accordance with Section 2222.

10 (b) The board may hear all matters, including but not limited to, any contested
11 case or may assign any such matters to an administrative law judge. The proceedings
12 shall be held in accordance with Section 2230. If a contested case is heard by the board
13 itself, the administrative law judge who presided at the hearing shall be present during the
14 board's consideration of the case and shall assist and advise the board.

15 7. Section 2497.5 of the Code states:

16 (a) The board may request the administrative law judge, under his or her
17 proposed decision in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the board, to direct
18 any licensee found guilty of unprofessional conduct to pay to the board a sum not to
19 exceed the actual and reasonable costs of the investigation and prosecution of the case.

20 8. Section 2228 of the Code states the authority of the board or a division of
21 the board or the California Board of Podiatric Medicine to discipline a licensee by placing him or
22 her on probation includes, but is not limited to, the following:

23 (a) Requiring the licensee to obtain additional professional training and to
24 pass an examination upon the completion of the training. The examination may be
25 written or oral, or both, and may be a practical or clinical examination, or both, at the
26 option of the board or division or the administrative law judge.

27 (b) Requiring the licensee to submit to a complete diagnostic examination by
28 one or more physicians and surgeons appointed by the division. If an examination is

1 ordered, the board or division shall receive and consider any other report of a complete
2 diagnostic examination given by one or more physicians and surgeons of the licensee's
3 choice.

4 (c) Restricting or limiting the extent, scope, or type of practice of the licensee,
5 including requiring notice to applicable patients that the licensee is unable to perform the
6 indicated treatment, where appropriate.

7 (d) Providing the option of alternative community service in cases other than
8 violations relating to quality of care, as defined by the Division of Medical Quality.

9 9. Section 2266 of the Code states the failure of a physician and surgeon to
10 maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients
11 constitutes unprofessional conduct.

12 10. Section 725 of the Code states in relevant part that repeated acts of clearly
13 excessive prescribing or administering of drugs or treatment, repeated acts of clearly excessive
14 use of diagnostic procedures, or repeated acts of clearly excessive use of diagnostic or treatment
15 facilities as determined by the standard of the community of licensees is unprofessional conduct
16 for a physician and surgeon, dentist, podiatrist, psychologist, physical therapist, chiropractor, or
17 optometrist.

18 11. Section 14124.12, subdivision (a), of the Welfare and Institutions Code
19 states that upon receipt of written notice from the Medical Board of California, the Osteopathic
20 Medical Board of California, or the Board of Dental Examiners of California, that a licensee's
21 license has been placed on probation as a result of a disciplinary action, the department may not
22 reimburse any Medi-Cal claim for the type of surgical service or invasive procedure that gave
23 rise to the probation, including any dental surgery or invasive procedure, that was performed by
24 the licensee on or after the effective date of probation and until the termination of all
25 probationary terms and conditions or until the probationary period has ended, whichever occurs
26 first. This section shall apply except in any case in which the relevant licensing board
27 determines that compelling circumstances warrant the continued reimbursement during the
28 probationary period of any Medi-Cal claim, including any claim for dental services, as so

1 described. In such a case, the department shall continue to reimburse the licensee for all
2 procedures, except for those invasive or surgical procedures for which the licensee was placed on
3 probation.

4 FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

5 (Gross Negligence)

6 12. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under 2234, subdivision (b)
7 of the Code in that respondent was grossly negligent in the care and treatment of a patient. The
8 circumstances are as follows:

9 a. On or about March 3, 1995, patient C.J. was admitted to Centinela
10 Hospital Medical Center ("Centinela") via the emergency room with a diagnosis of acute
11 hemorrhagic cerebrovascular accident (stroke). She was unable to swallow and a
12 percutaneous endoscopic gastrotomy was performed. Her lower extremities had palpable
13 pulses equal bilaterally. No ulcerations were documented. She was transferred to
14 Community Convalescent and Rehabilitation Center ("CCRC") on April 12, 1995 with a
15 guarded prognosis and a poor rehabilitation prognosis. Patient C.J. was bedbound and
16 required total assistance on a daily basis. On April 12, 1995, the records show that a
17 stage IV decubitus ulcer on the right buttocks and a stage II decubitus ulcer on both
18 thighs were to be cleansed and Santyl enzyme applied followed by a clean, dry dressing.
19 By April 26, 1995 the stage IV decubitus ulcer on the right buttocks had enlarged.
20 Patient C.J. was transferred to Daniel Freeman Hospital ("Daniel Freeman") on April 30,
21 1995, where the admitting diagnosis of pneumonia, urosepsis, sacral decubitus ulcer with
22 possible abscess, and post intercerebral hemorrhage with right hemiparesis was made.
23 Sacral and heel decubiti were noted by the attending physician. On May 5, 1995, patient
24 C.J. underwent surgical debridement of the decubitus ulcers on both heels and on her
25 groin areas. She was transferred back to CCRC on May 8, 1995.

26 b. Upon admission to CCRC the ulcerative lesions on the heels were
27 found to be stage IV. Patient C.J. was placed on oral antibiotics of Keflex 500mg T.I.D.
28 for ten days. Blood chemistry reflected a high WBC of 12.5 on May 9, 1995, 8.7 on May

1 22, 1995, and 12.1 on June 16, 1995. The progress notes from CCRC reflect examination
2 of and treatment to both heels by respondent, who had a contract with the CCRC to
3 provide podiatric care to residents, on May 13, 1995, May 31, 1995 and June 17, 1995. A
4 descriptive decubitus heel ulcer, full thickness 5.0cm in diameter with serious drainage
5 was noted on the progress note of May 13, 1995. Treatment consisted of ulcer
6 debridement, skin deroofed, with a directive found in the physician's orders for Santyl
7 ointment *qd* and a request for the application of a LeNard splint to both heels. On May
8 31, 1995, the ulcers were again debrided to the subcutaneous tissues with no bleeding and
9 no infection was noted. The LeNard splint was reordered and the Santyl ointment was to
10 continue. On June 17, 1995, it was noted by respondent that the dressings had not been
11 changed for three days and the wound had a very foul odor. A directive for change of
12 dressings every twelve hours and wet to dry 0.5% acetic acid soaks was made. A surgical
13 debridement of the sacral and heel ulcers was performed on June 22, 1995 at Daniel
14 Freeman by Dr. R.C. The heel ulcers were described as 4cm by 4cm each and
15 debridement included excision of bone deep to the os calcis.

16 c. On November 19, 1995, patient C.J. was again transferred to
17 Daniel Freeman because of a shortness of breath. The admitting diagnosis was
18 congestive heart failure (CHF), hypoxia, multiple infected decubitus ulcers, hypertension,
19 anemia, severe peripheral vascular disease, hyponatremia and hypoalbuminemia.
20 Laboratory data indicated a WBC of 16.2, hemoglobin of 6.5, hematocrit of 21.6, PO2 of
21 27, PCO2 of 37, pH of 7.48 with serum albumin at a low 1.7. Dr. K.F.L., the ER
22 physician, examined the patient and filled out elder neglect papers. The patient was
23 stabilized and aggressive antibiotic therapy was instituted with a combination of Cipro,
24 Vancomycin, Flagyl, Augmentin and Diflucan. On November 22, 1995, Dr. R.C.
25 performed debridement of the sacral and right heel ulcers with an additional below the
26 knee amputation of the left ankle and foot. Pathology found fibrocalcific arteriosclerosis
27 with extensive gangrene and ulceration (AK amputation left leg). Following the surgery
28 patient C.J. continued afebrile and clinically stable and was transferred to the Centinela

1 Valley Care Center on December 14, 1995.

2 d. Patient C.J. was returned to Daniel Freeman on December 25, 1995
3 complaining of respiratory distress. Her WBC was 36. A diagnosis of CHF, probable
4 sepsis, hyperkalemia, prerenal azotemia, peripheral vascular disease and multiple
5 decubitus ulcers was made. The post-op leg wound was found to be closed with no
6 apparent signs of infection. The ulcers were again debrided and the patient was placed on
7 IV antibiotics of Gentamicin and Rocephin. Patient C.J.'s condition did not improve and
8 she went into cardiopulmonary arrest on December 27, 1995.

9 e. Respondent's office notes, none of which were signed by
10 respondent, reflect that he saw patient C.J. for surgical debridement on numerous
11 occasions between May 10, 1995 and December 13, 1995, including on May 10, 12, 17,
12 19, 22, 24, 26, 29 and 31, June 2, 5, 12, 14, 16, 17 and 19, July 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 17, 19,
13 21, 24, 26, 28 and 31, August 2, 4, 9, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30
14 and 31, September 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 18, 29, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29,
15 October 2, 9, 13, 16, 18, 20, 23, 25, 27 and 30, November 1, 2, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17 and 18,
16 and December 13. The December 13 treatment and billing by respondent included
17 debridement of the ulcer on the left foot, which foot had been amputated on November
18 22, 1995. Respondent's initial and subsequent progress notes in his office chart for
19 patient C.J. contained no evidence of documentation of past medical history (e.g.,
20 complications secondary to her acute hypoxia, multiple infected decubitus ulcers,
21 hypertension, anemia, severe peripheral vascular disease, hyponatremia and
22 hypoalbuminemia), hospitalizations, or surgeries that might have assisted respondent in
23 his evaluation of the patient. There were no laboratory tests, no x-rays to rule out
24 osteomyelitis, or consultations with the patient's primary care physician. Over the course
25 of time that respondent treated patient C.J., his progress notes failed to include operative
26 reports, prognoses, or future treatment plans. No laboratory, x-ray or pathology reports
27 were found in the progress notes of respondent. There were no references to wound
28 cultures or antibiotics prescribed.

1 f. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995,
2 respondent was grossly negligent in the care and treatment of patient C.J. in that he failed
3 to establish, or document that he had established, a diagnosis and treatment plan that took
4 into consideration the patient's past medical history, laboratory data, and consultation
5 with the primary care physician.

6 g. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995,
7 respondent was grossly negligent in that he performed multiple, continuous debridements
8 of patient C.J.'s avascularized, gangrenous, non-responsive ulcers without reassessing, or
9 documenting that he had reassessed, the treatment plan.

10 h. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995,
11 respondent was grossly negligent in his documentation of his care and treatment of
12 patient C.J. in that his notes lacked any significant patient medical history, objective
13 findings, descriptive wound measurements (including documentation of the progress of
14 wound care), or treatment plans.

15 i. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995,
16 respondent was grossly negligent in his documentation of the care and treatment of
17 patient C.J. in that there were no operative reports for the eighty-four surgical
18 debridements allegedly performed by respondent on patient C.J.

19 j. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995,
20 respondent was grossly negligent in the care and treatment of patient C.J. in that he failed
21 to sign office notes reflecting services provided to patient C.J.

22 k. Between on or about May 10, 1995 and December 7, 1995,
23 respondent was grossly negligent in the care and treatment of patient C.J. in that he failed
24 to fully document his treatment of the patient in her chart at CCRC.

25 l. Between on or about May 10, 1995 and December 27, 1995,
26 respondent was grossly negligent in that he repeatedly performed invasive surgery and/or
27 provided treatment without documentation of informed consent.

28 ///

1 m. On or about December 13, 1995, respondent was grossly negligent
2 in that he documented and billed for a procedure on patient C.J.'s left foot, which had
3 been amputated on November 22, 1995.

4 SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

5 (Repeated Negligent Acts)

6 13. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234,
7 subdivision (c) in that he engaged in repeated acts of negligence in the care and treatment of
8 patient C.J. The circumstances are as follows:

9 a. The facts and circumstances alleged in subparagraphs 12.a. through
10 12.e. above are incorporated here as if fully set forth.

11 b. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995,
12 respondent was negligent in the care and treatment of patient C.J. in that he failed to
13 establish, or document that he had established, a diagnosis and treatment plan that took
14 into consideration the patient's past medical history, laboratory data, and consultation
15 with the primary care physician.

16 c. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995,
17 respondent was negligent in that he performed multiple, continuous debridements of
18 patient C.J.'s avascularized, gangrenous, non-responsive ulcers without reassessing, or
19 documenting that he had reassessed, the treatment plan.

20 d. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995,
21 respondent was negligent in his documentation of his care and treatment of patient C.J. in
22 that his notes lacked any significant patient medical history, objective findings,
23 descriptive wound measurements (including documentation of the progress of wound
24 care), or treatment plans.

25 e. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995,
26 respondent was negligent in his documentation of the care and treatment of patient C.J. in
27 that there were no operative reports for the eighty-four surgeries performed by respondent
28 on patient C.J.

1 f. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995,
2 respondent was negligent in the care and treatment of patient C.J. in that he failed to sign
3 office notes reflecting services provided to patient C.J.

4 g. Between on or about May 10, 1995 and December 7, 1995,
5 respondent was negligent in the care and treatment of patient C.J. in that he failed to fully
6 document his treatment of the patient in the patient's chart at CCRC.

7 h. Between on or about May 10, 1995 and December 27, 1995,
8 respondent was negligent in that he repeatedly performed invasive surgery and/or
9 provided treatment without documentation of informed consent.

10 i. On or about December 13, 1995, respondent was negligent in that
11 he documented and billed for a procedure on patient C.J.'s left foot, which had been
12 amputated on November 22, 1995.

13 THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

14 (Incompetency)

15 14. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234,
16 subdivision (d), in that respondent was incompetent in the care and treatment of patient C.J. The
17 circumstances are as follows:

18 a. The facts and circumstances alleged in subparagraphs 12.a. through
19 12.e. above are incorporated here as if fully set forth.

20 FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

21 (Dishonest Acts)

22 15. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234,
23 subdivision (e) in that he engaged in dishonest acts. The circumstances are as follows:

24 a. The facts and circumstances alleged in subparagraphs 12.a. through
25 12.e. above are incorporated here as if fully set forth.

26 b. On or about December 13, 1995, respondent engaged in a
27 dishonest act when he documented and billed for a procedure on patient C.J.'s left foot,
28 which had been amputated on November 22, 1995.

1 FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

2 (Record Keeping)

3 16. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2266 of the
4 Code in that respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision
5 of services to patient C.J. The circumstances are as follows:

6 a. The facts and circumstances alleged in subparagraphs 12.a. through
7 12.e. above are incorporated here as if fully set forth.

8 b. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995,
9 respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records of his care and treatment of
10 patient C.J. in that his notes lacked any significant patient medical history, objective
11 findings, descriptive wound measurements (including documentation of the progress of
12 wound care), or treatment plans.

13 c. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995,
14 respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records of the care and treatment of
15 patient C.J. in that there were no operative reports for the eighty-four surgeries performed
16 by respondent on patient C.J.

17 d. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995,
18 respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records of the care and treatment of
19 patient C.J. in that he failed to sign office notes reflecting services provided to patient
20 C.J.

21 e. Between on or about May 10, 1995 and December 7, 1995,
22 respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records of the care and treatment of
23 patient C.J. in that he failed to fully document his treatment of the patient in the patient's
24 chart at CCRC.

25 f. Between on or about May 10, 1995 and December 27, 1995,
26 respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records in that he repeatedly
27 performed invasive surgery and/or provided treatment without documentation of
28 informed consent.

1 SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

2 (Excessive Treatment)

3 17. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 729 of the Code
4 in that respondent engaged in repeated acts of clearly excessive treatment of patient C.J. The
5 circumstances are as follows:

6 a. The facts and circumstances alleged in subparagraphs 12.a. through
7 12.e. above are incorporated here as if fully set forth.

8 b. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995,
9 respondent engaged in repeated acts of clearly excessive treatment of patient C.J. in that
10 he performed multiple, continuous debridements of patient C.J.'s avascularized,
11 gangrenous, non-responsive ulcers.

12 SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

13 (Unprofessional Conduct)

14 18. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234 in that
15 engaged in acts of unprofessional conduct. The circumstances are as follows:

16 a. The facts and circumstances alleged in paragraphs 12. through 17.
17 above are incorporated here as if fully set forth.

1 PRAYER

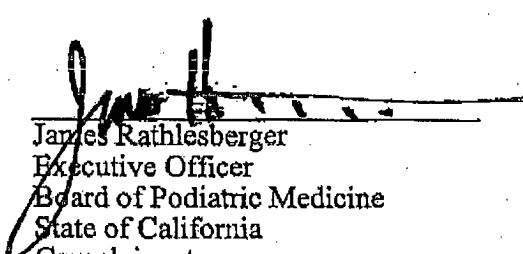
2 WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein
3 alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board issue a decision:

4 1. Revoking or suspending Doctor of Podiatric Medicine Certificate Number
5 E 3630, issued to Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M.;

6 2. Ordering Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M. to pay the Board the reasonable
7 costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions
8 Code section 2497.5, and, if placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring;

9 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

10 DATED: January 23, 2001

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12
13 
14 James Rathlesberger
15 Executive Officer
16 Board of Podiatric Medicine
17 State of California
18 Complainant

17 eaj: 12-12-00

Exhibit B

Decision and Order

Board of Podiatric Medicine Case No. 1B-2011-216393

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

BILL JAMES RELEFORD JR., D.P.M.

Doctor of Podiatric Medicine
License No. E 3630

Respondent.

DECISION AND ORDER

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on June 20, 2014

BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE

Kristina M. Dixon, MBA, President

1 KAMALA D. HARRIS
Attorney General of California
2 JUDITH T. ALVARADO
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 STEVE DIEHL
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 235250
California Department of Justice
5 2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 5090
Fresno, CA 93721
6 Telephone: (559) 477-1626
Facsimile: (559) 445-5106
7 *Attorneys for Complainant*

8 **BEFORE THE**
9 **BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE**
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 1B-2011-216393

12 **BILL JAMES RELEFORD JR., DPM**
13 **455 N. Prairie Ave.**
Inglewood, CA 90301
14 **Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License**
No. E 3630,

STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER

15 Respondent.

16
17 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-
18 entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

19 PARTIES

20 1. James Rathlesberger ("Complainant") is the Executive Officer of the Board of
21 Podiatric Medicine. He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this
22 matter by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the State of California, by Steve Diehl, Deputy
23 Attorney General.

24 2. Respondent BILL JAMES RELEFORD JR., DPM ("Respondent") is representing
25 himself in this proceeding and has chosen not to exercise his right to be represented by counsel.

26 3. On or about August 31, 1989, the Board of Podiatric Medicine issued Doctor of
27 Podiatric Medicine License No. E 3630 to BILL JAMES RELEFORD JR., DPM (Respondent).
28 The Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the

1 charges brought in Accusation No. 1B-2011-216393 and will expire on February 28, 2015, unless
2 renewed.

3 JURISDICTION

4 4. Accusation No. 1B-2011-216393 was filed before the Board of Podiatric Medicine
5 (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The
6 Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on
7 November 14, 2013. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.

8 5. A copy of Accusation No. 1B-2011-216393 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated
9 herein by reference.

10 ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

11 6. Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in
12 Accusation No. 1B-2011-216393. Respondent has also carefully read, and understands the
13 effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.

14 7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a
15 hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at
16 his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to
17 present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel
18 the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and
19 court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California
20 Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

21 8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and
22 every right set forth above.

23 CULPABILITY

24 9. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation
25 No. 1B-2011-216393.

26 10. Respondent agrees that his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License is subject to
27 discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the
28 Disciplinary Order below.

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1 Respondent shall prominently post a notice of the Board's Order of Suspension, in a place clearly
2 visible to the public. Said notice, provided by the Board, shall remain so posted during the entire
3 period of suspension.

4 2. PROVISIONS FOR CESSATION OF PRACTICE During the period of
5 suspension, respondent shall comply with procedures provided by the Board regarding
6 notification and management of patients.

7 3. ETHICS COURSE Within 60 days after release from Federal custody, respondent
8 shall enroll in a course in ethics, at respondent's expense, approved in advance by the Board or its
9 designee. Failure to successfully complete the course during the first year is a violation of
10 probation.

11 An ethics course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but
12 prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee,
13 be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have been approved by
14 the Board or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

15 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
16 designee not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision.

17 4. EXAMINATION Within 60 calendar days after release from Federal custody,
18 respondent shall arrange to take and pass a written examination approved by the Board. Failure
19 to pass the examination within one year of the effective date of this Decision is a violation of
20 probation. Respondent shall pay the costs of all examinations. For purposes of this condition, the
21 exam shall be a passing score of the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners Part III
22 examination consistent with Business and Professions Code section 2493.

23 Respondent shall not practice podiatric medicine until respondent has passed the required
24 examination and has been so notified by the Board or its designee in writing. This prohibition
25 shall not bar respondent from practicing in a clinical training program approved by the Board or
26 its designee. Respondent's practice of podiatric medicine shall be restricted only to that which is
27 required by the approved training program.

28 \\\

1 5. PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION Within 30 days after release from Federal custody,
2 and on whatever periodic basis thereafter may be required by the Board or its designee,
3 respondent shall undergo a psychiatric evaluation (and psychological testing, if deemed
4 necessary) by a Board appointed Board certified psychiatrist, who shall consider any information
5 provided by the Board or designee and any other information the psychiatrist deems relevant, and
6 shall furnish a written evaluation report to the Board or its designee. Psychiatric evaluations
7 conducted prior to the effective date of the Decision shall not be accepted towards the fulfillment
8 of the requirement. Respondent shall pay the cost of all psychiatric evaluations and psychological
9 testing.

10 Respondent shall comply with all restrictions or conditions recommended by the evaluating
11 psychiatrist within 15 calendar days after being notified by the Board or its designee. Failure to
12 undergo and complete a psychiatric evaluation and psychological testing, or comply with the
13 required additional conditions or restrictions, is a violation of probation.

14 Respondent shall not engage in the practice of podiatric medicine until notified by the
15 Board or its designee that respondent is mentally fit to practice podiatric medicine safely. The
16 period of time that respondent is not practicing medicine shall not be counted toward completion
17 of the term of probation.

18 6. MONITORING - PRACTICE/BILLING Within 30 days after release from Federal
19 custody, the entire practice shall be monitored, including, but not limited to the following:
20 medical records; charting; pre and postoperative evaluations, all surgical procedures and billing
21 records.

22 The Board shall immediately, within the exercise of reasonable discretion, appoint a doctor
23 of podiatric medicine from its panel of medical consultants or panel of expert reviewers as the
24 monitor.

25 The monitor shall provide quarterly reports to the Board or its designee which include an
26 evaluation of respondent's performance, indicating whether respondent's practices are within the
27 standards of practice of podiatric medicine or billing, or both, and whether respondent is
28 practicing podiatric medicine safely.

1 The Board or its designee shall determine the frequency and practice areas to be monitored.
2 Such monitoring shall be required during the entire period of probation. The Board or its
3 designee may at its sole discretion also require prior approval by the monitor of any medical or
4 surgical procedures engaged in by the respondent. The respondent shall pay all costs of such
5 monitoring and shall otherwise comply with all requirements of his contract with the monitor, a
6 copy of which is attached as "Appendix A - Agreement to Monitor Practice and/or Billing." If
7 the monitor terminates the contract, or is no longer available, the Board or its designee shall
8 appoint a new monitor immediately. Respondent shall not practice at any time during the
9 probation until the respondent provides a copy of the contract with the current monitor to the
10 probation investigator and such contract is approved by the Board.

11 Respondent shall provide access to the practice monitor of respondent's patient records and
12 such monitor shall be permitted to make direct contact with any patients treated or cared for by
13 respondent and to discuss any matters related to respondent's care and treatment of those patients.
14 Respondent shall obtain any necessary patient releases to enable the monitor to review records
15 and to make direct contact with patients. Respondent shall execute a release authorizing the
16 monitor to provide to the Board or its designee any relevant information. If the practice monitor
17 deems it necessary to directly contact any patient, and thus require the disclosure of such patient's
18 identity, respondent shall notify the patient that the patient's identity has been requested pursuant
19 to the Decision. This notification shall be signed and dated by each patient prior to the
20 commencement or continuation of any examination or treatment of each patient by respondent
21 and a copy of such notification shall be maintained in each patient's file. The notifications signed
22 by respondent's patients shall be subject to inspection and copying by the Board or its designee at
23 any time during the period of probation that respondent is required to comply with this condition.
24 The practice monitor will sign a confidentiality agreement requiring him or her to keep all patient
25 information regarding respondent's patients in complete confidence, except as otherwise required
26 by the Board or its designee.

27 Failure to maintain all records, or to make all appropriate records available for immediate
28 inspection and copying on the premises, or to comply with this condition as outlined above, is a

1 violation of probation.

2 In lieu of a monitor, respondent may participate in the professional enhancement program
3 offered by the Physician Assessment and Clinical Education Program at the University of
4 California, San Diego School of Medicine, that includes, at minimum, quarterly chart review,
5 semi-annual practice assessment, and semi-annual review of professional growth and education.
6 Respondent shall participate in the professional enhancement program at respondent's expense
7 during the term of probation.

8 7. NOTIFICATION Prior to engaging in the practice of medicine, the respondent shall
9 provide a true copy of the Decision(s) and Accusation(s) to the Chief of Staff or the Chief
10 Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to respondent,
11 at any other facility where respondent engages in the practice of podiatric medicine, including all
12 physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive
13 Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to respondent.
14 Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Division or its designee within 15 calendar
15 days.

16 This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

17 8. PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS Prior to receiving assistance from a physician assistant,
18 respondent must notify the supervising physician of the terms and conditions of his probation.

19 9. OBEY ALL LAWS Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules
20 governing the practice of podiatric medicine in California and remain in full compliance with any
21 court ordered criminal probation, payments, and other orders.

22 10. QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations
23 under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been
24 compliance with all the conditions of probation. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations
25 not later than 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.

26 11. PROBATION COMPLIANCE UNIT Respondent shall comply with the Board's
27 probation unit. Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of respondent's business
28 and residence addresses. Changes of such addresses shall be immediately communicated in

1 writing to the Board or its designee. Under no circumstances shall a post office box serve as an
2 address of record, except as allowed by Business and Professions Code section 2021(b).

3 Respondent shall not engage in the practice of podiatric medicine in respondent's place of
4 residence. Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California doctor of podiatric
5 medicine's license.

6 Respondent shall immediately inform the Board or its designee, in writing, of travel to any
7 areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than 30
8 calendar days.

9 12. INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE Respondent shall be
10 available in person for interviews either at respondent's place of business or at the probation unit
11 office with the Board or its designee, upon request, at various intervals and either with or without
12 notice throughout the term of probation.

13 13. RESIDING OR PRACTICING OUT-OF-STATE In the event respondent should
14 leave the State of California to reside or to practice, respondent shall notify the Board or its
15 designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of departure and return. Non-practice is
16 defined as any period of time exceeding 30 calendar days in which respondent is not engaging in
17 any activities defined in section 2472 of the Business and Professions Code.

18 All time spent in an intensive training program outside the State of California which has
19 been approved by the Board or its designee shall be considered as time spent in the practice of
20 medicine within the State. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a
21 period of non-practice. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside
22 California will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term. Periods of temporary or
23 permanent residence or practice outside California will relieve respondent of the responsibility to
24 comply with the probationary terms and conditions, with the exception of this condition, and the
25 following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Law; Probation Unit Compliance; and
26 Cost Recovery.

27 Respondent's license shall be automatically cancelled if respondent's periods of temporary
28 or permanent residence or practice outside California totals two years. However, respondent's

1 license shall not be cancelled as long as respondent is residing and practicing podiatric medicine
2 in another state of the United States and is on active probation with the medical licensing
3 authority of that state, in which case the two year period shall begin on the date probation is
4 completed or terminated in that state.

5 14. FAILURE TO PRACTICE PODIATRIC MEDICINE - CALIFORNIA RESIDENT

6 In the event the respondent resides in the State of California and for any reason respondent stops
7 practicing podiatric medicine in California, respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in
8 writing within 30 calendar days prior to the dates of non-practice and return to practice. Any
9 period of non-practice within California as defined in this condition will not apply to the
10 reduction of the probationary term and does not relieve respondent of the responsibility to comply
11 with the terms and conditions of probation. Non-practice is defined as any period of time
12 exceeding thirty calendar days in which respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in
13 section 2472 of the Business and Professions Code.

14 All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Board or its
15 designee shall be considered time spent in the practice of medicine. For purposes of this
16 condition, non-practice due to a Board-ordered suspension or in compliance with any other
17 condition of probation shall not be considered a period of non-practice.

18 Respondent's license shall be automatically cancelled if respondent resides in California
19 and for a total of two years, fails to engage in California in any of the activities described in
20 Business and Professions Code section 2472.

21 15. COMPLETION OF PROBATION Respondent shall comply with all financial
22 obligations (e.g., cost recovery, restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior
23 to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, respondent's certificate
24 will be fully restored.

25 16. VIOLATION OF PROBATION If respondent violates probation in any respect, the
26 Board, after giving respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and
27 carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an accusation or petition to revoke probation is
28 filed against respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the

1 matter is final, the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final, and no petition
2 for modification of penalty shall be considered while there is an accusation or petition to revoke
3 probation pending against respondent.

4 17. COST RECOVERY Within 90 calendar days from the effective date of the Decision
5 or other period agreed to by the Board or its designee, respondent shall reimburse the Board the
6 amount of \$3,444.25 for its investigative and prosecution costs. The filing of bankruptcy or
7 period of non-practice by respondent shall not relieve the respondent of his obligation to
8 reimburse the Board for its costs.

9 18. LICENSE SURRENDER Following the effective date of this Decision, if
10 respondent ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons, or is otherwise unable to satisfy
11 the terms and conditions of probation, respondent may request the voluntary surrender of
12 respondent's license. The Board reserves the right to evaluate the respondent's request and to
13 exercise its discretion whether to grant the request or to take any other action deemed appropriate
14 and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, respondent
15 shall within 15 calendar days deliver respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its
16 designee and respondent shall no longer practice podiatric medicine. Respondent will no longer
17 be subject to the terms and conditions of probation and the surrender of respondent's license shall
18 be deemed disciplinary action. If respondent re-applies for a podiatric medical license, the
19 application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.

20 19. PROBATION MONITORING COSTS Respondent shall pay the costs associated
21 with probation monitoring each and every year of probation as designated by the Board, which
22 may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Board of Podiatric
23 Medicine and delivered to the Board or its designee within 60 days after the start of the new fiscal
24 year. Failure to pay costs within 30 calendar days of this date is a violation of probation.

25 20. NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES Respondent shall, upon or before the effective date of
26 this Decision, post or circulate a notice which actually recites the offenses for which respondent
27 has been disciplined and the terms and conditions of probation to all employees involved in his
28 practice. Within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this Decision, respondent shall cause his

1 employees to report to the Board in writing, acknowledging the employees have read the
2 Accusation and Decision in the case and understand respondent's terms and conditions of
3 probation.

4 21. CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT Respondent shall notify the Board in writing,
5 through the assigned probation officer, of any and all changes of employment, location, and
6 address within thirty (30) days of such change.

7 22. COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIRED CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION
8 Respondent shall submit satisfactory proof biennially to the Board of compliance with the
9 requirement to complete fifty hours of approved continuing medical education, and meet
10 continuing competence requirements for re-licensure during each two (2) year renewal period.

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1 ACCEPTANCE

2 I have carefully read the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I understand the
3 stipulation and the effect it will have on my Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License. I enter into
4 this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and
5 agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Podiatric Medicine.

6
7 DATED: April 20, 2014

Bill James Releford Jr.
8 BILL JAMES RELEFORD JR., DPM
9 Respondent

10 ENDORSEMENT

11 The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully
12 submitted for consideration by the Board of Podiatric Medicine.

13
14 Dated: 4/25/2014

Respectfully submitted,

15 KAMALA D. HARRIS
16 Attorney General of California
17 JUDITH T. ALVARADO
18 Supervising Deputy Attorney General

Steve Diehl
19 STEVE DIEHL
20 Deputy Attorney General
21 Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 1B-2011-216393

1 KAMALA D. HARRIS
Attorney General of California
2 JUDITH ALVARADO
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 STEVE DIEHL
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 235250
California Department of Justice
5 2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 5090
Fresno, CA 93721
6 Telephone: (559) 477-1626
Facsimile: (559) 445-5106
7 Attorneys for Complainant

FILED
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO November 14, 2013
BY Ian K. McGlone ANALYST

8 BEFORE THE
9 BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
10 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 1B-2011-216393

12 BILL JAMES RELEFORD JR., D.P.M.
455 N. Prairie Avenue
13 Inglewood, CA 90301
14 Podiatrist License No. E-3630,

ACCUSATION

Respondent.

15
16
17 Complainant alleges:

18 PARTIES

19 1. James Rathlesberger (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official
20 capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Podiatric Medicine, Department of Consumer
21 Affairs (Board).

22 2. On or about August 31, 1989, the Board issued Podiatrist License Number E 3630 to
23 BILL JAMES RELEFORD JR., DPM (Respondent). The Podiatrist License was in full force and
24 effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on February 28, 2015,
25 unless renewed.

26 \\\

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JURISDICTION

3. This Accusation is brought before the Board under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

4. Section 2222 of the Code states:

"The California Board of Podiatric Medicine shall enforce and administer this article as to doctors of podiatric medicine. Any acts of unprofessional conduct or other violations proscribed by this chapter are applicable to licensed doctors of podiatric medicine and wherever the Medical Quality Hearing Panel established under Section 11371 of the Government Code is vested with the authority to enforce and carry out this chapter as to licensed physicians and surgeons, the Medical Quality Hearing Panel also possesses that same authority as to licensed doctors of podiatric medicine.

The California Board of Podiatric Medicine may order the denial of an application or issue a certificate subject to conditions as set forth in Section 2221, or order the revocation, suspension, or other restriction of, or the modification of that penalty, and the reinstatement of any certificate of a doctor of podiatric medicine within its authority as granted by this chapter and in conjunction with the administrative hearing procedures established pursuant to Sections 11371, 11372, 11373, and 11529 of the Government Code. For these purposes, the California Board of Podiatric Medicine shall exercise the powers granted and be governed by the procedures set forth in this chapter."

5. Section 2497 of the Code states:

"(a) The board may order the denial of an application for, or the suspension of, or the revocation of, or the imposition of probationary conditions upon, a certificate to practice podiatric medicine for any of the causes set forth in Article 12 (commencing with Section 2220) in accordance with Section 2222.

"(b) The board may hear all matters, including but not limited to, any contested case or may assign any such matters to an administrative law judge. The proceedings shall be held in accordance with Section 2230. If a contested case is heard by the board itself, the administrative

1 law judge who presided at the hearing shall be present during the board's consideration of the case
2 and shall assist and advise the board."

3 6. Section 2227 of the Code states:

4 "(a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of the Medical
5 Quality Hearing Panel as designated in Section 11371 of the Government Code, or whose default
6 has been entered, and who is found guilty, or who has entered into a stipulation for disciplinary
7 action with the board, may, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter:

8 "(1) Have his or her license revoked upon order of the division.

9 "(2) Have his or her right to practice suspended for a period not to exceed one year upon
10 order of the division.

11 "(3) Be placed on probation and be required to pay the costs of probation monitoring upon
12 order of the division.

13 "(4) Be publicly reprimanded by the division.

14 "(5) Have any other action taken in relation to discipline as part of an order of probation, as
15 the division or an administrative law judge may deem proper.

16 "(b) Any matter heard pursuant to subdivision (a), except for warning letters, medical
17 review or advisory conferences, professional competency examinations, continuing education
18 activities, and cost reimbursement associated therewith that are agreed to with the division and
19 successfully completed by the licensee, or other matters made confidential or privileged by
20 existing law, is deemed public, and shall be made available to the public by the board pursuant to
21 Section 803.1."

22 7. Section 2236 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

23 "(a) The conviction of any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or
24 duties of a physician and surgeon constitutes unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this
25 chapter. The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence only of the fact that the conviction
26 occurred.

27 "...
28

1 "(c) The clerk of the court in which a licensee is convicted of a crime shall, within 48 hours
2 after the conviction, transmit a certified copy of the record of conviction to the board. The
3 division¹ may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the commission of a crime in order to
4 fix the degree of discipline or to determine if the conviction is of an offense substantially related
5 to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.

6 "(d) A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction after a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to
7 be a conviction within the meaning of this section and Section 2236.1. The record of conviction
8 shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that the conviction occurred."

9 8. Section 2497.5 of the Code states:

10 "(a) The board may request the administrative law judge, under his or her proposed
11 decision in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the board, to direct any licensee found
12 guilty of unprofessional conduct to pay to the board a sum not to exceed the actual and reasonable
13 costs of the investigation and prosecution of the case.

14 "(b) The costs to be assessed shall be fixed by the administrative law judge and shall not in
15 any event be increased by the board. When the board does not adopt a proposed decision and
16 remands the case to an administrative law judge, the administrative law judge shall not increase
17 the amount of any costs assessed in the proposed decision.

18 "(c) When the payment directed in the board's order for payment of costs is not made by
19 the licensee, the board may enforce the order for payment by bringing an action in any
20 appropriate court. This right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights the board may
21 have as to any licensee directed to pay costs.

22 "(d) In any judicial action for the recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision shall be
23 conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment.

24 "(e)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the board shall not renew or
25 reinstate the license of any licensee who has failed to pay all of the costs ordered
26 under this section.

27 _____
28 ¹ Pursuant to Section 2002 of the Code, "Division of Medical Quality" or "Division" shall be
deemed to refer to the Medical Board of California.

"(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the board may, in its discretion, conditionally renew or reinstate for a maximum of one year the license of any licensee who demonstrates financial hardship and who enters into a formal agreement with the board to reimburse the board within one year period for those unpaid costs.

"(f) All costs recovered under this section shall be deposited in the Podiatry Fund as a reimbursement in either the fiscal year in which the costs are actually recovered or the previous fiscal year, as the board may direct."

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Conviction of a Crime)

9. Respondent's license is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2236, in that he was convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a doctor of podiatric medicine. The circumstances are as follows:

10. Beginning on or before December 30, 1999, and continuing until on or after October 11, 2002, Respondent participated in a scheme to defraud Bank of America. As Respondent knew, Respondent's co-schemers would open business lines of credit at financial institutions for the purpose of withdrawing funds from the credit lines and not later returning the funds. As part of his role in the scheme, Respondent, among other things, negotiated and cashed checks from the credit lines. Respondent would then return a portion of the funds to a co-schemer and keep the remainder of the funds for himself. Two of the credit lines were opened at Respondent's request to benefit Respondent, namely, credit lines for businesses named California Podiatry of Diabetes Foot and Southern California Podiatry.

11. In total, Respondent deposited checks from four fraudulently obtained credit lines and Respondent attempted to help open one additional credit line. The total actual and intended loss amount resulting from those credit lines was more than \$400,000. The checks Respondent negotiated in furtherance of this scheme had a total value of \$217,500. One of those checks was negotiated by Respondent on or about May 30, 2002, in the amount of \$38,750, drawn from the Bank of America business credit line for California Podiatry of Diabetes Foot.

1 12. On or about October 19, 2011, in the matter entitled *United States of America vs.*
2 *Andrea Lorraine Avery, Kirkland Charles, and Bill James Releford, Jr.*, in the United States
3 District Court for the Central District of California, case number CR 11-405(A)-MMM, a First
4 Superseding Indictment was filed, naming Respondent in nineteen counts of violations of 18
5 U.S.C. §1344(2), Bank Fraud (Counts 1-19); and one count of a violation of 18 U.S.C. §1014 and
6 §2, Aiding and Abetting the making of a False Statement to a Bank (Count 22); all felonies.

7 13. On or about February 14, 2012, Respondent executed a written plea agreement in
8 which he agreed to plead guilty to a violation of 18 U.S.C. §1344(2), Bank Fraud, as alleged in
9 count 11 of the First Superseding Indictment. As part of this plea agreement, Respondent agreed
10 to a statement of facts that is substantially identical to paragraphs 10 and 11, *supra*. Respondent
11 further agreed not to "contest facts agreed to in this agreement." Respondent further agreed that
12 he "understands that the conviction in this case may also subject [him] to various other collateral
13 consequences, including but not limited to...suspension or revocation of a professional license."
14 Respondent further certified that he was "pleading guilty because [he was] guilty of the charges
15 and wish to take advantage of the promises set forth in this agreement, and not for any other
16 reason."

17 14. On or about May 14, 2012, Respondent entered a guilty plea to a violation of 18
18 U.S.C. §1344(2), Bank Fraud, as alleged in count 11 of the First Superseding Indictment.

19 15. On or about June 24, 2013, Respondent was sentenced to 24 months in federal prison.
20 Upon release from imprisonment, Respondent is to be placed on supervised release for a term of
21 three years. Respondent was also ordered to pay a fine of \$10,000, and to pay restitution to Bank
22 of America in the amount of \$218,237.13. Execution of this sentence was stayed until October
23 24, 2013.

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PRAYER

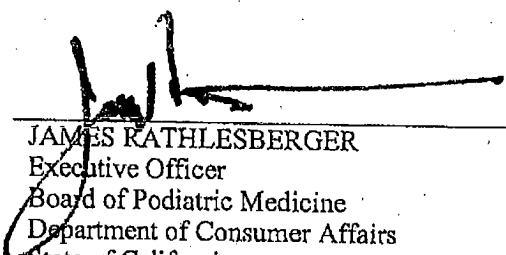
WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Podiatric Medicine issue a decision:

1. Revoking or suspending Podiatrist License Number E 3630, issued to BILL JAMES RELEFORD JR., DPM

2. Ordering Bill James Releford, Jr. to pay the Board of Podiatric Medicine the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2497.5;

3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: November 14, 2013


JAMES RATHLESBERGER
Executive Officer
Board of Podiatric Medicine
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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