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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Michael Alan Rudolph, M.D.

Case No. 800-2019-060550

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G48974

Respondent

DECISION

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on May 14, 2021.

IT IS SO ORDERED May 7, 2021.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Fxecutive Direct

1	MATTHEW RODRIQUEZ		
2	Acting Attorney General of California ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
	JOSEPH F. MCKENNA III Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 231195 600 West Broadway, Suite 1800 San Diego, California 92101 P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, California 92186-5266 Telephone: (619) 738-9417 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061		
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8	Attorneys for Complainant		
9	BEFORE THE		
10	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA		
11	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
12			
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2019-060550	
14	MICHAEL ALAN RUDOLPH, M.D. 16731 Phelps Lane		
15	Huntington Beach, California 92649-3047	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER	
16	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 48974,		
17			
18	Respondent.		
19	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-		
20	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:		
21	<u>PARTIES</u>		
22	1. William Prasifka (Complainant) is th	e Executive Director of the Medical Board of	
23	California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this		
24	matter by Matthew Rodriquez, Acting Attorney General of the State of California, and by Joseph		
25	F. McKenna III, Deputy Attorney General.		
26	2. Respondent Michael Alan Rudolph, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this		
27	proceeding by attorney Constance A. Endelicato, Esq., whose address is: 10960 Wilshire		
28	Boulevard, Floor 18, Los Angeles, California, 90024.		

3. On or about September 27, 1982, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 48974 to Michael Alan Rudolph, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on July 31, 2022, unless renewed.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

4. On February 10, 2021, pursuant to the provisions of California Government Code section 11529, an administrative law judge issued an Interim Order Imposing License Restrictions (Interim Order) restricting Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 48974, and requiring Respondent to comply with multiple license restrictions pending final administrative order in this matter. The Interim Order remains in full force and effect until the effective date of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.

JURISDICTION

5. Accusation No. 800-2019-060550 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on March 3, 2021. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A true and correct copy of Accusation No. 800-2019-060550 is attached hereto as Exhibit A and hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 6. Respondent has carefully read, discussed with his counsel, and fully understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2019-060550. Respondent also has carefully read, discussed with his counsel, and fully understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order.
- 7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2019-060550; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws

8 Having the benefit of counsel, Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- 9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2019-060550, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 48974. Respondent further agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.
- 10. Respondent stipulates that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a *prima facie* case for the charges and allegations contained in the Accusation; that he gives up his right to contest those charges and allegations contained in the Accusation; and that he has thereby subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate to disciplinary action.

CONTINGENCY

- 11. Business and Professions Code section 2224, subsection (b), provides that the Medical Board "shall delegate to its executive director the authority to adopt a ... stipulation for surrender of a license."
- 12. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation he enables the Executive Director of the Board to issue an Order, on behalf of the Board, accepting the surrender of his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate G 48974 without further notice to, or opportunity to be heard by, Respondent.
- 13. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to approval of the Executive Director on behalf of the Medical Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be submitted to the Executive Director for his consideration in the above-entitled matter and, further, that the Executive Director shall have a reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order after receiving it. By signing this stipulation, Respondent fully understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind this stipulation prior to the time the Executive Director, on behalf of the Board, considers and acts upon it.

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- 14. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, except for this paragraph, which shall remain in full force and effect. Respondent fully understands and agrees that in deciding whether or not to approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, the Executive Director and/or the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or the Attorney General's Office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify the Executive Director, the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future participation in this or any other matter affecting or involving Respondent. In the event that the Executive Director on behalf of the Board does not, in his discretion, approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, with the exception of this paragraph, it shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever, and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party hereto.
- 15. Respondent further agrees that should this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order be rejected for any reason by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, Respondent will assert no claim that the Executive Director, the Board, or any member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review, discussion and/or consideration of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order or of any matter or matters related hereto.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

- 16. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of the agreements of the parties in the above-entitled matter.
- The parties agree that copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, including signatures of the parties, may be used in lieu of original documents and signatures and, further, that such copies shall have the same force and effect as originals.
- 18. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree the Executive Director of the Board may, without further notice to or opportunity to be heard by Respondent, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order on behalf of the Board:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 48974, issued to Respondent Michael Alan Rudolph, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Medical Board of California.

- 1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 48974 and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Medial Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Medical Board of California.
- 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a Physician and Surgeon in California as of the effective date of the Medical Board's Decision and Order.
- 3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Medical Board his pocket license and, if one was issued, his wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Medical Board's Decision and Order.
- 4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement of Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 48974 in the State of California, the Medical Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations, and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2019-060550 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent when the Medical Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.
- 5. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2019-060550 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and fully admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Constance A. Endelicato, Esq. I understand the

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1	stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 48974. I		
2	enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and		
3	intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.		
4			
5	DATED: 4/16/201 m/m helly		
6	MICHAEL ALAN RUDOLPH, M.D. Respondent		
7	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Michael Alan Rudolph, M.D., the terms		
8	and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and		
9	Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.		
10			
11	DATED: 4/16/21		
12	CONSTANCE A. ENDELICATO, ESQ. Attorney for Respondent		
13			
14	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>		
15	The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order is hereby		
16	respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of		
17	Consumer Affairs.		
18	DATED: April 16, 2021 Respectfully submitted,		
19	MATTHEW RODRIQUEZ Acting Attorney General of California		
20	ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
21	11. h-5 = V		
22	JOSEPH F. MCKENNA III		
23 24	Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant		
25			
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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2019-060550

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1	XAVIER BECERRA		
2	Attorney General of California ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General JOSEPH F. MCKENNA III		
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 231195		
5	600 West Broadway, Suite 1800 San Diego, California 92101	•	
6	P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, California 92186-5266		
7	Telephone: (619) 738-9417 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061	•	
8	Attorneys for Complainant		
9			
10	BEFORE THE		
11	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
12	STATE OF CA	ALIFÓRNIA	
13			
14	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2019-060550	
15		ACCUSATION	
16	16731 Phelps Lane Huntington Beach, California 92649-3047		
17 18	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 48974,	·	
ł	Respondent.		
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21	n A romania		
22	PARTIES 1. William Dungifica (Complainant) brings this Acquestion solely in his official canacity		
	1. William Prasifka (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity		
23	as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs		
24	(Board).		
25	2. On or about September 27, 1982, the Medical Board issued Physician's and		
26	Surgeon's Certificate No. G 48974 to Michael Alan Rudolph, M.D. (Respondent). The		
27	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the		
28	charges brought herein and will expire on July 31, 2022, unless renewed.		
	ii 1		

(MICHAEL ALAN RUDOLPH, M.D.) ACCUSATION NO. 800-2019-060550

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

3. On February 10, 2021, pursuant to the provisions of California Government Code section 11529, an administrative law judge issued an Interim Order Imposing License Restrictions (Interim Order) restricting Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 48974, and requiring Respondent to comply with multiple license restrictions including: abstain from use of controlled substances, biological fluid testing, and have a worksite monitor. The Interim Order will remain in effect, pending a full determination whether Respondent violated the Medical Practice Act or upon further order by the Medical Board in this matter. As part of the "Stipulation of the Parties re Interim Order Imposing License Restrictions" (Stipulation), Respondent agreed to and waived all of his rights under California Government Code section 11529, subsections (f) and (g), including, waived the right to have the interim order dissolved if an Accusation was not filed within thirty (30) days of the date that the interim order was issued.

JURISDICTION

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

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- 5. Section 2227 of the Code states:
 - (a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of the Medical Quality Hearing Panel as designated in Section 11371 of the Government Code, or whose default has been entered, and who is found guilty, or who has entered into a stipulation for disciplinary action with the board, may, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter:
 - (1) Have his or her license revoked upon order of the board.
 - (2) Have his or her right to practice suspended for a period not to exceed one year upon order of the board.
 - (3) Be placed on probation and be required to pay the costs of probation monitoring upon order of the board.
 - (4) Be publicly reprimanded by the board. The public reprimand may include a requirement that the licensee complete relevant educational courses approved by the board.

- (5) Have any other action taken in relation to discipline as part of an order of probation, as the board or an administrative law judge may deem proper.
- (b) Any matter heard pursuant to subdivision (a), except for warning letters, medical review or advisory conferences, professional competency examinations, continuing education activities, and cost reimbursement associated therewith that are agreed to with the board and successfully completed by the licensee, or other matters made confidential or privileged by existing law, is deemed public, and shall be made available to the public by the board pursuant to Section 803.1.

6. Section 2234 of the Code states, in relevant part:

The board shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- (a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter.
- 7. Unprofessional conduct under section 2234 of the Code is conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or conduct which is unbecoming to a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which demonstrates an unfitness to practice medicine. (Shea v. Board of Medical Examiners (1978) 81 Cal.App.3d 564, 575.).

8. Section 2238 of the Code states:

A violation of any federal statute or federal regulation or any of the statutes or regulations of this state regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances constitutes unprofessional conduct.

9. Section 2239 of the Code states, in relevant part:

(a) The use or prescribing for or administering to himself or herself, of any controlled substance; or the use of any of the dangerous drugs specified in Section 4022, or of alcoholic beverages, to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to the licensee, or to any other person or to the public, or to the extent that such use impairs the ability of the licensee to practice medicine safely or more than one misdemeanor or any felony involving the use, consumption, or self-administration of any of the substances referred to in this section, or any combination thereof, constitutes unprofessional conduct. The record of the conviction is conclusive evidence of such unprofessional conduct.

10. Section 11170 of the Health and Safety Code states:

No person shall prescribe, administer, or furnish a controlled substance for himself.

11. Section 11171 of the Health and Safety Code states:

No person shall prescribe, administer, or furnish a controlled substance except under the conditions and in the manner provided by this division.

REGULATORY PROVISIONS

- 12. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1360, states, in relevant part:
- (a) For the purposes of denial, suspension or revocation of a license pursuant to Section 141 or Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the code, a crime, professional misconduct, or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a person holding a license if to a substantial degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of a person holding a license to perform the functions authorized by the license in a manner consistent with the public health, safety or welfare. Such crimes, professional misconduct, or acts shall include but not be limited to the following: Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of state or federal law governing the applicant's or licensee's professional practice.

DRUG INFORMATION

- 13. Methamphetamine, commonly referred to as "meth", is a highly addictive chemical substance that affects the brain and body and is used as a stimulant. It is an illegal drug in the same class as cocaine and other powerful street drugs. It is commonly sold in crystal or powder form. Methamphetamine can be injected, smoked, snorted, or taken orally.
- 14. Ativan, a benzodiazepine, is a Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11057; a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022; and can only be legally obtained through a prescription from a licensed medical provider. Ativan is a brand name for lorazepam.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 15. On or about October 11, 2019, the Board received an online complaint regarding Respondent falling asleep during patient encounters. The complainant, L.F. , served as a language interpreter for a patient regularly seen by Respondent. L.F. would accompany the patient to her medical appointments at Respondent's clinic, where she alleged that Respondent would completely fall asleep in mid-sentence when talking to the patient during the clinical visits. L.F. further alleged that, after dozing off, Respondent would then regain consciousness and resume talking as if nothing had happened. This pattern would repeat itself during the same clinical visit and had occurred at multiple clinical visits, according to L.F.
- 16. On February 11, 2020, the case was referred to the Health Quality Investigation Unit (HQIU) for further investigation.
- 17. On or about February 19, 2020, HQIU Investigator L.C. made an unannounced visit at Respondent's office and spoke with him. Investigator L.C. told Respondent that an allegation had been made of his falling asleep while treating patients. Respondent admitted to "dozing off" during patient appointments so he quit his position at an emergency medicine clinic where he had been working for some time. Respondent stated that he did not have narcolepsy and that he had taken Ativan nightly for approximately fifteen (15) years, but Respondent did not believe that it had any effect on his ability to practice medicine safely. Respondent declined to voluntarily provide a urine sample per Investigator L.C.'s request
- 18. On or about April 24, 2020, Respondent, with his attorney present, was interviewed by Investigator L.C. on behalf of the Board. During this interview, Respondent listed the names of the prescription medications that were currently prescribed to him, but Ativan was not one of them. Respondent denied any history of illicit or recreational drug use. He stated that since 2018, he had been working in worker's compensation medicine, and currently worked five days a week. Respondent stated that he had worked "full-time" in emergency medicine between 1997 until 2012. He denied ever having any lapses of consciousness. Respondent admitted that he had

¹ To protect the privacy of the complainant involved in this matter, the complainant's name has not been included in this pleading. Respondent is aware of the identity of L.F.

used Ativan in the past to deal with "bad insomnia," but that he had only taken Ativan "on two different occasions." Respondent then admitted that he had fallen asleep while seeing patients, that it had happened approximately three different times, and that it was because he had been "real tired." At the conclusion of the interview, Respondent agreed to provide a voluntary urine sample, and he also signed voluntary agreements for a Business and Professions Code section 820 mental evaluation and a Business and Professions Code section physical evaluation.

- 19. On or about April 28, 2020, Respondent presented at the Tustin HQIU field office and voluntarily provided a urine sample.
- 20. On or about May 12, 2020, Investigator L.C. obtained the results of Respondent's urine sample which revealed a positive result for amphetamine and methamphetamine.
- 21. On or about June 4, 2020, Investigator L.C. obtained Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) patient activity reports for Respondent that covered the date range of February 20, 2013, through June 4, 2020. According to these CURES reports, Respondent did not fill any prescriptions for Ativan, or any other controlled substance prescriptions, during this timeframe.
- 22. On or about July 2, 2020, Respondent voluntarily submitted to a face-to-face mental evaluation by Board appointed psychiatrist, M.N., M.D.² After conducting an extensive review of materials, psychiatric testing, and a face-to-face evaluation with Respondent, Dr. M.N. opined that although Respondent did not have a psychiatric disorder, to be considered fully safe to practice medicine, Respondent should undergo random drug testing. Dr. M.N. found that Respondent's unexplained positive drug test result for amphetamine and methamphetamine necessitated random drug testing, in order to find Respondent fully safe to practice medicine. Dr. M.N. also found troubling that Respondent had misused a controlled substance, which had occurred when he took Ativan given to him by a friend. Dr. M.N. noted that psychiatric testing

² Dr. M.N. is board certified in Psychiatry, Addiction Medicine, Pain Medicine, Psychopharmacology, Forensic Psychiatry, and Child Psychiatry.

had demonstrated that Respondent may be under-reporting, and potentially raised additional concerns surrounding how he was addressing his self-reported medical issue of insomnia.³

- 23. On or about July 14, 2020, Respondent voluntarily submitted to a face-to-face physical evaluation by Board appointed family medicine physician, F.H., M.D.⁴ After conducting an extensive review of materials and a face-to-face physical evaluation of Respondent, Dr. F.H. opined that although Respondent did not present with any signs of physical ailments precluding work as a physician, in order for Respondent to continue to practice medicine safely, the condition of routine monitoring and random urine drug testing was necessary. Dr. F.H. found that Respondent's unexplained positive urine screen for amphetamines and methamphetamines is incompatible with the full certification of Respondent's ability to practice medicine safely.
- 24. On or about August 7, 2020, Investigator L.C. obtained the results of a D/L Isomer test of Respondent's urine sample, which confirmed a positive result for methamphetamine.

FIRST CAUSE FOR ACTION

(Use of a Controlled Substance)

- 25. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 48974 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2239, subdivision (a), of the Code, in that he has used a controlled substance, as more particularly alleged hereinafter:
 - (a) Paragraphs 13 through 24, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Violation of Statutes Regulating Dangerous Drugs and Controlled Substances)

26. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 48974 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2238 of the Code, in that Respondent has violated state statutes regulating dangerous drugs and controlled substances, including, but not limited to, section 2239 of the Code; Health and Safety Code

³ Respondent was not being treated for insomnia, and therefore was not receiving a validly issued prescription for Ativan from a treating physician.

⁴ Dr. R.F. is board certified in Family Medicine.

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PRAYER

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

- 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 48974, issued to Respondent Michael Alan Rudolph, M.D.;
- 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Michael Alan Rudolph, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses, pursuant to section 3527 of the Code;
- 3. Ordering Respondent Michael Alan Rudolph, M.D., to pay the Medical Board the costs of probation monitoring, if placed on probation; and
 - 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: MAR 0 3 2021

WILLIAM PRASIFK
Executive Director

Medical Board of California Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California
Complainant

SD2020800218 Doc.No.82742498