

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

**In the Matter of the Accusation
Against:**

Mark Lee Weissman, M.D.

**Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. G 55308**

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2018-045202

DECISION

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and 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 December 16, 2021.

IT IS SO ORDERED December 9, 2021.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



For: William Prasifka **Reji Varghese**
Executive Director **Deputy Director**

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 JUDITH T. ALVARADO
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 CHRISTINE R. FRIAR
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 228421
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5 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702
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7 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2018-045202

13 **MARK LEE WEISSMAN, M.D.**
14 **22948 Styles Street**
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

15 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
16 **No. G 55308,**

STIPULATED SURRENDER OF
LICENSE AND ORDER

17 Respondent.

18
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 **PARTIES**

22
23 1. William Prasifka (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of
24 California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this
25 matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Christine R. Friar, Deputy
26 Attorney General.

27 2. Respondent Mark Lee Weissman, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this
28 proceeding by attorney Benjamin J. Fenton, Esq. of The Fenton Law Group, located at 1990 S.

1 Bundy Drive, Suite 777, Los Angeles, CA 90025.

2 3. On or about July 8, 1985, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
3 G 55308 to Respondent. That Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at
4 all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2018-045202 and expired on
5 December 31, 2018.

6 **JURISDICTION**

7 4. Accusation No. 800-2018-045202 was filed before the Board, and is currently
8 pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were
9 properly served on Respondent on October 19, 2020. Respondent timely filed his Notice of
10 Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2018-045202 is attached as
11 Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

12 **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

13 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the
14 charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2018-045202. Respondent also has carefully read,
15 fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License
16 and Order.

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


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

25 **CULPABILITY**

26 8. Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2018-
27 045202, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Physician's and
28 Surgeon's Certificate.

1 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Mark Lee Weissman, M.D. the terms and
2 conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I
3 approve its form and content.

4
5 DATED: November 9, 2021


6 BENJAMIN J. FENTON
7 *Attorney for Respondent*

8 **ENDORSEMENT**

9 The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted
10 for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

11 DATED: December 6, 2021

12 Respectfully submitted,

13 ROB BONTA
14 Attorney General of California
15 JUDITH T. ALVARADO
16 Supervising Deputy Attorney General

17 **Christine** Digitally signed by
18 **Friar** Christine Friar
19 Date: 2021.12.06
20 13:24:54 -08'00'
21 CHRISTINE R. FRIAR
22 Deputy Attorney General
23 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2018-045202

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 E. A. JONES III
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 State Bar No. 71375
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4 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702
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6 *Attorneys for Complainant*

7
8 **BEFORE THE**
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
9 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

10
11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2018-045202

12 **Mark Lee Weissman, M.D.**
13 **22948 Styles Street**
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

A C C U S A T I O N

14 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
15 **No. G 55308,**

16 Respondent.

17
18 **PARTIES**

19 1. William Prasifka (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity
20 as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs
21 (Board).

22 2. On or about July 8, 1985, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
23 Certificate Number G 55308 to Mark Lee Weissman, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and
24 Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought
25 herein and expired on December 31, 2018.

26 **JURISDICTION**

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

1 indicated.

2 4. Section 2004 of the Code states:

3 The board shall have the responsibility for the following:

4 (a) The enforcement of the disciplinary and criminal provisions of the Medical
5 Practice Act.

6 (b) The administration and hearing of disciplinary actions.

7 (c) Carrying out disciplinary actions appropriate to findings made by a panel or
8 an administrative law judge.

9 (d) Suspending, revoking, or otherwise limiting certificates after the conclusion
10 of disciplinary actions.

11 (e) Reviewing the quality of medical practice carried out by physician and
12 surgeon certificate holders under the jurisdiction of the board.

13 (f) Approving undergraduate and graduate medical education programs.

14 (g) Approving clinical clerkship and special programs and hospitals for the
15 programs in subdivision (f).

16 (h) Issuing licenses and certificates under the board's jurisdiction.

17 (i) Administering the board's continuing medical education program.

18 5. Section 2220 of the Code states:

19 Except as otherwise provided by law, the board may take action against all
20 persons guilty of violating this chapter. The board shall enforce and administer this
21 article as to physician and surgeon certificate holders, including those who hold
22 certificates that do not permit them to practice medicine, such as, but not limited to,
23 retired, inactive, or disabled status certificate holders, and the board shall have all the
24 powers granted in this chapter for these purposes including, but not limited to:

25 (a) Investigating complaints from the public, from other licensees, from health
26 care facilities, or from the board that a physician and surgeon may be guilty of
27 unprofessional conduct. The board shall investigate the circumstances underlying a
28 report received pursuant to Section 805 or 805.01 within 30 days to determine if an
interim suspension order or temporary restraining order should be issued. The board
shall otherwise provide timely disposition of the reports received pursuant to Section
805 and Section 805.01.

(b) Investigating the circumstances of practice of any physician and surgeon
where there have been any judgments, settlements, or arbitration awards requiring the
physician and surgeon or his or her professional liability insurer to pay an amount in
damages in excess of a cumulative total of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) with
respect to any claim that injury or damage was proximately caused by the physician's
and surgeon's error, negligence, or omission.

(c) Investigating the nature and causes of injuries from cases which shall be reported

1 of a high number of judgments, settlements, or arbitration awards against a physician and
2 surgeon.

3 6. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the
4 Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed
5 one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other
6 action taken in relation to discipline as the Board deems proper.

7 7. Section 118, subdivision (b), of the Code provides that the suspension, expiration,
8 surrender or cancellation of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a
9 disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued
10 or reinstated.

11 STATUTORY PROVISIONS

12 8. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

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

16 (a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or
17 abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter.

18 (b) Gross negligence.

19 (c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more
20 negligent acts or omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a
21 separate and distinct departure from the applicable standard of care shall constitute
22 repeated negligent acts.

23 (1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically
24 appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single
25 negligent act.

26 (2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or
27 omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but
28 not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the
licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure
constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.

(d) Incompetence.

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

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

(g) The failure by a certificate holder, in the absence of good cause, to attend

1 and participate in an interview by the board. This subdivision shall only apply to a
2 certificate holder who is the subject of an investigation by the board.

3 9. Section 726 of the Code states:

4 (a) The commission of any act of sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a
5 patient, client, or customer constitutes unprofessional conduct and grounds for
6 disciplinary action for any person licensed under this or under any initiative act
7 referred to in this division.

8 (b) This section shall not apply to consensual sexual contact between a licensee
9 and his or her spouse or person in an equivalent domestic relationship when that
10 licensee provides medical treatment, to his or her spouse or person in an equivalent
11 domestic relationship.

12 10. Section 729 of the Code states:

13 (a) Any physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, alcohol and drug abuse
14 counselor or any person holding himself or herself out to be a physician and surgeon,
15 psychotherapist, or alcohol and drug abuse counselor, who engages in an act of sexual
16 intercourse, sodomy, oral copulation, or sexual contact with a patient or client, or
17 with a former patient or client when the relationship was terminated primarily for the
18 purpose of engaging in those acts, unless the physician and surgeon, psychotherapist,
19 or alcohol and drug abuse counselor has referred the patient or client to an
20 independent and objective physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol and
21 drug abuse counselor recommended by a third-party physician and surgeon,
22 psychotherapist, or alcohol and drug abuse counselor for treatment, is guilty of sexual
23 exploitation by a physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol and drug abuse
24 counselor.

25 (b) Sexual exploitation by a physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol
26 and drug abuse counselor is a public offense:

27 (1) An act in violation of subdivision (a) shall be punishable by imprisonment
28 in a county jail for a period of not more than six months, or a fine not exceeding one
thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.

(2) Multiple acts in violation of subdivision (a) with a single victim, when the
offender has no prior conviction for sexual exploitation, shall be punishable by
imprisonment in a county jail for a period of not more than six months, or a fine not
exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.

(3) An act or acts in violation of subdivision (a) with two or more victims shall
be punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the
Penal Code for a period of 16 months, two years, or three years, and a fine not
exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000); or the act or acts shall be punishable by
imprisonment in a county jail for a period of not more than one year, or a fine not
exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.

(4) Two or more acts in violation of subdivision (a) with a single victim, when
the offender has at least one prior conviction for sexual exploitation, shall be
punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal
Code for a period of 16 months, two years, or three years, and a fine not exceeding
ten thousand dollars (\$10,000); or the act or acts shall be punishable by imprisonment
in a county jail for a period of not more than one year, or a fine not exceeding one
thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.

1 (5) An act or acts in violation of subdivision (a) with two or more victims, and
2 the offender has at least one prior conviction for sexual exploitation, shall be
3 punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal
4 Code for a period of 16 months, two years, or three years, and a fine not exceeding
5 ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

6 For purposes of subdivision (a), in no instance shall consent of the patient or
7 client be a defense. However, physicians and surgeons shall not be guilty of sexual
8 exploitation for touching any intimate part of a patient or client unless the touching is
9 outside the scope of medical examination and treatment, or the touching is done for
10 sexual gratification.

11 (c) For purposes of this section:

12 (1) "Psychotherapist" has the same meaning as defined in Section 728.

13 (2) "Alcohol and drug abuse counselor" means an individual who holds himself
14 or herself out to be an alcohol or drug abuse professional or paraprofessional.

15 (3) "Sexual contact" means sexual intercourse or the touching of an intimate
16 part of a patient for the purpose of sexual arousal, gratification, or abuse.

17 (4) "Intimate part" and "touching" have the same meanings as defined in
18 Section 243.4 of the Penal Code.

19 (d) In the investigation and prosecution of a violation of this section, no person
20 shall seek to obtain disclosure of any confidential files of other patients, clients, or
21 former patients or clients of the physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol
22 and drug abuse counselor.

23 (e) This section does not apply to sexual contact between a physician and
24 surgeon and his or her spouse or person in an equivalent domestic relationship when
25 that physician and surgeon provides medical treatment, other than psychotherapeutic
26 treatment; to his or her spouse or person in an equivalent domestic relationship.

27 (f) If a physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol and drug abuse
28 counselor in a professional partnership or similar group has sexual contact with a
patient in violation of this section, another physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or
alcohol and drug abuse counselor in the partnership or group shall not be subject to
action under this section solely because of the occurrence of that sexual contact.

22 FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

23 11. In or around 1996, Respondent started working at the Motion Picture & Television
24 Fund Toluca Lake Health Clinic (TLHC) providing, among other services, well-woman care to
25 female patients.

26 12. On or about March 7, 2014, Respondent saw Patient 1 for a well-woman exam.
27 Nurse 1 assisted Respondent. When Respondent started the breast exam on the patient, he kept
28 one hand on top of her breast cupping it at all times while he examined her breast with the other

1 hand. He consistently kept his hand on the breast over her nipple and moved it only to examine
2 that part of the breast. He repeated this conduct on the patient's other breast.

3 13. Respondent also performed a Pap smear. Nurse 1 got Patient 1 in position and
4 handed Respondent the speculum. Respondent said he was going to examine the outside of her
5 vagina first then localize her cervix. Respondent started to spread the patient's vaginal folds and
6 then put his index finger into her vagina while he kept his thumb over her clitoris. Respondent
7 moved his finger in and out and side to side, asking the patient if anything hurt, saying he was
8 trying to localize her cervix. Respondent then turned his hand to position the patient's clitoris
9 between his ring finger and his middle finger. During this exam, Respondent did not push on the
10 patient's abdomen to check her ovaries for tenderness; he just kept his hand in the vagina. The
11 patient looked uncomfortable. Respondent then withdrew his finger and placed the speculum in
12 the vagina. He used the cyto brush first which made her bleed. Respondent told the patient she
13 might bleed for a couple days. Respondent then used the plastic speculum which made the
14 patient jump. The patient appeared to be in pain. After taking the samples, Respondent
15 concluded the exam.

16 14. Nurse 1 filed a Quality of Care/Risk Management Occurrence Report with the
17 director of TLHC. Thereafter Respondent was provided retraining on how to conduct an
18 appropriate Pap smear by an OBGYN at TLHC. In addition, nurses were advised to direct
19 patients away from Respondent if the patients needed Pap smear or breast exams. A banner ("No
20 WWW or PAP smears") was placed on Respondent's electronic calendar indicating he should not
21 do well-women exams or Pap smears.

22 15. On or about April 22, 2014, after TLHC was acquired by UCLA Health, Respondent
23 became a contract physician for the UCLA Faculty Practice Group at TLHC.

24 16. On or about January 13, 2017, Patient 2 saw Respondent at TLHC for an annual
25 check-up.

26 17. On or about May 11, 2018, at a subsequent office visit to TLHC with a different
27 physician, that physician reported to a clinic manager that Patient 2 had described receiving an
28 inappropriate breast exam from Respondent during her annual check-up. The clinic manager

1 reported the complaint to the Vice Chair, Department of Medicine, UCLA Health Community
2 Physicians Network & Entertainment Industry Medical Group. An investigation by UCLA
3 Health ensued.

4 18. On or about May 17, 2018, Respondent was notified that effective immediately he
5 was being placed on investigatory leave by UCLA. The notice stated, "This action is being
6 initiated to determine concerns related to performance and conduct involving a patient."

7 19. On or about May 31, 2018, Respondent was advised by UCLA that his investigatory
8 leave was continued. He was advised that the investigation related to his performance and
9 conduct involving a patient.

10 20. On or about June 14, 2018, Respondent was reminded by letter from the UCLA
11 Faculty Practice Group that his current appointment would terminate on June 30, 2018. The letter
12 stated, "On May 17, 2018, you were placed on investigatory leave for concerns related to
13 performance and conduct involving a patient." The letter further stated, "This is to inform you
14 that your current appointment ending June 30, 2018 will not be renewed."

15 21. On or about June 22, 2018, UCLA Health Faculty Practice Group filed a report with
16 the Medical Board pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 805 indicating a formal
17 investigation had been started against Respondent based on sexual misconduct with one or more
18 patients during the course of treatment or an examination.

19 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

20 **(Sexual Misconduct)**

21 22. Respondent Mark Lee Weissman, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under section
22 726 of the Code in that he committed acts of sexual abuse and/or sexual misconduct with a
23 patient. The circumstances are as follows:

24 23. The facts and circumstances alleged in paragraphs 12 and 13 above are incorporated
25 here as if fully set forth.

26 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

27 **(Sexual Exploitation)**

28 24. Respondent Mark Lee Weissman, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under section

1 729 of the Code in that he engaged in acts of sexual contact with a patient. The circumstances are
2 as follows:

3 25. The facts and circumstances alleged in paragraphs 12 and 13 above are incorporated
4 here as if fully set forth.

5 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

6 **(Gross Negligence)**

7 26. Respondent Mark Lee Weissman, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under section
8 2234, subdivision (b), of the Code in that he engaged in gross negligence in the care and
9 treatment of a patient. The circumstances are as follows:

10 27. The facts and circumstances alleged in paragraphs 12 and 13 above are incorporated
11 here as if fully set forth.

12 28. On or about March 7, 2014, Respondent was grossly negligent when he engaged in
13 sexual abuse and/or sexual misconduct and/or sexual contact in performing a breast exam of
14 Patient 1.

15 29. On or about March 7, 2014, Respondent was grossly negligent when he engaged in
16 sexual abuse and/or sexual misconduct and/or sexual contact when he performed a pap smear
17 exam on Patient 1.

18 **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

19 **(Unprofessional Conduct)**

20 30. Respondent Mark Lee Weissman, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under section
21 2234 of the Code in that he engaged in unprofessional conduct. The circumstances are as
22 follows:

23 31. The facts and circumstances alleged in paragraphs 22 through 29 are incorporated
24 here as if fully set forth.

25 **PRAYER**

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

28 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number G 55308,

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issued to Mark Lee Weissman, M.D.;

2: Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Mark Lee Weissman, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

3. Ordering Mark Lee Weissman, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the costs of probation monitoring; and

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

DATED: October 19, 2020



WILLIAM PRASIFKA
Executive Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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