

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Ajeet Singh Sidhu, M.D.

**Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. A 150265**

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2019-061884


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 October 17, 2023.

IT IS SO ORDERED October 10, 2023.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



**Reji Varghese
Executive Director**

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 MATTHEW M. DAVIS
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 TESSA L. HEUNIS
Deputy Attorney General
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8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

14 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

15 **AJEET SINGH SIDHU, M.D.**
16 **273 Clinton St**
17 **Toronto ON M6G 2Y7**
18 **CANADA**

19 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.**
20 **A 150265**

21 Respondent.

Case No. 800-2019-061884

OAH No. 2023050848

**STIPULATED SURRENDER OF
LICENSE AND ORDER**

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

24 **PARTIES**

25 1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of
26 California (Board). He succeeded William Prasifka, the former Executive Director, who brought
27 this action solely in his official capacity. Complainant is represented in this matter by Rob Bonta,
28 Attorney General of the State of California, by Tessa L. Heunis, Deputy Attorney General.

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2. Ajeet Singh Sidhu, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney David A. Depolo, Esq., whose address is: Donnelly Nelson & Depolo APC, 201 North Civic Drive, Suite 239, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

3. On or about July 6, 2017, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 150265 to Respondent. That license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2019-061884 and will expire on November 30, 2024, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 800-2019-061884 was filed before the Board and is currently pending against Respondent. A true and correct copy of the Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on September 15, 2022. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A true and correct copy of Accusation No. 800-2019-061884 is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2019-061884. Respondent also has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.

6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; 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.

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

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1 CULPABILITY

2 8. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, Complainant could
3 establish a *prima facie* case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in Accusation
4 No. 800-2019-061884 and that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 150265 is
5 therefore subject to discipline. Respondent hereby surrenders his Physician's and Surgeon's
6 Certificate No. A 150265 for the Board's formal acceptance.

7 9. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for reinstatement of his Physician's and
8 Surgeon's Certificate No. A 150265, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation
9 No. 800-2019-061884 shall be deemed true, correct and fully admitted by Respondent for
10 purposes of any such proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving Respondent in the
11 State of California or elsewhere.

12 10. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation, he enables the Board to issue
13 an order accepting the surrender of his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 150265
14 without further process.

15 CONTINGENCY

16 11. Business and Professions Code section 2224, subdivision (b), provides, in pertinent
17 part, that the Medical Board "shall delegate to its executive director the authority to adopt a ...
18 stipulation for surrender of a license."

19 12. Respondent understands that, by signing this stipulation, he enables the Executive
20 Director of the Board to issue an order, on behalf of the Board, accepting the surrender of his
21 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 150265 without further notice to, or opportunity to be
22 heard by, Respondent.

23 13. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Order shall be subject to the approval of the
24 Executive Director on behalf of the Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of
25 License and Order shall be submitted to the Executive Director for his consideration in the above-
26 entitled matter and, further, that the Executive Director shall have a reasonable period of time in
27 which to consider and act on this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order after receiving it. By
28 signing this stipulation, Respondent fully understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his

1 agreement or seek to rescind this stipulation prior to the time the Executive Director, on behalf of
2 the Medical Board, considers and acts upon it.

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

20 **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

21 15. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is intended by the parties herein to be
22 an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of the
23 agreements of the parties in the above-entitled matter.

24 16. The parties agree that copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order,
25 including copies of the signatures of the parties, may be used in lieu of original documents and
26 signatures and, further, that such copies shall have the same force and effect as originals.

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17. 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 Order on behalf of the Board:

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 150265, issued to Respondent Ajeet Singh Sidhu, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 150265 and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the 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 Board.

2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a Physician and Surgeon in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.

3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board his pocket license and, if one was issued, his wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.

4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked or surrendered license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2019-061884 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the 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. 800-2019-061884 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

6. Respondent shall pay the agency its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$19,385.75 prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license.

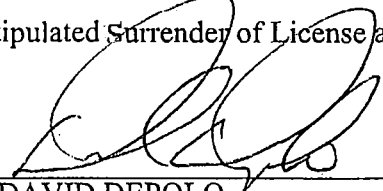
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1 ACCEPTANCE

2 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully
3 discussed it with my attorney David Depolo, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it
4 will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 150265. I enter into this Stipulated
5 Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound
6 by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

7
8 DATED: Sep. 18, 2023 
9 AJEET SINGH SIDHU, M.D.
Respondent

10 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Ajeet Singh Sidhu, M.D., the terms and
11 conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I
12 approve its form and content.

13 DATED: 9/18/23 
14 DAVID DEPOLO
Attorney for Respondent

15 ENDORSEMENT

16
17 The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted
18 for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

19 DATED: September 19, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

20 ROB BONTA
21 Attorney General of California
22 MATTHEW M. DAVIS
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

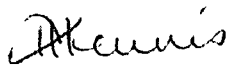
23 
24 TESSA L. HEUNIS
25 Deputy Attorney General
26 Attorneys for Complainant
27
28

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2019-061884

1 ROB BONTA
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Attorneys for Complainant

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

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2019-061884

13 **AJEET SINGH SIDHU, M.D.**

A C C U S A T I O N

14 4365 Bunker Ave.
West Bloomfield, MI 48323-1307

15
16 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
No. A 150265,

17 Respondent.
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20 **PARTIES**

21
22 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 July 6, 2017, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number
26 150265 to Ajeet Singh Sidhu, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was
27 in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on
28 November 30, 2022, unless renewed.

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 (Code) unless otherwise indicated.

4. Section 2001.1 of the Code makes public protection the highest priority for the Board.

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 2228.1 of the Code provides that a licensee placed on probation for specific categories of unprofessional conduct, including sexual misconduct as prohibited by section 726 of the Code, shall be required to disclose the licensee's probationary status and particulars of that probation to all existing and new patients during the period of the licensee's probation.

7. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

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.

(b) Gross negligence.

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

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

(2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but 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 and participate in an interview by the board. This subdivision shall only apply to a certificate holder who is the subject of an investigation by the board.

8. Section 726 of the Code states:

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

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

COST RECOVERY

9. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case, with failure of the licensee to comply subjecting the license to not being renewed or reinstated. If a case settles, recovery of investigation and enforcement costs may be included in a stipulated settlement.

CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Sexual Misconduct)

10. Respondent Ajeet Singh Sidhu, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under sections 726 and 2234 of the Code, in that Respondent engaged in sexual misconduct with a patient. The circumstances are as follows:

11. Patient One¹ had been seen for primary care at Sonoma Valley Community Health Center since January 2012, when she was 17-years-old. Respondent began providing primary care for her on December 4, 2017. Patient One's last documented office visit with Respondent was on June 12, 2019.

12. In or about April of 2019, Patient One's mother took Patient One's younger brother to Sonoma Valley Community Health Center for routine care. At that visit, Respondent inquired of Patient One's mother whether she was related to Patient One. In the course of the conversation, Patient One's mother stated that she was a massage therapist and gave Respondent her business card. Respondent thereafter called Patient One's mother and made an appointment for a massage. Patient One's mother began providing regular massage therapy to Respondent.

13. In conversation during a subsequent massage, Respondent stated that he had recently moved into an apartment in Sonoma and wished to decorate that space. Patient One's mother said that Patient One was a talented decorator and could assist with that process. Respondent contacted Patient One by text message and asked Patient One if she could assist with decorating Respondent's apartment. Patient One agreed and sent Respondent some general ideas about decorating and links to online sources for suggested items. After additional text conversation, Patient One and Respondent agreed that she would come look at his apartment to make specific recommendations for decorating.

14. On the afternoon of July 29, 2019, Respondent suggested that he could meet Patient One that evening so she could view the room. When Patient One arrived, she and Respondent engaged in general conversation. As Patient One measured the room and began offering ideas

¹ The subject patient is identified herein as Patient One to preserve patient confidentiality. The patient's full name is known to Respondent and further will be provided to Respondent upon Request.

1 about changing the room's appearance, Respondent sat on the bed and began telling Patient One
2 about his divorce. Patient One continued to discuss decorating and ordered some items for the
3 room from her cell phone. Patient One then sat on a bench at the foot of the bed and Respondent
4 moved closer to her. Patient One was wearing a knee-length dress which, when she was seated
5 on the bench, caused the hem of her dress to be about mid-thigh. Respondent leaned toward
6 Patient One and placed his hand on her thigh. Surprised and nonplussed, Patient One did not
7 know how to react. Respondent then asked, "Are you okay with my hand here?" Extremely
8 discomforted, Patient One mumbled a response. Respondent then stated, "If you weren't my
9 patient, I would put the moves on you." When Patient One asked what that meant, Respondent
10 answered, "I would want to sleep with you." Respondent told Patient One she was beautiful and
11 that she should be flattered that he was willing to risk his medical career for her. Patient One
12 excused herself and went to the bathroom. When she returned, Patient One told Respondent she
13 needed to leave. Respondent told Patient One that, "It sucks being a good guy, doing the right
14 thing." Respondent then told Patient One he was going to masturbate after she left.

15 15. Patient One texted Respondent the following day, telling him she would no longer be
16 seeing him as her primary care physician, that "last night was weird and made me
17 uncomfortable." Respondent replied to Patient One's text, stating, "I'm sorry. I shouldn't have
18 said anything. I'm really really sorry."

19 16. Respondent has subjected his license to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct
20 under section 2234 of the Code, in that his salacious touching of Patient One's leg and his
21 sexually-laden comments to her constitute sexual misconduct with a patient, in violation of the
22 prohibition of section 726 of the Code.

23 PRAYER

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

26 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 150265,
27 issued to Ajeet Singh Sidhu, M.D.;

28 ///

2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Ajeet Singh Sidhu, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
3. Ordering Ajeet Singh Sidhu, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring;
4. Ordering Ajeet Singh Sidhu, M.D., if placed on probation, to provide patient notification in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 2228.1; and
5. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: **SEP 15 2022**



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

SF2022401674