

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Heidi Marie Gilchrist, M.D.

Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. A 118353

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2021-074493

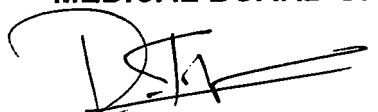
DECISION

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 November 21, 2023.

IT IS SO ORDERED November 14, 2023.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



Reji Varghese
Executive Director

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 ROBERT W. LINCOLN
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 316290
California Department of Justice
5 600 West Broadway, Suite 1800
San Diego, CA 92101
6 P.O. Box 85266
San Diego, CA 92186-5266
7 Telephone: (619) 738-9453
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8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2021-074493

14 **HEIDI MARIE GILCHRIST, M.D.**
15 **1345 Encinitas Blvd., #338**
Encinitas, CA 92024

OAH No. 2023030733

**STIPULATED SURRENDER OF
LICENSE AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

16 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.**
17 **A 118353**

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 **PARTIES**

22 1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) is the 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 Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Robert W. Lincoln, Deputy
25 Attorney General.

26 2. Heidi Marie Gilchrist, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by
27 attorney Nicole Irmer, Esq., whose address is: 2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1060, San Diego, CA
28 92103-6627.

1 approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, the Executive
2 Director and/or the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or the
3 Attorney General's Office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify the
4 Executive Director, the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future
5 participation in this or any other matter affecting or involving respondent. In the event that the
6 Executive Director on behalf of the Board does not, in his discretion, approve and adopt this
7 Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, with the exception of this paragraph, it
8 shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever, and shall not be relied
9 upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party hereto. Respondent further agrees
10 that should this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order be rejected for any reason
11 by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, Respondent will assert no claim that the
12 Executive Director, the Board, or any member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review,
13 discussion and/or consideration of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order or
14 of any matter or matters related hereto.

15 **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

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

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

22 17. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree the
23 Executive Director of the Board may, without further notice to or opportunity to be heard by
24 Respondent, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order on behalf of the Board:

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ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney Nicole Irmer, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

DATED: 10/06/2023

DocuSigned by:
Heidi Marie Gilchrist
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HEIDI MARIE GILCHRIST, M.D.
Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Heidi Marie Gilchrist, M.D., the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: 10/06/2023

DocuSigned by:
Kimberly J. Elkin Kimberly J. Elkin,
A2FC4E0C397048D... Esq. for Nicole
Irmer, Esq.

NICOLE IRMER, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

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

DATED: 10/06/2023

Respectfully submitted,
ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

R.W. Lincoln

ROBERT W. LINCOLN
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2021-074493

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Attorney General of California
2 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
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8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2021-074493

14 **Heidi Marie Gilchrist, M.D.**
15 **1345 Encinitas Blvd., #338**
Encinitas, CA 92024-2845

ACCUSATION

16 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
17 **No. A 118353,**

Respondent.

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PARTIES

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1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity as the Deputy Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).

2. On or about September 9, 2011, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 118353 to Heidi Marie Gilchrist, 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 December 31, 2024, unless renewed.

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JURISDICTION

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

5 4. Section 2227 of the Code states:

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

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

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

14 (3) Be placed upon probation and be required to pay the costs of probation
15 monitoring upon order of the board.

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

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

20 5. Section 2234 of the Code states:

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

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

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1 6. Unprofessional conduct under Business and Professions Code section 2234 is
2 conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or conduct
3 which is unbecoming a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which
4 demonstrates an unfitness to practice medicine. (*Shea v. Board of Medical Examiners*
5 (1978) 81 Cal.App.3d 564, 575.)

6 7. Section 2236 of the Code states:

7 (a) The conviction of any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions
8 or duties of a physician and surgeon constitutes unprofessional conduct within the meaning
9 of this chapter [Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act]. The record of conviction shall be
10 conclusive evidence only of the fact that the conviction occurred.

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

14 8. Section 2239 of the Code states:

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

23 9. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1360, states:

24 For the purposes of denial, suspension or revocation of a license, certificate or permit
25 pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the code, a crime or act shall be
26 considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a person
27 holding a license, certificate or permit under the Medical Practice Act if to a substantial
28 degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of a person holding a license, certificate or
29 permit to perform the functions authorized by the license, certificate or permit in a manner
30 consistent with the public health, safety or welfare. Such crimes or acts shall include but
31 not be limited to the following: Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or
32 assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of the
33 Medical Practice Act.

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1 COST RECOVERY

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

8 FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

9 **(Conviction of an Offense Substantially Related to the Qualifications, Functions, or**
10 **Duties of a Physician and Surgeon)**

11 11. Respondent has subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 118353 to
12 disciplinary actions under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2236, of the Code, and
13 California Code of Regulations, title 16 section 1360, in that she has been convicted of an offense
14 substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon, as more
15 particularly alleged hereafter:

16 12. On or about January 17, 2021, San Diego County Sheriff's Deputies came into
17 contact with Respondent after she collided into a parked car. Respondent admitted to drinking a
18 vodka soda and taking two Ativan¹ pills a few hours before driving.

19 13. Deputies observed Respondent exhibited signs and symptoms of a person under the
20 influence of drugs or alcohol. She had glossy eyes, unsteady balance, and slurred speech.
21 Deputies administered a series of standardized field sobriety tests, which she performed poorly.
22 Deputies determined Respondent was too intoxicated to drive and arrested her for violation of
23 California Vehicle Code section 23152 (g), [Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and Drugs].
24 Respondent agreed to a blood test and a blood sample was obtained. Respondent had a .169%
25 BAC.

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27 ¹ Lorazepam, sold under the brand name Ativan among others, is a benzodiazepine
28 medication. It is used to treat anxiety disorders, trouble sleeping, severe agitation, active seizures
including status epilepticus, alcohol withdrawal, and chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting.

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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. A 118353, issued to Heidi Marie Gilchrist, M.D.;
2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Heidi Marie Gilchrist, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
3. Ordering Heidi Marie Gilchrist, 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; and
4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: FEB 02 2023



REJI VARGHESE
Deputy Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

SD2022304225