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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

MICHAEL JASON LAMBERTE, P.T.G.L.

Case No. 800-2022-087404

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. PTGL 1217

Respondent.

### DECISION

The attached Decision 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 February 20, 2024.

IT IS SO ORDERED February 13, 2024.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Laurie Rose Lubiano, J.D., Chair

Panel A

1	ROB BONTA			
2	Attorney General of California MATTHEW M. DAVIS			
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General JASON J. AHN			
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 253172			
5	600 West Broadway, Suite 1800 San Diego, CA 92101			
6	P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, CA 92186-5266			
7	Telephone: (619) 738-9433 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061			
8	Attorneys for Complainant			
9				
10	BEFORE THE			
11	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS			
12	STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2022-087404		
14	MICHAEL JASON LAMBERTE, P.T.G.L. 8907 Felipe Ave	OAH No. 2023080557		
15	Montclair, CA 91763	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER		
16	Polysomnographic Technologist License No. PTGL 1217			
17	Respondent.			
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20	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AG			
21	above-entitled proceedings that the following n			
22	<u>PARTIES</u>			
23	1. Reji Varghese (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 Jason J. Ahn, Deputy			
26	Attorney General.			
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- 2. Michael Jason Lamberte, P.T.G.L. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Melissa J. DuChene, whose address is: 23 Corporate Plaza Dr, Suite 150, Newport Beach, CA 92660-7908.
- 3. On or about July 6, 2021, the Board issued Polysomnographic Technologist License No. PTGL 1217 to Respondent. That license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2022-087404 and will expire on July 31, 2025, unless renewed.

### **JURISDICTION**

4. On July 24, 2023, Accusation No. 800-2022-087404 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 or about July 24, 2023. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2022-087404 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

### ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and fully understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2022-087404. Respondent also has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and fully understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary 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. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

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**CULPABILITY** 

- 8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation No. 800-2022-087404, agrees that cause exists for discipline and hereby surrenders his Polysomnographic Technologist License No. PTGL 1217 for the Board's formal acceptance.
- 9. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation he enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of his Polysomnographic Technologist License without further process.

### **CONTINGENCY**

- 10. Business and Professions Code section 2224, subdivision (b), provides, in pertinent part, that the Medical Board "shall delegate to its executive director the authority to adopt a ... stipulation for surrender of a license."
- 11. 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 Polysomnographic Technologist License No. PTGL 1217 without further notice to, or opportunity to be heard by, Respondent.
- 12. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Director on behalf of the 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 Medical Board, considers and acts upon it.
- 13. 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. 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

- 14. 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.
- 15. The parties agree that copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, including copies of the 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.
- 16. 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:

### **ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Polysomnographic Technologist License No. PTGL 1217, issued to Respondent Michael Jason Lamberte, P.T.G.L., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

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- 1. The surrender of Respondent's Polysomnographic Technologist License 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 Polysomnographic Technologist 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. 800-2022-087404 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.
- 5. Respondent shall pay the agency its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$11,724.95 prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license.
- 6. 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. 800-2022-087404 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.
- 7. Respondent shall pay the agency its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$11,724.95 prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license.

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### **ACCEPTANCE** I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Melissa J. DuChene, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Polysomnographic Technologist License. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and fully agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California. Michael Lamberte DATED: 1/10/2024 MICHAEL JASON LAMBERTE, P.T.G.L. Respondent I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Michael Jason Lamberte, P.T.G.L. the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I approve its form and content. DATED: 1/10/2024 Attorney for Respondent

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1	ENDORSEMENT		
2	The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted		
3	for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.		
4	DATED: 1/10/2024 Respectfully submitted,		
5	ROB BONTA		
6	Attorney General of California MATTHEW M. DAVIS Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
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9	JASON J. AHN Deputy Attorney General  Attorneys for Complainant		
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### Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2022-087404

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1	ROB BONTA			
2	Attorney General of California MATTHEW M. DAVIS			
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General JASON J. AHN			
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 253172			
5	600 West Broadway, Suite 1800 San Diego, CA 92101			
6	P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, CA 92186-5266			
7	Telephone: (619) 738-9433 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061			
8	Attorneys for Complainant			
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10	BEFORE THE			
11	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS			
12	STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2022-087404		
14	Michael Jason Lamberte, P.T.G.L.	ACCUSATION		
15	8907 FELIPE AVE MONTCLAIR CA 91763			
16	Polysomnographic Technologist License No. PTGL 1217,			
17	Respondent.			
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20	PAR			
21	1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity as			
22	the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs			
23	(Board).			
24	2. On or about July 6, 2021, the Medical Board issued Polysomnographic Technologist			
25	License No. PTGL 1217 to Michael Jason Lamberte, P.T.G.L. (Respondent). The			
26	Polysomnographic Technologist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the			
27	charges brought herein and will expire on July 31, 2023, unless renewed.			
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	(MICHAEL JASON LAMBERTE, P.T.G.L.) ACCUSATION NO. 800-2022-087404			

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### 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 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."

#### Section 2228 of the Code states: 8.

The authority of the board or the California Board of Podiatric Medicine to discipline a licensee by placing him or her on probation includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- "(a) Requiring the licensee to obtain additional professional training and to pass an examination upon the completion of the training. The examination may be written or oral, or both, and may be a practical or clinical examination, or both, at the option of the board or the administrative law judge.
- "(b) Requiring the licensee to submit to a complete diagnostic examination by one or more physicians and surgeons appointed by the board. If an examination is ordered, the board shall receive and consider any other report of a complete diagnostic examination given by one or more physicians and surgeons of the licensee's choice.
- "(c) Restricting or limiting the extent, scope, or type of practice of the licensee, including requiring notice to applicable patients that the licensee is unable to perform the indicated treatment, where appropriate.
- "(d) Providing the option of alternative community service in cases other than violations relating to quality of care."

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Section 480 of the Code States:

(a) A board may deny a license regulated by this code on the grounds that the applicant has one of the following:

(1) Been convicted of a crime. A conviction within the meaning of this section means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. Any action that a board is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4, 1203.4a, 1203.41, or 1203.425 of the Penal Code.

(B) The board may deny a license pursuant to this subdivision only if the crime or act is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the application is made.

Section 490 of the Code states: 10.

- (a) In addition to any other action that a board is permitted to take against a licensee, a board may suspend or revoke a license on the ground that the licensee has been convicted of a crime, if the crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the license was issued.
- (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a board may exercise any authority to discipline a licensee for conviction of a crime that is independent of the authority granted under subdivision (a) only if the crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the licensee's license was issued.
- (c) A conviction within the meaning of this section means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. An action that a board is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code.
- (d) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the application of this section has been made unclear by the holding in Petropoulos v. Department of Real Estate (2006) 142 Cal. App. 4th 554, and that the holding in that case has placed a significant number of statutes and regulations in question, resulting in potential harm to the consumers of California from licensees who have been convicted of crimes. Therefore, the Legislature finds and declares that this section establishes an independent basis for a board to impose discipline upon a licensee, and that the amendments to this section made by Chapter 33 of the Statutes of 2008 do not constitute a change to, but rather are declaratory of, existing law."

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### REGULATORY PROVISIONS

14. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1379.68, subdivision (a), states:

For the purpose of denial, suspension, or revocation of the registration of a polysomnography registrant pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the Code, a crime or act shall be considered substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a polysomnographic registrant if to a substantial degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of a polysomnographic registrant to perform the functions authorized by his or her registration in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare. Such crimes or acts shall include, but not be limited to, those involving the following:

(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting or abetting the violation of or conspiring to violate any provision or term of Chapter 7.8 of Division 2 of the Code [concerning Polysomnographic Technologists]."

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### GENERAL UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

15. "Unprofessional conduct is that conduct which breaches rules or ethical code of profession, or conduct which is unbecoming a member in good standing of a profession." (Shea v. Board of Medical Examiners (1978) 81 Cal.App.3rd 564, 575.)

### COST RECOVERY

16. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate 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 licentiate 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.

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### FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

## (Conviction of a Crime Substantially Related to the Qualifications, Functions or Duties of a Polysomnographic Technologist)

- 17. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under sections 480, 490, 3576, subdivisions (3) and (4), 3576.3, subdivision (c), of the Code, and California Code of Regulations title 16, section 1379.68, subdivision (a), in that he was convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a polysomnographic technologist, as more particularly alleged herein:
- 18. On or about April 29, 2022, in the case entitled *The People of the State of California* v. Michael Jasongrajo Lamberte (a.k.a. Michael Jason Lamberte), San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. FWV22001466, a felony complaint was filed charging Respondent with five (5) felony crimes: (1) Possession of Over 600 Images of Child or Youth Pornography in violation of Penal Code Section 311.11(c)(1) date of offense March 28, 2022; (2) Possession of Sadomasochistic Child or Youth Pornography in violation of Penal Code Section 311.11(c)(2) date of offense March 28, 2022; (3) Exhibiting, Publishing Material Depicting Child Sexual Content in violation of Penal Code Section 311.1(a) date of offense March 7, 2022; (4) Exhibiting, Publishing Material Depicting Child Sexual Content in violation of Penal Code Section 311.1(a) date of offense March 21, 2022; (5) Exhibiting, Publishing Material Depicting Child Sexual Content in violation of Penal Code Section 311.1(a) date of offense March 21, 2022; (5) Exhibiting, Publishing Material Depicting Child Sexual Content in violation of Penal Code Section 311.1(a) date of offense March 22, 2022.
- 19. On or about December 14, 2022, in the case entitled *The People of the State of California v. Michael Jasongrajo Lamberte (a.k.a. Michael Jason Lamberte)*, San Bernardino County Superior Court, Case No. FWV22001466, Respondent entered a plea of no contest to count 1 of the felony complaint: Possession of Over 600 Images of Child or Youth Pornography in violation of Penal Code Section 311.11(c)(1), a felony.

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