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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Klernan Hale Morrow, M.D.

Case No. 800-2022-084677

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C 156513

Respondent.

# **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 July 5, 2024.

IT IS SO ORDERED June 28, 2024.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Reji Varghese Executive Director

1	ROB BONTA			
2	Attorney General of California JUDITH T. ALVARADO			
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General REBECCA L. SMITH Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 179733 300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6475 Facsimile: (916) 731-2117			
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7	Attorneys for Complainant			
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9	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA			
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
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	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2022-084677		
12	KIERNAN HALE MORROW, M.D. 1525 West Cypress Creek Road	OAH No. 2023120210		
13	Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND ORDER		
15	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C 156513,			
16	Respondent.			
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18	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGR	EED by and between the parties to the above-		
19	entitled proceedings that the following matters are	e true:		
20	PARTIES			
21	1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of			
22	California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in th			
23	matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Rebecca L. Smith, Deputy			
24	Attorney General.			
25	2. Kiernan Hale Morrow, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by			
26	attorney Robert Keith Weinberg, whose address is 19200 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 380			
27	Irvine, California 92612-8508.			
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3. On or about June 15, 2018, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C 156513 to Respondent. That license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2022-084677 and expired on January 31, 2024.

# **JURISDICTION**

4. Accusation No. 800-2022-084677 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 October 30, 2023. Respondent filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2022-084677 is attached 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. 800-2022-084677. 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. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

## **CULPABILITY**

- 8. Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2022-084677, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.
- 9. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual

basis for the charges in the Accusation and that those charges constitute cause for discipline. Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest that cause for discipline exists based on those charges.

10. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation he enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate without further process.

# **CONTINGENCY**

- 11. 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."
- 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 No. C 156513 without further notice to, or opportunity to be heard by, Respondent.
- 13. 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.
- 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. 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

- 15. 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.
- 16. 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.
- 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 Disciplinary Order on behalf of the Board:

## **ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C 156513, issued to Respondent Kiernan Hale Morrow, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate 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. 800-2022-084677 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 Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$43,696.50 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. 800-2022-084677 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.

# **ACCEPTANCE**

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney Robert Keith Weinberg. 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:	6/19/24		
		KIERNAN HALE MORROW, M.D.	
		Respondent	

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1	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Kiernan Hale Morrow, 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	DATED: 6-19-24 fobil K. We borg		
5	ROBERT KEITH WEINBERG Attorney for Respondent		
6			
7	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>		
8	The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted		
9	for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.		
10	DATED: Respectfully submitted,		
11	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California		
12	JUDITH T. ALVARADO Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
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15	REBECEAL. SMITH Deputy Attorney General		
16	Attorneys for Complainant		
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# Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2022-084677

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1	ROB BONTA				
2	Attorney General of California JUDITH T. ALYARADO				
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General REBECCA L. SMITH				
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 179733				
5	300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013				
6	Telephone: (213) 269-6475 Facsimile: (916) 731-2117				
7	Attorneys for Complainant				
8	BEFORE THE				
9	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA				
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
11					
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2022-084677			
13	KIERNAN HALE MORROW, M.D.	ACCUSATION			
14	1525 W. Cypress Creek Rd. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309				
15	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate				
	No. C 156513,	•			
16	Respondent.	·			
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18	PART	TIFS			
19		<del></del>			
20		1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity as			
21	the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs				
22	(Board).				
23	2. On or about June 15, 2018, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's				
24	Certificate Number C 156513 to Kiernan Hale Morrow, M.D. (Respondent). That license was in				
25	full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on January				
26	31, 2024, unless renewed.				
27	<i>III</i>				
28	<i>III</i> .				
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	(KIERNAN HALE MORROW, M.D.) ACCUSATION NO. 800-2022-084677				

# **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 2004 of the Code states:

The board shall have the responsibility for the following:

- (a) The enforcement of the disciplinary and criminal provisions of the Medical Practice Act.
  - (b) The administration and hearing of disciplinary actions.
- (c) Carrying out disciplinary actions appropriate to findings made by a panel or an administrative law judge.
- (d) Suspending, revoking, or otherwise limiting certificates after the conclusion of disciplinary actions.
- (e) Reviewing the quality of medical practice carried out by physician and surgeon certificate holders under the jurisdiction of the board.
  - (f) Approving undergraduate and graduate medical education programs.
- (g) Approving clinical clerkship and special programs and hospitals for the programs in subdivision (f).
  - (h) Issuing licenses and certificates under the board's jurisdiction.
  - (i) Administering the board's continuing medical education program.
- 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.

# STATUTORY PROVISIONS

#### 6. Section 820 of the Code states:

Whenever it appears that any person holding a license, certificate or permit under this division or under any initiative act referred to in this division may be unable to practice his or her profession safely because the licentiate's ability to practice is impaired due to mental illness, or physical illness affecting competency, the licensing agency may order the licentiate to be examined by one or more physicians and surgeons or psychologists designated by the agency. The report of the examiners shall be made available to the licentiate and may be received as direct evidence in proceedings conducted pursuant to Section 822.

- 7. Section 821 of the Code provides that the licentiate's failure to comply with an order issued under section 820 shall constitute grounds for the suspension or revocation of the licentiate's certificate or license.
  - 8. 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.
- 9. Section 2228.1 of the Code states.
- (a) On and after July 1, 2019, except as otherwise provided in subdivision (c), the board and the Podiatric Medical Board of California shall require a licensee to provide a separate disclosure that includes the licensee's probation status, the length of the probation, the probation end date, all practice restrictions placed on the licensee by the board, the board's telephone number, and an explanation of how the patient can find further information on the licensee's probation on the licensee's profile page on the board's online license information internet web site, to a patient or the patient's guardian or health care surrogate before the patient's first visit following the probationary order while the licensee is on probation pursuant to a probationary order made on and after July 1, 2019, in any of the following circumstances:
- (1) A final adjudication by the board following an administrative hearing or admitted findings or prima facie showing in a stipulated settlement establishing any of the following:
- (A) The commission of any act of sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a patient or client as defined in Section 726 or 729.
- (B) Drug or alcohol abuse directly resulting in harm to patients or the extent that such use impairs the ability of the licensee to practice safely.
  - (C) Criminal conviction directly involving harm to patient health.
- (D) Inappropriate prescribing resulting in harm to patients and a probationary period of five years or more.
- (2) An accusation or statement of issues alleged that the licensee committed any of the acts described in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of paragraph (1), and a stipulated settlement based upon a nolo contendre or other similar compromise that does not include any prima facie showing or admission of guilt or fact but does include an express acknowledgment that the disclosure requirements of this section would serve to protect the public interest.
- (b) A licensee required to provide a disclosure pursuant to subdivision (a) shall obtain from the patient, or the patient's guardian or health care surrogate, a separate, signed copy of that disclosure.
- (c) A licensee shall not be required to provide a disclosure pursuant to subdivision (a) if any of the following applies:
- (1) The patient is unconscious or otherwise unable to comprehend the disclosure and sign the copy of the disclosure pursuant to subdivision (b) and a

(KIERNAN HALE MORROW, M.D.) ACCUSATION NO. 800-2022-084677

Respondent's address of record on or about April 28, 2023.

- 13. On or about May 2, 2023, a Department of Consumer Affairs investigator (Investigator), on behalf of the Board, mailed the Board's Order via certified and regular mail to Respondent's address of record.
- 14. On or about May 9, 2023, the Investigator mailed a letter to Respondent which provided the details of the physical examination, which had been scheduled for him on May 22, 2023, pursuant to the Order. That same day, the Investigator also mailed a letter to Respondent which provided the details of the mental examination, which had been scheduled for him on May 24, 2023, pursuant to the Order.
- 15. On or about May 10, 2023, the Investigator received confirmation of the delivery of the two letters to Respondent.
- 16. Thereafter, the Investigator continued to attempt to coordinate the mental and physical examinations with Respondent.
- 17. Respondent failed to attend both the mental and physical examinations which had been scheduled for him, and failed to comply with the Board's Order.

# SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (General Unprofessional Conduct)

- 18. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2234, in that his actions and/or omissions represent unprofessional conduct, generally. The circumstances are as follows:
- 19. The allegations of the First Cause for Discipline are incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth.

#### 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 Number C 156513, issued to Respondent Kiernan Hale Morrow, M.D.;

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(KIERNAN HALE MORROW, M.D.) ACCUSATION NO. 800-2022-084677