

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

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

**Robert Glenn Howen, M.D.**

**Case No. 800-2024-104596**

**Physician's and Surgeon's  
Certificate No. A 37047**

**Respondent.**

**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 April 2, 2025.**

**IT IS SO ORDERED March 27, 2025.**

**MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**



**Reji Varghese, Executive Director**

1           ROB BONTA  
2           Attorney General of California  
3           MICHAEL C. BRUMMEL  
4           Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
5           JOHN S. GATSCHE  
6           Deputy Attorney General  
7           State Bar No. 244388  
8           California Department of Justice  
9           1300 I Street, Suite 125  
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9           *Attorneys for Complainant*

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           Case No. 800-2024-104596

16           **ROBERT GLENN HOWEN, M.D.**  
17           1008 Vienna Dr.  
18           Lodi, CA 95242

19           OAH No.

20           Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate  
21           No. A 37047

22           **STIPULATED SURRENDER OF  
23           LICENSE AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

24           Respondent.

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

27           PARTIES

28           1.       Reji Varghese ("Complainant") is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California ("Board"). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by John S. Gatschet, Deputy Attorney General.

29           2.       Robert Glenn Howen, M.D. ("Respondent") is represented in this proceeding by attorney Denise Ellen Billups-Slone, whose address is:

1 McNamara, Ambacher, Wheeler, LLP et. al.  
2 3480 Buskirk Avenue, Ste 250  
3 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-7310

4 3. On or about July 13, 1981, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate  
5 No. A 37047 to Respondent. That license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the  
6 charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2024-104596 and will expire on June 30, 2025, unless  
7 renewed.

8 **JURISDICTION**

9 4. Accusation No. 800-2024-104596 was filed on March 26, 2025, before the Board and  
10 is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required  
11 documents were properly served on Respondent on March 26, 2025. Respondent further waives  
12 any discrepancy in timing that may exist in the filing of the Accusation and the signing of the  
13 stipulated surrender in this matter. Respondent has chosen to waive his right to file a Notice of  
14 Defense contesting the Accusation and has freely and voluntarily entered into a stipulated  
15 surrender of his license. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2024-104596 is attached as Exhibit A  
16 and incorporated by reference.

17 **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

18 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the  
19 charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2024-104596. Respondent also has carefully read,  
20 fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License  
21 and Order.

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

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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. 800-2024-104596, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.

7       9. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of  
8 further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual  
9 basis for the charges in the Accusation and that those charges constitute cause for discipline.  
10 Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest that cause for discipline exists based on those  
11 charges.

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 without further  
14 process.

## RESERVATION

16       11. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this  
17 proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Medical Board of California or other  
18 professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or  
19 civil proceeding.

## CONTINGENCY

12. 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."

24       13. Respondent understands that, by signing this stipulation, he enables the Executive  
25 Director of the Board to issue an order, on behalf of the Board, accepting the surrender of his  
26 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 37047 without further notice to, or opportunity to be  
27 heard by, Respondent.

1       14. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to the  
2 approval of the Executive Director on behalf of the Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated  
3 Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be submitted to the Executive Director for his  
4 consideration in the above-entitled matter and, further, that the Executive Director shall have a  
5 reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on this Stipulated Surrender of License and  
6 Disciplinary Order after receiving it. By signing this stipulation, Respondent fully understands  
7 and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind this stipulation prior to the  
8 time the Executive Director, on behalf of the Medical Board, considers and acts upon it.

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

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## **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

16. 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.

17. 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.

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

## ORDER

12       **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 37047,  
13 issued to Respondent Robert Glenn Howen, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

14       1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate and the  
15 acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline  
16 against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part  
17 of Respondent's license history with the Board.

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

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

22       4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in  
23 the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must  
24 comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked or  
25 surrendered license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations  
26 contained in Accusation No. 800-2024-104596 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted  
27 by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.

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1       5. As a result of the surrender of Respondent's license, no costs of investigation or  
2 enforcement are now owed to the Medical Board of California by Respondent. However, if  
3 Respondent should ever petition for reinstatement of his Physician's and Surgeon's license in the  
4 State of California, Respondent shall pay the Medical Board of California its full costs of  
5 investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$27,440.50 prior to the issuance of a new or  
6 reinstated license.

7       6. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or  
8 petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of  
9 California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2024-104596 shall  
10 be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of  
11 Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

12       7. The Board, upon acceptance of Respondent's surrender of his certificate to practice  
13 medicine, shall close the pending Investigations into Respondent's license in Investigation Nos.  
14 800-2023-102168 and 800-2024-104596.

15       8. Respondent understands and agrees that all information contained in Investigation  
16 Nos. 800-2023-102168 and 800-2024-104596, shall be preserved. Upon a petition for  
17 reinstatement, Respondent agrees and understands that the Board shall be able to use the content  
18 of the Investigations as a basis for denial of a petition for reinstatement. The Investigations shall  
19 be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to  
20 grant or deny the petition. Respondent understands and agrees that by entering into this  
21 stipulation, he is permanently waiving any and all claims of laches and/or statute of limitation  
22 defenses as they relate to Investigation Nos. 800-2023-102168 and 800-2024-104596.  
23 Respondent makes this voluntary waiver to enter into this stipulated surrender and to close the  
24 pending Investigations.

25       ///

26       ///

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## ACCEPTANCE

2 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully  
3 discussed it with my attorney, Denise Ellen Billups-Slone. I understand the stipulation and the  
4 effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. 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.

8 DATED: 3/17/2025 ROBERT GLENN HOWEN  
9 ROBERT GLENN HOWEN, M.D.  
*Respondent*

10 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Robert Glenn Howen, 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.

14 DATED: 3/18/2025 Denise Billups-Sloane  
15 Denise Ellen Billups-Sloane  
*Attorney for Respondent*

## ENDORSEMENT

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

20 DATED: March 19, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

ROB BONTA  
Attorney General of California  
MICHAEL C. BRUMMEL  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

John Gatschet  
JOHN S. GATSCHE  
Deputy Attorney General  
*Attorneys for Complainant*

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**Exhibit A**

**Accusation No. 800-2024-104596**

1 ROB BONTA  
2 Attorney General of California  
3 MICHAEL C. BRUMMEL  
4 Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
5 JOHN S. GATSCHET  
6 Deputy Attorney General  
7 State Bar No. 244388  
8 California Department of Justice  
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9 | *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

14 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

| Case No. 800-2024-104596

15 Robert Glenn Howen, M.D.  
1008 Vienna Dr.  
16 Lodi, CA 95242

## ACCUSATION

17 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate  
No. A 37047,

**Respondent.**

## PARTIES

22 1. Reji Varghese (“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 or about July 13, 1981, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's  
26 Certificate Number A 37047 to Robert Glenn Howen, M.D. ("Respondent"). That Certificate was  
27 in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on June  
28 30, 2025, 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.

## **STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

6 4. Section 820 of the Code states:

7 Whenever it appears that any person holding a license, certificate or permit  
8 under this division or under any initiative act referred to in this division may be  
9 unable to practice his or her profession safely because the licentiate's ability to  
10 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.

5. Section 822 of the Code states:

If a licensing agency determines that its licentiate's ability to practice his or her profession safely is impaired because the licentiate is mentally ill, or physically ill affecting competency, the licensing agency may take action by any one of the following methods:

- (a) Revoking the licentiate's certificate or license.
- (b) Suspending the licentiate's right to practice.
- (c) Placing the licentiate on probation.
- (d) Taking such other action in relation to the licentiate as the licensing agency discretion deems proper.

20 The licensing section shall not reinstate a revoked or suspended certificate or  
21 license until it has received competent evidence of the absence or control of the  
condition which caused its action and until it is satisfied that with due regard for the  
public health and safety the person's right to practice his or her profession may be  
safely reinstated.

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

7. Section 2234 of the Code states:

27 The board shall take action against any licensee who is charged with  
28 unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional

1 conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

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

4 ...

#### COST RECOVERY

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

#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

12 9. Respondent is board-certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology ("OB-GYN") and  
13 practiced in both labor and delivery and as a gynecological surgeon. Respondent worked as an  
14 OB-GYN for Sutter Gould Medical Group from 2008 to 2024. Currently, Respondent is not  
15 actively practicing medicine.

16 10. On December 20, 2019, Patient 1<sup>1</sup> presented with a large symptomatic leiomyoma.  
17 Respondent took Patient 1 to surgery for a total laparoscopic hysterectomy with bilateral  
18 salpingectomy. Respondent failed to document several details in his operative report, especially  
19 about whether proper surgical safety protocols were followed before and during surgery to  
20 prevent surgical complications. Following surgery, Respondent documented that there were a  
21 few large fibroids present that impaired his visualization during surgery. Despite impaired  
22 visualization, Respondent chose not to convert the laparoscopic surgery to an open surgical  
23 procedure, and he proceeded to perform the hysterectomy. On December 21, 2019, Patient 1 was  
24 discharged home. On December 22, 2019, Patient 1 returned to the emergency room with a  
25 complaint of lower abdominal pain. Patient 1 was discharged. On December 28, 2019, Patient 1  
26 sought additional care from her OB-GYN and it was discovered she had evidence of urine leaking

27  
28 <sup>1</sup> The patient's identity is being omitted to protect patient privacy. The patient's identity  
is known to Respondent.

1 from her vagina. Diagnostic imaging revealed the presence of a cysto-vaginal fistula. On  
2 December 28, 2019, Patient 1 underwent additional surgeries to correct the complications caused  
3 by Respondent's December 20, 2019, surgery. On September 20, 2023, a monetary civil  
4 settlement was reported by Respondent's insurance carrier to the Medical Board of California  
5 settling Patient 1's claims against Respondent for medical negligence.

6 11. On or about November 23, 2023, Respondent suffered a medical emergency that led  
7 to a lasting physical and/or mental impairment which impacted Respondent's ability to safely  
8 practice medicine. Following a battery of neuropsychological testing provided by his employer  
9 that indicated possible impairment, Respondent retired from the practice of medicine on or about  
10 June 17, 2024. In addition to the medical event that occurred on November 23, 2023, Respondent  
11 also suffers from a chronic and progressive condition which may also impact his ability to  
12 continue to safely practice medicine in the future.

13 **CAUSE FOR ACTION**

14 **(Mental and/or Physical Impairment)**

15 12. Respondent's license is subject to action under sections 820 and 822 of the Code in  
16 that Respondent suffers from a mental and/or physical impairment that impacts his ability to  
17 safely practice medicine. The circumstances are set forth in paragraph 11, and that paragraph is  
18 incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

19 **CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

20 **(General Unprofessional Conduct)**

21 13. Respondent's license is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234 of the Code  
22 in that he engaged in general unprofessional conduct during the care and treatment of Patient 1.  
23 The circumstances are set forth in paragraph 10, and that paragraph is incorporated by reference  
24 as if fully set forth herein.

25 14. Respondent engaged in general unprofessional conduct in the following ways:

26 A.) He failed to document sufficient information in the operative report to show that  
27 proper safety protocols were performed before and during surgery so that a

subsequent treating physician could determine if the surgery was performed within the standard of care; and,

B.) He failed to consider and/or document considering that the lack of visualization caused by the presence of Patient 1's large fibroids necessitated the need to perform the surgery as an open procedure, increasing the risk of complications for Patient 1.

## DISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATIONS

8        15. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent Robert  
9        Glenn Howen, M.D., Complainant alleges that on or about December 11, 2024, in a prior  
10      disciplinary action before the Medical Board of California, in Case Number 800-2022-088606, a  
11      Public Letter of Reprimand was issued. Respondent's license was disciplined for violating Bus.  
12      & Prof. Code § 2234, subdivision (c), repeated negligent acts, when Respondent "failed to  
13      document a conversation with a colleague, morcellated the patient's uterus, and proceeded with a  
14      supracervical hysterectomy and bilateral salpingectomy of the patient." That decision is now  
15      final and is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

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## PRAYER

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

4        1.    Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 37047,  
5 issued to Respondent Robert Glenn Howen, M.D.;

6        2.    Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Robert Glenn Howen,  
7 M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

8        3.    Ordering Respondent Robert Glenn Howen, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of the  
9 investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of probation  
10 monitoring; and,

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

DATED: MAR 26 2025

Sharlene Smith For  
REJI VARGHESE  
Executive Director  
Medical Board of California  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
State of California  
*Complainant*

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