

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

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

Robert Joseph Leonard, M.D.

**Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. A 158526**

Case No.: 800-2022-092027

Respondent.

DECISION

The attached Stipulated Settlement 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 July 2, 2025.

IT IS SO ORDERED: June 2, 2025.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Michelle A. Bholat, MD

**Michelle A. Bholat, M.D., Chair
Panel A**

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 KEITH C. SHAW
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 227029
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9 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2022-092027

13 **ROBERT JOSEPH LEONARD, M.D.**

OAH No. 2024070444

14 **11491 Golden Willow Dr.**
15 **Zionsville, IN 46077-1283**

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

16 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
17 **No. A 158526,**

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 Keith C. Shaw, Deputy
25 Attorney General.

26 2. Respondent Robert Joseph Leonard, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this
27 proceeding by attorney Robert Weinberg, Esq., whose address is: 19200 Von Karman Avenue,
28 Suite 380, Irvine, CA 92612.

1 3. On or about September 11, 2018, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
2 Certificate No. A 158526 to Robert Joseph Leonard, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and
3 Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in
4 Accusation No. 800-2022-092027, and will expire on September 30, 2026, unless renewed.

5 **JURISDICTION**

6 4. Accusation No. 800-2022-092027 was filed before the Board and is currently pending
7 against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly
8 served on Respondent on June 4, 2024. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting
9 the Accusation.

10 5. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2022-092027 is attached as Exhibit A and
11 incorporated herein by reference.

12 **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

13 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the
14 charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2022-092027. Respondent has also carefully read,
15 fully discussed with his counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and
16 Disciplinary Order.

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

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

25 **CULPABILITY**

26 9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation
27 No. 800-2022-092027, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his
28 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.

10. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent gives up his right to contest that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a *prima facie* case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in the Accusation.

11. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for early termination or modification of probation, or if an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation is filed against him before the Medical Board of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2022-092027 shall be deemed true, correct and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of any such proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving Respondent in the State of California.

12. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

13. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

14. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of the agreement of the parties in this above-entitled matter.

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1 15. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile
2 copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile
3 signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

4 16. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that
5 the Board may, without further notice or opportunity to be heard by the Respondent, issue and
6 enter the following Disciplinary Order:

7 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

8 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 158526
9 issued to Respondent Robert Joseph Leonard, M.D., is revoked. However, the revocation is
10 stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for two (2) years from the effective date of the
11 Decision on the following terms and conditions:

12 1. **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES - ABSTAIN FROM USE.** Respondent shall abstain
13 completely from the personal use or possession of controlled substances as defined in the
14 California Uniform Controlled Substances Act, dangerous drugs as defined by Business and
15 Professions Code section 4022, and any drugs requiring a prescription. This prohibition does not
16 apply to medications lawfully prescribed to Respondent by another practitioner for a bona fide
17 illness or condition.

18 Within 15 calendar days of receiving any lawfully prescribed medications, Respondent
19 shall notify the Board or its designee of the: issuing practitioner's name, address, and telephone
20 number; medication name, strength, and quantity; and issuing pharmacy name, address, and
21 telephone number.

22 If Respondent has a confirmed positive biological fluid test for any substance (whether or
23 not legally prescribed) and has not reported the use to the Board or its designee, Respondent shall
24 receive a notification from the Board or its designee to immediately cease the practice of
25 medicine. Respondent shall not resume the practice of medicine until the final decision on an
26 accusation and/or a petition to revoke probation is effective. An accusation and/or petition to
27 revoke probation shall be filed by the Board within 30 days of the notification to cease practice.
28 If Respondent requests a hearing on the accusation and/or petition to revoke probation, the Board

1 shall provide Respondent with a hearing within 30 days of the request, unless Respondent
2 stipulates to a later hearing. If the case is heard by an Administrative Law Judge alone, he or she
3 shall forward a Proposed Decision to the Board within 15 days of submission of the matter.
4 Within 15 days of receipt by the Board of the Administrative Law Judge's proposed decision, the
5 Board shall issue its Decision, unless good cause can be shown for the delay. If the case is heard
6 by the Board, the Board shall issue its decision within 15 days of submission of the case, unless
7 good cause can be shown for the delay. Good cause includes, but is not limited to, non-adoption
8 of the proposed decision, requests for reconsideration, remands and other interlocutory orders
9 issued by the Board. The cessation of practice shall not apply to the reduction of the probationary
10 time period.

11 If the Board does not file an accusation or petition to revoke probation within 30 days of the
12 issuance of the notification to cease practice or does not provide Respondent with a hearing
13 within 30 days of a such a request, the notification of cease practice shall be dissolved.

14 2. ALCOHOL - ABSTAIN FROM USE. Respondent shall abstain completely from the
15 use of products or beverages containing alcohol.

16 If Respondent has a confirmed positive biological fluid test for alcohol, Respondent shall
17 receive a notification from the Board or its designee to immediately cease the practice of
18 medicine. Respondent shall not resume the practice of medicine until the final decision on an
19 accusation and/or a petition to revoke probation is effective. An accusation and/or petition to
20 revoke probation shall be filed by the Board within 30 days of the notification to cease practice.
21 If Respondent requests a hearing on the accusation and/or petition to revoke probation, the Board
22 shall provide the Respondent with a hearing within 30 days of the request, unless the Respondent
23 stipulates to a later hearing. the case is heard by an Administrative Law Judge alone, he or she
24 shall forward a Proposed Decision to the Board within 15 days of submission of the matter.
25 Within 15 days of receipt by the Board of the Administrative Law Judge's proposed decision, the
26 Board shall issue its Decision, unless good cause can be shown for the delay. If the case is heard
27 by the Board, the Board shall issue its decision within 15 days of submission of the case, unless
28 good cause can be shown for the delay. Good cause includes, but is not limited to, non-adoption

1 of the proposed decision, requests for reconsideration, remands and other interlocutory orders
2 issued by the Board. The cessation of practice shall not apply to the reduction of the probationary
3 time period.

4 If the Board does not file an accusation or petition to revoke probation within 30 days of the
5 issuance of the notification to cease practice or does not provide Respondent with a hearing
6 within 30 days of such a request, the notification of cease practice shall be dissolved.

7 3. BIOLOGICAL FLUID TESTING. Respondent shall submit to biological fluid
8 testing, at Respondent's expense, pursuant to his existing Monitoring Contract with the Indiana
9 Physician Assistance Program (IPAP) through the Indiana State Medical Association. Biological
10 fluid testing shall continue throughout the duration of the Monitoring Contract, which is set to
11 expire on or about September 13, 2026, unless extended.

12 "Biological fluid testing" may include, but is not limited to, urine, blood, breathalyzer, hair
13 follicle testing, or similar drug screening. A certified copy of any laboratory test result may be
14 received in evidence in any proceedings between the Board and Respondent.

15 Respondent shall immediately notify the Board of any positive biological fluid result for
16 controlled substances and/or alcohol, or failure to cooperate in biological fluid testing pursuant to
17 the terms of his IPAP Monitoring Contract, within two (2) days of receiving such notification.
18 Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to immediately cease the
19 practice of medicine. Respondent shall not resume the practice of medicine until the final
20 decision on an accusation and/or a petition to revoke probation is effective. An accusation and/or
21 petition to revoke probation shall be filed by the Board within 30 days of the notification to cease
22 practice. If Respondent requests a hearing on the accusation and/or petition to revoke probation,
23 the Board shall provide the Respondent with a hearing within 30 days of the request, unless the
24 Respondent stipulates to a later hearing. If the case is heard by an Administrative Law Judge
25 alone, he or she shall forward a Proposed Decision to the Board within 15 days of submission of
26 the matter. Within 15 days of receipt by the Board of the Administrative Law Judge's proposed
27 decision, the Board shall issue its Decision, unless good cause can be shown for the delay. If the
28 case is heard by the Board, the Board shall issue its decision within 15 days of submission of the

1 case, unless good cause can be shown for the delay. Good cause includes, but is not limited to,
2 non-adoption of the proposed decision, requests for reconsideration, remands and other
3 interlocutory orders issued by the Board. The cessation of practice shall not apply to the
4 reduction of the probationary time period.

5 If the Board does not file an accusation or petition to revoke probation within 15 days of the
6 issuance of the notification to cease practice or does not provide Respondent with a hearing
7 within 30 days of such a request, the notification of cease practice shall be dissolved.

8 4. PROFESSIONALISM PROGRAM (ETHICS COURSE). Within 60 calendar days of
9 the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a professionalism program that
10 focuses on substance abuse, that meets the requirements of Title 16, California Code of
11 Regulations (CCR) section 1358.1. Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete that
12 program. Respondent shall provide any information and documents that the program may deem
13 pertinent. Respondent shall successfully complete the classroom component of the program not
14 later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment, and the longitudinal component of
15 the program not later than the time specified by the program, but no later than one (1) year after
16 attending the classroom component. The professionalism program shall be at Respondent's
17 expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for
18 renewal of licensure.

19 A professionalism program taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the
20 Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board
21 or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the program would have
22 been approved by the Board or its designee had the program been taken after the effective date of
23 this Decision.

24 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
25 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the program or not later
26 than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

27 5. PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION. Within 30 calendar days of the effective date of
28 this Decision, Respondent shall undergo and complete a psychiatric evaluation (and

1 psychological testing, if deemed necessary) by a board-certified psychiatrist at the Positive
2 Sobriety Institute, and through its assessment program, the Multidisciplinary Comprehensive
3 Assessment Program (MCAP). Respondent shall immediately provide the Board with a copy of
4 the psychiatric evaluation within two (2) days following receipt.

5 Psychiatric evaluations conducted following the filing of the Accusation shall be accepted
6 towards the fulfillment of this requirement. Respondent shall pay the cost of all psychiatric
7 evaluations and psychological testing.

8 Respondent shall comply with all restrictions or conditions recommended by the evaluating
9 psychiatrist within 15 calendar days after being notified of said restrictions or conditions.

10 6. MONITORING - PRACTICE. Respondent shall have a practice/workplace monitor
11 in place pursuant to his existing Monitoring Contract with IPAP through the Indiana State
12 Medical Association. Said practice/workplace monitor shall continue throughout the duration of
13 the Monitoring Contract, which is set to expire on or about September 13, 2026, unless extended.
14 Respondent shall pay all monitoring costs. Respondent shall immediately notify the Board within
15 two (2) days of any violation of his Monitoring Contract.

16 Respondent shall also be required to have a practice monitor at any time Respondent
17 practices medicine within the State of California. At least 30 calendar days prior to practicing in
18 California, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for prior approval as a practice
19 monitor(s), the name and qualifications of one or more licensed physicians and surgeons whose
20 licenses are valid and in good standing, and who are preferably American Board of Medical
21 Specialties (ABMS) certified. A monitor shall have no prior or current business or personal
22 relationship with Respondent, or other relationship that could reasonably be expected to
23 compromise the ability of the monitor to render fair and unbiased reports to the Board, including
24 but not limited to any form of bartering, shall be in Respondent's field of practice, and must agree
25 to serve as Respondent's monitor. Respondent shall pay all monitoring costs.

26 The Board or its designee shall provide the approved monitor with copies of the
27 Decision(s) and Accusation(s), and a proposed monitoring plan. Within 15 calendar days of
28 receipt of the Decision(s), Accusation(s), and proposed monitoring plan, the monitor shall submit

1 a signed statement that the monitor has read the Decision(s) and Accusation(s), fully understands
2 the role of a monitor, and agrees or disagrees with the proposed monitoring plan. If the monitor
3 disagrees with the proposed monitoring plan, the monitor shall submit a revised monitoring plan
4 with the signed statement for approval by the Board or its designee.

5 Respondent's practice shall be monitored by the approved monitor throughout the course of
6 probation at any time Respondent is practicing medicine in California. Respondent shall make all
7 records available for immediate inspection and copying on the premises by the monitor at all
8 times during business hours and shall retain the records for the entire term of probation.

9 The monitor(s) shall submit a quarterly written report to the Board or its designee while
10 Respondent is practicing medicine in California, which includes an evaluation of Respondent's
11 performance, indicating whether Respondent's practices are within the standards of practice of
12 medicine, and whether Respondent is practicing medicine safely. It shall be the sole
13 responsibility of Respondent to ensure that the monitor submits the quarterly written reports to
14 the Board or its designee within 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter while
15 Respondent is practicing medicine in California.

16 If the monitor resigns or is no longer available, Respondent shall, within five (5) calendar
17 days of such resignation or unavailability, submit to the Board or its designee, for prior approval,
18 the name and qualifications of a replacement monitor who will be assuming that responsibility
19 within 15 calendar days. If Respondent, while practicing medicine in California, fails to obtain
20 approval of a replacement monitor within 60 calendar days of the resignation or unavailability of
21 the monitor, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the
22 practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. Respondent shall
23 cease the practice of medicine in California until a replacement monitor is approved and assumes
24 monitoring responsibility.

25 7. NOTIFICATION. Within seven (7) days of the effective date of this Decision,
26 Respondent shall provide a true copy of this Decision and Accusation to the Chief of Staff or the
27 Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to
28 Respondent in the State of California, at any other facility where Respondent engages in the

1 practice of medicine in the State of California, including all physician and locum tenens registries
2 or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which
3 extends malpractice insurance coverage to Respondent within the State of California. Respondent
4 shall submit proof of compliance to the Board or its designee within 15 calendar days.

5 This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

6 8. SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE
7 NURSES. During probation, Respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants and
8 advanced practice nurses in the State of California.

9 9. OBEY ALL LAWS. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules
10 governing the practice of medicine in California and remain in full compliance with any court
11 ordered criminal probation, payments, and other orders.

12 10. INVESTIGATION/ENFORCEMENT COST RECOVERY. Respondent is hereby
13 ordered to reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement, including, but not
14 limited to, expert review, amended accusations, legal reviews, investigation(s), and subpoena
15 enforcement, as applicable, in the amount of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars). Costs shall be
16 payable to the Medical Board of California. Failure to pay such costs shall be considered a
17 violation of probation.

18 Payment must be made in full within 30 calendar days of the effective date of the Order, or
19 by a payment plan approved by the Medical Board of California. Any and all requests for a
20 payment plan shall be submitted in writing by respondent to the Board. Failure to comply with
21 the payment plan shall be considered a violation of probation.

22 The filing of bankruptcy by respondent shall not relieve respondent of the responsibility to
23 repay investigation and enforcement costs, including expert review costs (if applicable).

24 11. QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations
25 under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been
26 compliance with all the conditions of probation.

27 Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end
28 of the preceding quarter.

1 12. GENERAL PROBATION REQUIREMENTS.

2 Compliance with Probation Unit

3 Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation unit.

4 Address Changes

5 Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of Respondent's business and
6 residence addresses, email address (if available), and telephone number. Changes of such
7 addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Board or its designee. Under no
8 circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business
9 and Professions Code section 2021, subdivision (b).

10 Place of Practice

11 Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine in Respondent's or patient's place
12 of residence, unless the patient resides in a skilled nursing facility or other similar licensed
13 facility.

14 License Renewal

15 Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's
16 license.

17 Travel or Residence Outside California

18 Respondent shall immediately inform the Board or its designee, in writing, of travel to any
19 areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than thirty
20 (30) calendar days.

21 In the event Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice
22 Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of
23 departure and return.

24 13. INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE. Respondent shall be
25 available remotely via teleconference upon request for interviews either at Respondent's place of
26 business or at the probation unit office, with or without prior notice throughout the term of
27 probation.

28 14. NON-PRACTICE WHILE ON PROBATION. Respondent shall notify the Board or

1 its designee in writing within 15 calendar days of any periods of non-practice lasting more than
2 30 calendar days and within 15 calendar days of Respondent's return to practice. Non-practice is
3 defined as any period of time Respondent is not practicing medicine as defined in Business and
4 Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052 for at least 40 hours in a calendar month in direct
5 patient care, clinical activity or teaching, or other activity as approved by the Board. If
6 Respondent resides in California and is considered to be in non-practice, Respondent shall
7 comply with all terms and conditions of probation. All time spent in an intensive training
8 program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall not be considered non-
9 practice and does not relieve Respondent from complying with all the terms and conditions of
10 probation. Practicing medicine in another state of the United States or Federal jurisdiction while
11 on probation with the medical licensing authority of that state or jurisdiction shall not be
12 considered non-practice. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a
13 period of non-practice.

14 In the event Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation exceeds 18 calendar
15 months, Respondent shall successfully complete the Federation of State Medical Board's Special
16 Purpose Examination, or, at the Board's discretion, a clinical competence assessment program
17 that meets the criteria of Condition 18 of the current version of the Board's "Manual of Model
18 Disciplinary Orders and Disciplinary Guidelines" prior to resuming the practice of medicine.

19 Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation shall not exceed two (2) years.

20 Periods of non-practice will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term.

21 Periods of non-practice for a Respondent residing outside of California will relieve
22 Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the
23 exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws;
24 General Probation Requirements; Quarterly Declarations; Abstain from the Use of Alcohol and/or
25 Controlled Substances; and Biological Fluid Testing.

26 15. COMPLETION OF PROBATION. Respondent shall comply with all financial
27 obligations (e.g., restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the
28 completion of probation. This term does not include cost recovery, which is due within 30

1 calendar days of the effective date of the Order, or by a payment plan approved by the Medical
2 Board and timely satisfied. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate
3 shall be fully restored.

4 16. VIOLATION OF PROBATION. Failure to fully comply with any term or condition
5 of probation is a violation of probation. If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the
6 Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and
7 carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, or Petition to Revoke Probation,
8 or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have
9 continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until
10 the matter is final.

11 17. LICENSE SURRENDER. Following the effective date of this Decision, if
12 Respondent ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy
13 the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request to surrender his or her license.
14 The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion in
15 determining whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate
16 and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Respondent
17 shall within 15 calendar days deliver Respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its
18 designee and Respondent shall no longer practice medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject
19 to the terms and conditions of probation. If Respondent re-applies for a medical license, the
20 application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.

21 18. PROBATION MONITORING COSTS. Respondent shall pay the costs associated
22 with probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Board, which
23 may be adjusted on an annual basis. Costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of California
24 and delivered to the Board or its designee no later than January 31 of each calendar year.

25 19. FUTURE ADMISSIONS CLAUSE. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for
26 a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care
27 licensing action agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in
28 Accusation No. 800-2022-092027 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by

1 Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or
2 restrict license.

3 ACCEPTANCE

4 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully
5 discussed it with my attorney, Robert Weinberg, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it
6 will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and
7 Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the
8 Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

9 DATED: 3/10/2025

10 
11 ROBERT JOSEPH LEONARD, M.D.
Respondent

12 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Robert Joseph Leonard, M.D., the terms
13 and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary
14 Order. I approve its form and content.

15 DATED: 3-10-2025

16 
17 ROBERT WEINBERG, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

18 ENDORSEMENT

19 The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully
20 submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California.

21 DATED: 3/12/25

22 Respectfully submitted,

23 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
24 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

25 

26 KEITH C. SHAW
Deputy Attorney General
27 Attorneys for Complainant

28 SD2024801515
Stip Settlement and Disc Order - MBC-Osteopathic.docx

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2022-092027

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8 *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:

Case No. 800-2022-092027

15 **ROBERT JOSEPH LEONARD, M.D.**

A C C U S A T I O N

16 **11491 Golden Willow Dr.**
17 **Zionsville, IN 46077-1283**

18 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
19 **No. A 158526,**

Respondent.

20
21 **PARTIES**

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

25 2. On or about September 11, 2018, the Medical Board issued Physician's and
26 Surgeon's Certificate No. A 158526 to Robert Joseph Leonard, M.D. (Respondent). The
27 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the
28 charges brought herein and will expire on September 30, 2024, 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 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.”

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1 5. Section 2234 of the Code, states in part:

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

5 "(b) Gross negligence."

6 6. Section 2239 of the Code states in part:

7 "(a) The use or prescribing for or administering to himself or herself, of any
8 controlled substance; or the use of any of the dangerous drugs specified in Section 4022, or
9 of alcoholic beverages, to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to
10 the licensee, or to any other person or to the public, or to the extent that such use impairs
11 the ability of the licensee to practice medicine safely or more than one misdemeanor or any
12 felony involving the use, consumption, or self-administration of any of the substances
13 referred to in this section, or any combination thereof, constitutes unprofessional
14 conduct..."

15 7. Section 2229 of the Code states that the protection of the public shall be the highest
16 priority for the Board in exercising their disciplinary authority. While attempts to rehabilitate a
17 licensee should be made when possible, Section 2229, subdivision (c), states that when
18 rehabilitation and protection are inconsistent, protection shall be paramount.

19 **COST RECOVERY**

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

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1 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(Gross Negligence)**

3 9. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined
4 by section 2234, subdivision (b), of the Code, in that he committed gross negligence, as more
5 particularly alleged hereinafter:

6 10. Respondent began working as an emergency room physician at Desert Valley
7 Hospital in approximately November 2020. On or about June 23, 2022, it was reported that
8 Respondent would fall asleep during his shifts on a routine basis, was frequently late to work,
9 sometimes missed work altogether, and appeared "jittery." On this particular shift, an empty
10 medication bottle and medication wrappers were located on a desk in the emergency department
11 where Respondent had been sitting earlier. As a result, Respondent, who appeared "very tired,"
12 was asked and consented to a urine and blood drug test to determine whether he was under the
13 influence of drugs.

14 11. The urine drug test for Respondent was positive for amphetamines.¹ Respondent
15 indicated to hospital staff that he was on "allergy medicine," which could explain false positive
16 results for amphetamines. On or about June 24, 2022, Respondent submitted to a blood test for
17 the presence of drugs. The blood test was positive for both amphetamines and
18 methamphetamine.² Upon receiving notification of the positive results, Respondent indicated that
19 he likely tested positive for amphetamines due to his continued use of a previously prescribed
20 medication, Vyvanse, a stimulant. Respondent explained that Vyvanse was used to treat his
21 attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and was prescribed to him in approximately

22 ¹ Amphetamines are stimulants that speed up the body's central nervous system (CNS)
23 and have a high risk for abuse and addiction. It is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to
24 Health and Safety Code section 11055(d)(2), and dangerous drug pursuant to Code section 4022.
Pharmaceutical products for amphetamines are available only as a non-refillable prescription.

25 ² Methamphetamine is a powerful, highly addictive stimulant that affects the CNS. It can
26 cause rapid or irregular heartbeat, delirium, panic, psychosis, and heart failure. It is a Schedule II
27 controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11055(d)(2), and dangerous drug
28 pursuant to Code section 4022. It is rarely prescribed and only legally available through a non-
refillable prescription.

1 2012 in Indiana. However, this prescription was unable to be validated by pharmacy records and
2 Respondent could not provide any documentation confirming this prescription from 10 years
3 earlier.

4 12. Respondent committed gross negligence which included, but was not limited to, the
5 following:

- 6 (a) Respondent's pattern of behavior in the emergency department,
7 inconsistent explanations regarding positive drug testing results, and
8 positive drug testing results for amphetamines and methamphetamine
9 indicate improper drug use and/or abuse.

10 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

11 **(Unprofessional Conduct: Dangerous Use of a Controlled Substance)**

12 13. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2239 of the Code, in that
13 Respondent used controlled substances in a dangerous manner. The circumstances are as follows:

- 14 (a) Paragraphs 9 through 12, above, are hereby incorporated by reference
15 and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

16 14. Respondent's conduct involving the use of amphetamines and methamphetamine
17 amounts to using a controlled substance and dangerous drug in a manner dangerous to both
18 Respondent and the public. As such, his conduct constitutes unprofessional conduct under
19 sections 2234 and 2239 of the Code.

20 **PRAYER**

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

23 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 158526, issued
24 to Respondent Robert Joseph Leonard, M.D.;

25 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Robert Joseph Leonard,
26 M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

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1 3. Ordering Respondent Robert Joseph Leonard, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of the
2 investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of probation
3 monitoring;

4 4. Ordering Respondent Robert Joseph Leonard, M.D., if placed on probation, to
5 provide patient notification in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 2228.1;
6 and

7 5. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

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9 DATED: JUN 0 4 2024



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

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