

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

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

Salvador Plasencia, M.D.

**Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. A 146508**

Case No. 800-2024-110906

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 September 18,
2025. IT IS SO ORDERED September 11, 2025.**

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



**Reji Varghese
Executive Director**

1 ROB BONTA
2 Attorney General of California
3 JUDITH T. ALVARADO
4 Supervising Deputy Attorney General
5 REBECCA L. SMITH
6 Deputy Attorney General
7 State Bar No. 179733
8 300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702
9 Los Angeles, CA 90013
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13 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2024-110906

SALVADOR PLASENCIA, M.D.
5673 Las Virgenes Road
Calabasas, CA 91302-1069

**STIPULATED SURRENDER OF
LICENSE AND ORDER**

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
No. A 146508,

Respondent.

PARTIES

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 Rebecca L. Smith, Deputy Attorney General.

2. SALVADOR PLASENCIA, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Kevin Cauley, whose address is 35 North Lake Avenue, Suite 710, Pasadena, California 91101-4185.

3. On or about December 12, 2016, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 146508 to Respondent. That license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2024-110906 and will expire on October

1 31, 2026, unless renewed.

2 **JURISDICTION**

3 4. Accusation No. 800-2024-110906 was filed before the Board and is currently pending
4 against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly
5 served on Respondent. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2024-110906 is attached as Exhibit A and
6 incorporated by reference.

7 **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

8 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the
9 charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2024-110906. Respondent also has carefully read,
10 fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License
11 and Order.

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

18 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and
19 every right set forth above.

20 **CULPABILITY**

21 8. Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2024-
22 110906, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Physician's and
23 Surgeon's Certificate.

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

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

CONTINGENCY

5 11. Business and Professions Code section 2224, subdivision (b), provides, in pertinent
6 part, that the Medical Board “shall delegate to its executive director the authority to adopt a ...
7 stipulation for surrender of a license.”

8 12. Respondent understands that, by signing this stipulation, he enables the Executive
9 Director of the Board to issue an order, on behalf of the Board, accepting the surrender of his
10 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 146508 without further notice to, or opportunity to be
11 heard by, Respondent.

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

20 14. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order
21 shall be null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the
22 Executive Director on behalf of the Board, except for this paragraph, which shall remain in full
23 force and effect. Respondent fully understands and agrees that in deciding whether or not to
24 approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, the Executive
25 Director and/or the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or the
26 Attorney General's Office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify the
27 Executive Director, the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future
28 participation in this or any other matter affecting or involving Respondent. In the event that the

1 Executive Director on behalf of the Board does not, in his discretion, approve and adopt this
2 Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, with the exception of this paragraph, it
3 shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever, and shall not be relied
4 upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party hereto. Respondent further agrees
5 that should this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order be rejected for any reason
6 by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, Respondent will assert no claim that the
7 Executive Director, the Board, or any member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review,
8 discussion and/or consideration of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order or
9 of any matter or matters related hereto.

10 **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

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

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

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

20 **ORDER**

21 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 146508,
22 issued to Respondent Salvador Plasencia, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

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

27 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a physician and surgeon in
28 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. 800-2024-110906 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.

9 5. Respondent shall pay the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the
10 amount of Six Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars and Sixty-Six Cents (\$6,800.66) prior to issuance
11 of a new or reinstated license.

12 6. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or
13 petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of
14 California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2024-110906 shall
15 be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of
16 Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

ACCEPTANCE

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

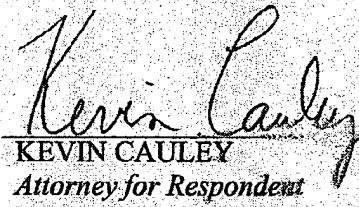
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1 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent SALVADOR PLASENCIA, M.D. the
2 terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and
3 Order. I approve its form and content.

4

5 DATED: August 13, 2025


6 KEVIN CAULEY
7 Attorney for Respondent

8 **ENDORSEMENT**

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

11 DATED: August 13, 2025

12 Respectfully submitted,

13 ROB BONTA
14 Attorney General of California
15 JUDITH T. ALVARADO
16 Supervising Deputy Attorney General


17 REBECCA L. SMITH
18 Deputy Attorney General
19 Attorneys for Complainant


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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2024-110906

1 ROB BONTA
2 Attorney General of California
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13 *Attorneys for Complainant*

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2024-110906

12 SALVADOR PLASENCIA, M.D.
5673 Las Virgenes Road
13 Calabasas, CA 91302-1069

ACCUSATION

14 | Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
No. A 146508,

Respondent.

PARTIES

19 I. Reji Varghese (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity as
20 the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs
21 (Board).

22 2. On or about December 12, 2016, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
23 Certificate Number A 146508 to Salvador Plasencia, M.D. (Respondent). That license was in full
24 force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on October 31,
25 2026, unless renewed.

26 3. On or about August 15, 2024, in the case entitled *United States of America v.*
27 *Salvador Plasencia*, Case No. 2:24-CR-00236-SPG-2, the United States District Court, Central
28 District of California, issued an order that as a condition of bail or own recognizance release,

1 during the pendency of Respondent's criminal action until its final conclusion and sentence,
2 Respondent shall submit to United States Probation and Pretrial Services Supervision; surrender
3 all passports and travel documents to Supervising Agency; travel is restricted to Central District
4 of California unless prior permission is granted by Supervising Agency; reside as approved by
5 Supervising Agency and do not relocate without prior permission; maintain or actively seek
6 employment unless excused by Supervising Agency for schooling, training, or other reasons
7 approved by Supervising Agency; avoid all contact, directly or indirectly (including by any
8 electronic means), with any known victim or witness in the subject investigation or prosecution;
9 do not use or possess illegal drugs or state-authorized marijuana; submit to a search of person and
10 property by Supervising Agency, which may be in conjunction with law enforcement; must post a
11 notice at his business regarding pendency of this case; provide a form to his patients which they
12 must sign and date acknowledging the pendency of this case. Both notice and form must state
13 that Respondent has surrendered his DEA registration and is not able to prescribe or administer
14 any controlled substances.

15 **JURISDICTION**

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

19 5. Section 2004 of the Code states:

20 The board shall have the responsibility for the following:

21 (a) The enforcement of the disciplinary and criminal provisions of the Medical
22 Practice Act.

23 (b) The administration and hearing of disciplinary actions.

24 (c) Carrying out disciplinary actions appropriate to findings made by a panel or
an administrative law judge.

25 (d) Suspending, revoking, or otherwise limiting certificates after the conclusion
of disciplinary actions.

26 (e) Reviewing the quality of medical practice carried out by physician and
surgeon certificate holders under the jurisdiction of the board.

27 (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.

6. Section 2220 of the Code states:

Except as otherwise provided by law, the board may take action against all persons guilty of violating this chapter. The board shall enforce and administer this article as to physician and surgeon certificate holders, including those who hold certificates that do not permit them to practice medicine, such as, but not limited to, retired, inactive, or disabled status certificate holders, and the board shall have all the powers granted in this chapter for these purposes including, but not limited to:

(a) Investigating complaints from the public, from other licensees, from health care facilities, or from the board that a physician and surgeon may be guilty of unprofessional conduct. The board shall investigate the circumstances underlying a report received pursuant to Section 805 or 805.01 within 30 days to determine if an interim suspension order or temporary restraining order should be issued. The board shall otherwise provide timely disposition of the reports received pursuant to Section 805 and Section 805.01.

(b) Investigating the circumstances of practice of any physician and surgeon where there have been any judgments, settlements, or arbitration awards requiring the physician and surgeon or his or her professional liability insurer to pay an amount in damages in excess of a cumulative total of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) with respect to any claim that injury or damage was proximately caused by the physician's and surgeon's error, negligence, or omission.

(c) Investigating the nature and causes of injuries from cases which shall be reported of a high number of judgments, settlements, or arbitration awards against a physician and surgeon.

7. 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

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 no later than 30 calendar days after being notified by the board. This subdivision shall only apply to a certificate holder who is the subject of an investigation by the board.

(h) Any action of the licensee, or another person acting on behalf of the licensee, intended to cause their patient or their patient's authorized representative to rescind consent to release the patient's medical records to the board or the Department of Consumer Affairs, Health Quality Investigation Unit.

(i) Dissuading, intimidating, or tampering with a patient, witness, or any person in an attempt to prevent them from reporting or testifying about a licensee.

9. Section 2236 of the Code states:

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

(b) The district attorney, city attorney, or other prosecuting agency shall notify the Medical Board of the pendency of an action against a licensee charging a felony or misdemeanor immediately upon obtaining information that the defendant is a licensee. The notice shall identify the licensee and describe the crimes charged and the facts alleged. The prosecuting agency shall also notify the clerk of the court in which the action is pending that the defendant is a licensee, and the clerk shall record prominently in the file that the defendant holds a license as a physician and surgeon.

(c) The clerk of the court in which a licensee is convicted of a crime shall, within 48 hours after the conviction, transmit a certified copy of the record of conviction to the board. The division may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the commission of a crime in order to fix the degree of discipline or to determine if the conviction is of an offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.

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

10. Section 490 of the Code states:

(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. 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 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

1 consumers of California from licensees who have been convicted of crimes.
2 Therefore, the Legislature finds and declares that this section establishes an
3 independent basis for a board to impose discipline upon a licensee, and that the
4 amendments to this section made by Chapter 33 of the Statutes of 2008 do not
5 constitute a change to, but rather are declaratory of, existing law.
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8 11. Section 2242 of the Code states:

9 (a) Prescribing, dispensing, or furnishing dangerous drugs as defined in Section
10 4022 without an appropriate prior examination and a medical indication, constitutes
11 unprofessional conduct. An appropriate prior examination does not require a
12 synchronous interaction between the patient and the licensee and can be achieved
13 through the use of telehealth, including, but not limited to, a self-screening tool or a
14 questionnaire, provided that the licensee complies with the appropriate standard of
15 care.

16 (b) No licensee shall be found to have committed unprofessional conduct within
17 the meaning of this section if, at the time the drugs were prescribed, dispensed, or
18 furnished, any of the following applies:

19 (1) The licensee was a designated physician and surgeon or podiatrist serving in
20 the absence of the patient's physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may be,
21 and if the drugs were prescribed, dispensed, or furnished only as necessary to
22 maintain the patient until the return of the patient's practitioner, but in any case no
23 longer than 72 hours.

24 (2) The licensee transmitted the order for the drugs to a registered nurse or to a
25 licensed vocational nurse in an inpatient facility, and if both of the following
26 conditions exist:

27 (A) The practitioner had consulted with the registered nurse or licensed
28 vocational nurse who had reviewed the patient's records.

17 (B) The practitioner was designated as the practitioner to serve in the absence
18 of the patient's physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may be.

19 (3) The licensee was a designated practitioner serving in the absence of the
20 patient's physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may be, and was in
21 possession of or had utilized the patient's records and ordered the renewal of a
22 medically indicated prescription for an amount not exceeding the original prescription
23 in strength or amount or for more than one refill.

24 (4) The licensee was acting in accordance with Section 120582 of the Health
25 and Safety Code.

26 12. Section 725 of the Code states:

27 (a) Repeated acts of clearly excessive prescribing, furnishing, dispensing, or
28 administering of drugs or treatment, repeated acts of clearly excessive use of
diagnostic procedures, or repeated acts of clearly excessive use of diagnostic or
treatment facilities as determined by the standard of the community of licensees is
unprofessional conduct for a physician and surgeon, dentist, podiatrist, psychologist,
physical therapist, chiropractor, optometrist, speech-language pathologist, or
audiologist.

(b) Any person who engages in repeated acts of clearly excessive prescribing or administering of drugs or treatment is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than six hundred dollars (\$600), or by imprisonment for a term of not less than 60 days nor more than 180 days, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(c) A practitioner who has a medical basis for prescribing, furnishing, dispensing, or administering dangerous drugs or prescription controlled substances shall not be subject to disciplinary action or prosecution under this section.

(d) No physician and surgeon shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to this section for treating intractable pain in compliance with Section 2241.5.

13. 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

1 disclosure and sign the copy of the disclosure pursuant to subdivision (b) and a
2 guardian or health care surrogate is unavailable to comprehend the disclosure and
3 sign the copy.

4 (2) The visit occurs in an emergency room or an urgent care facility or the visit
5 is unscheduled, including consultations in inpatient facilities.

6 (3) The licensee who will be treating the patient during the visit is not known to
7 the patient until immediately prior to the start of the visit.

8 (4) The licensee does not have a direct treatment relationship with the patient.

9 (d) On and after July 1, 2019, the board shall provide the following
10 information, with respect to licensees on probation and licensees practicing under
11 probationary licenses, in plain view on the licensee's profile page on the board's
12 online license information internet web site.

13 (1) For probation imposed pursuant to a stipulated settlement, the causes
14 alleged in the operative accusation along with a designation identifying those causes
15 by which the licensee has expressly admitted guilt and a statement that acceptance of
16 the settlement is not an admission of guilt.

17 (2) For probation imposed by an adjudicated decision of the board, the causes
18 for probation stated in the final probationary order.

19 (3) For a licensee granted a probationary license, the causes by which the
20 probationary license was imposed.

21 (4) The length of the probation and end date.

22 (5) All practice restrictions placed on the license by the board.

23 (e) Section 2314 shall not apply to this section.

18 REGULATORY PROVISIONS

19 14. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1360, states:

20 (a) For the purposes of denial, suspension or revocation of a license pursuant to
21 Section 141 or Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the code, a crime,
22 professional misconduct, or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the
23 qualifications, functions or duties of a person holding a license if to a substantial
24 degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of a person holding a license to
25 perform the functions authorized by the license in a manner consistent with the public
health, safety or welfare. Such crimes, professional misconduct, or acts shall include
but not be limited to the following: Violating or attempting to violate, directly or
indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any
provision of state or federal law governing the applicant's or licensee's professional
practice.

26 (b) In making the substantial relationship determination required under subdivision (a) for a
27 crime, the board shall consider the following criteria:

28 (1) The nature and gravity of the crime;

(2) The number of years elapsed since the date of the crime; and
(3) The nature and duties of the profession.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES/DANGEROUS DRUGS

15. Code section 4021 states:

“Controlled substance” means any substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code.

16. Code section 4022 provides:

“Dangerous drug” or “dangerous device” means any drug or device unsafe for self-use in humans or animals, and includes the following:

- (a) Any drug that bears the legend: "Caution: federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription," "Rx only," or words of similar import.
- (b) Any device that bears the statement: "Caution: federal law restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a _____," "Rx only," or words of similar import, the blank to be filled in with the designation of the practitioner licensed to use or order use of the device.
- (c) Any other drug or device that by federal or state law can be lawfully dispensed only on prescription or furnished pursuant to Section 4006.

COST RECOVERY

17. Section 125.3 of the Code states:

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law, in any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before any board within the department or before the Osteopathic Medical Board, upon request of the entity bringing the proceeding, the administrative law judge may direct a licensee 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.

(b) In the case of a disciplined licensee that is a corporation or a partnership, the order may be made against the licensed corporate entity or licensed partnership.

(c) A certified copy of the actual costs, or a good faith estimate of costs where actual costs are not available, signed by the entity bringing the proceeding or its designated representative shall be *prima facie* evidence of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case. The costs shall include the amount of investigative and enforcement costs up to the date of the hearing, including, but not limited to, charges imposed by the Attorney General.

(d) The administrative law judge shall make a proposed finding of the amount of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case when requested pursuant to subdivision (a). The finding of the administrative law judge with regard to

1 costs shall not be reviewable by the board to increase the cost award. The board may
2 reduce or eliminate the cost award, or remand to the administrative law judge if the
3 proposed decision fails to make a finding on costs requested pursuant to subdivision
4 (a).

5 (e) If an order for recovery of costs is made and timely payment is not made as
6 directed in the board's decision, the board may enforce the order for repayment in any
7 appropriate court. This right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights
8 the board may have as to any licensee to pay costs.

9 (f) In any action for recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision shall be
10 conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment.

11 (g) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the board shall not renew or
12 reinstate the license of any licensee who has failed to pay all of the costs ordered
13 under this section.

14 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the board may, in its discretion,
15 conditionally renew or reinstate for a maximum of one year the license of any
16 licensee who demonstrates financial hardship and who enters into a formal agreement
17 with the board to reimburse the board within that one-year period for the unpaid
18 costs.

19 (h) All costs recovered under this section shall be considered a reimbursement
20 for costs incurred and shall be deposited in the fund of the board recovering the costs
21 to be available upon appropriation by the Legislature.

22 (i) Nothing in this section shall preclude a board from including the recovery of
23 the costs of investigation and enforcement of a case in any stipulated settlement.

24 (j) This section does not apply to any board if a specific statutory provision in
25 that board's licensing act provides for recovery of costs in an administrative
26 disciplinary proceeding.

18 FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

19 (Conviction of a Crime)

20 18. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivision (a),
21 section 2236, subdivision (a), and section 490 of the Code, and California Code of Regulations,
22 title 16, section 1360, in that he has entered into a plea agreement to be convicted of a crime
23 substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon. The
24 circumstances are as follows:

25 19. At all relevant times, Respondent operated and was the owner of an urgent care clinic,
26 Malibu Canyon Urgent Care LLC, located in Malibu, California. Respondent had also applied for
27 and obtained authorization from the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") to dispense,
28 administer, and prescribe narcotics and other controlled substances, so long as such prescriptions

1 were for a legitimate medical purpose and within the scope of professional medical practice.

2 20. As a medical doctor, Respondent knew that ketamine was a Schedule III controlled
3 substance as well as a dissociative anesthetic.¹ Respondent knew that some medical providers
4 used ketamine off-label to treat depression and other psychiatric conditions, and that such
5 treatments were not approved by the Food and Drug Administration. At all relevant times,
6 Respondent knew about potential risks associated with ketamine, including sedation, dissociation,
7 psychiatric events, abuse and misuse by patients, among others. As Respondent's treatment notes
8 reflected, Respondent also believed that patients "should be monitored by [a] physician when
9 undergoing treatment as a safety measure."

10 21. On September 30, 2023, Respondent was introduced to Patient 1² by one of
11 Respondent's own patients who stated that Patient 1 was a "high profile person" who was seeking
12 ketamine and was willing to pay "cash and lots of thousands" for ketamine treatment.
13 Respondent subsequently contacted Patient 1 and requested a telehealth visit. Respondent and
14 Patient 1 spoke by phone and continued to exchange text communications about Patient 1's
15 request for ketamine.

16 22. The same day that Respondent was introduced to Patient 1, Respondent contacted Dr.
17 M.C., who Respondent knew had previously owned a ketamine clinic, to discuss Patient 1's
18 request for ketamine. After Dr. M.C. confirmed he had ketamine vials and lozenges that he could
19 immediately sell to Respondent, Respondent informed Patient 1 that he could provide him with 9,
20 "maybe 18," doses of ketamine. Patient 1 and Respondent agreed that Respondent would deliver
21 the ketamine to Patient 1's residence. In response to Patient 1 asking whether Respondent would
22 stay to administer the ketamine, Respondent responded: "I will give you first dose if you would
23 like and leave supplies with you."

24 23. To obtain ketamine for Patient 1, Respondent traveled to Costa Mesa to purchase
25 ketamine from Dr. M.C. Dr. M.C. sold Respondent four vials of liquid ketamine, an open box of

26
27 ¹In addition to being a Schedule III Controlled Substance, ketamine is a dangerous drug pursuant
28 to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

2 ²The patient is referred to as Patient 1 to protect his privacy.

1 ketamine lozenges that had been previously prescribed to a patient whom Respondent did not
2 know, as well as gloves and syringes. Respondent paid Dr. M.C Seven Hundred Ninety-Five
3 Dollars (\$795).

4 24. Respondent then traveled to Patient 1's residence, where he injected ketamine into
5 Patient 1 and left at least one vial of ketamine with K.I., Patient 1's personal assistant. K.I. paid
6 Respondent approximately Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500).

7 25. On October 2, 2023, Respondent again administered ketamine to Patient 1 at his
8 residence. Respondent left additional liquid ketamine and ketamine lozenges with K.I., knowing
9 that K.I. did not have medical training and would be administering the ketamine to Patient 1
10 without Respondent present.

11 26. On October 4, 2023, K.I. sent a text message to Respondent indicating that Patient 1
12 had run out of ketamine and needed more. In response, Respondent confirmed he could deliver
13 more ketamine later that day. Respondent subsequently obtained eight vials of ketamine from Dr.
14 M.C. and traveled to Patient 1's residence where he administered ketamine to Patient 1.
15 Respondent left additional ketamine vials and lozenges with K.I. to administer to Patient 1 at a
16 later time. In exchange, Respondent was paid approximately Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000).

17 27. On October 6, 2023, K.I. sent a text message to Respondent asking if he could bring
18 the remaining ketamine and supplies to Patient 1. Respondent then traveled to Patient 1's
19 residence where Respondent administered ketamine and left additional vials of ketamine with K.I.
20 In exchange, Respondent was paid approximately Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000).

21 28. On October 7, 2023, K.I. informed Respondent in text messages that he "just ran out"
22 of ketamine and requested more. At approximately 11:29 p.m., Respondent responded by text,
23 stating he had two ketamine vials available and offered to meet K.I. in Santa Monica, noting: "Im
24 at third street promenade now . . . If You would like to meet now." On October 8, 2023, at
25 approximately 12:30 a.m., K.I. met Respondent near the Third Street Promenade in Santa Monica
26 to obtain vials of ketamine for Patient 1, for which Respondent received payment.

27 29. On October 10, 2023, K.I. contacted Respondent and requested additional ketamine
28 for Patient 1 and asked if Respondent could meet K.I. and Patient 1 in Long Beach. Respondent

1 then traveled to a public parking lot at the Long Beach Aquarium, where he administered
2 ketamine to Patient 1 while in the backseat of Patient 1's vehicle. Respondent also left additional
3 vials of ketamine with K.I. K.I. paid Respondent approximately Six Thousand Five Hundred
4 Dollars (\$6,500) for the ketamine.

5 30. On October 12, 2023, K.I. again contacted Respondent on behalf of Patient 1 and
6 asked Respondent to deliver more ketamine. Respondent traveled to Patient 1's residence where
7 he administered ketamine to Patient 1. During the treatment, Patient 1's blood pressure spiked
8 causing Patient 1 to freeze up. Notwithstanding Patient 1's reaction, Respondent left additional
9 vials of ketamine with K.I., knowing that K.I. would inject the ketamine into Patient 1.

10 31. Respondent subsequently placed an order for ten vials of ketamine through a licensed
11 pharmaceutical company using his DEA license. After receiving the ketamine, on October 27,
12 2023, Respondent sent the following text message to K.I.: "I know you mentioned taking a break.
13 I have been stocking up on the meanwhile. I am not sure when you guys plan to resume but in
14 case its when im out of town this weekend I have left supplies with a nurse of mine ...I can always
15 let her know the plan."

16 32. The following day, on October 28, 2023, Patient 1 died from the acute effects of
17 ketamine. The ketamine that caused Patient 1's death was not provided by Respondent.

18 33. In total, between September 30, 2023, and October 12, 2023, Respondent distributed
19 twenty 5ml (100mg/ml) vials of ketamine, less than a full package of ketamine lozenges, and
20 syringes, to K.I. and Patient 1.

21 34. On or about June 13, 2025, Respondent entered a plea agreement to plead guilty to
22 Counts Six, Eight, Nine, and Ten of the first superseding indictment in the matter of *United States*
23 *of America v. Salvador Plasencia*, Case No. 2:24-CR-00236-SPG-2. As to each of these counts,
24 Respondent is charged with distribution of ketamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code,
25 Sections 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(E)(i).

26 35. Respondent is awaiting sentencing.

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SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct - Furnishing Dangerous Drugs Without Examination)

36. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2242, subdivision (a), in that he committed unprofessional conduct when he prescribed dangerous drugs to Patient 1 without an appropriate prior examination and/or medical indication. The circumstances are as follows:

37. The allegations in the First Cause for Discipline, above, are incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Excessive Prescribing)

38. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 725, in that he excessively prescribed dangerous drugs to Patient 1. The circumstances are as follows:

39. The allegations in the First and Second Causes for Discipline, above, 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 A 146508, issued to Respondent Salvador Plasencia, M.D.;

2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Salvador Plasencia, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

3. Ordering Respondent Salvador Plasencia, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring;

4. Ordering Respondent Salvador Plasencia, M.D., if placed on probation, to provide patient notification in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 2228.1; and

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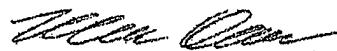
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1 5. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

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DATED: JUL 07 2025

 for

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

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