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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 500-2023-001478

IGAL PALMA, D.P.M
221 E 8th St.
Stockton, CA 95206-3215

ACCUSATION

Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No.
5626,

Respondent.

PARTIES

1. Brian Naslund (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity as
2 the Executive Officer of the Podiatric Medical Board (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs.

2. On or about December 30, 2019, the Podiatric Board issued Doctor of Podiatric
3 Medicine License Number 5626 to Igal Palma, D.P.M (Respondent). The Doctor of Podiatric
4 Medicine License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein
5 and will expire on July 31, 2027, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

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

1 4. Section 2222 of the Code grants the Board authority to enforce and administer laws
2 and regulations as to doctors of podiatric medicine. Section 2222 further authorizes the Board to
3 order the revocation, suspension, or other restriction of any certificate of a doctor of podiatric
4 medicine, in conjunction with the administrative hearing procedures established pursuant to
5 Sections 11371, 11372, 11373, and 11529 of the Government Code.

6 5. Section 2460.1 of the Code states:

7 “Protection of the public shall be the highest priority for the California Board of Podiatric
8 Medicine in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. Whenever the
9 protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection
10 of the public shall be paramount.”

11 6. Section 2497(a) of the Code states, in pertinent part, that the Board may order “the
12 suspension of, or the revocation of, or the imposition of probationary conditions upon, a
13 certificate to practice podiatric medicine for any of the causes set forth in Article 12 (commencing
14 with Section 2220) in accordance with Section 2222.”

15 7. Section 822 of the Code states:

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

19 “(a) Revoking the licensee’s certificate or license.

20 “(b) Suspending the licensee’s right to practice.

21 “(c) Placing the licensee on probation.

22 “(d) Taking such other action in relation to the licensee as the licensing agency
23 in its discretion deems proper.

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

28

COST RECOVERY

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

8 || 9. Section 2497.5 of the Code states:

9 “(a) The board may request the administrative law judge, under his or her proposed
10 decision in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the board, to direct any licensee found
11 guilty of unprofessional conduct to pay to the board a sum not to exceed the actual and reasonable
12 costs of the investigation and prosecution of the case.

13 “(b) The costs to be assessed shall be fixed by the administrative law judge and shall not be
14 increased by the board unless the board does not adopt a proposed decision and in making its own
15 decision finds grounds for increasing the costs to be assessed, not to exceed the actual and
16 reasonable costs of the investigation and prosecution of the case.

17 “(c) When the payment directed in the board’s order for payment of costs is not made by
18 the licensee, the board may enforce the order for payment by bringing an action in any
19 appropriate court. This right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights the board may
20 have as to any licensee directed to pay costs.

21 “(d) In any judicial action for the recovery of costs, proof of the board’s decision shall be
22 conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment.

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

25 “(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the board may, in its discretion, conditionally renew
26 or reinstate for a maximum of one year the license of any licensee who demonstrates financial
27 hardship and who enters into a formal agreement with the board to reimburse the board within
28 that one year period for those unpaid costs.

1 “(f) All costs recovered under this section shall be deposited in the Board of Podiatric
2 Medicine Fund as a reimbursement in either the fiscal year in which the costs are actually
3 recovered or the previous fiscal year, as the board may direct.”

4 FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

5 10. On August 28, 2023, Respondent and his wife (hereinafter, “Victim”) were at their
6 shared home in Stockton. Respondent and his wife had been together for four years but married
7 for only one month. According to Stockton Police Department Report Number 23-27546,
8 Respondent suffers from bipolar disorder and had recently gone off his medications, resulting in
9 severe behavioral outbursts. This day was particularly tumultuous. The Stockton Police
10 Department responded to the home several times after receiving many calls of a disturbance. One
11 witness called 911 to report that Respondent was armed with a large steak knife in his pocket and
12 a pellet gun in his hand. The witness saw Respondent shoot the pellet gun at a car and at a
13 neighborhood fence. Respondent threatened to shoot the witness with the pellet gun and then
14 asked the *witness* to shoot *him* with the pellet gun. While the witness was on the phone with 911,
15 Respondent threw the gun in the street, hopped a fence, and entered his residence.

16 11. At around 3:00 p.m., the Victim reported that she no longer felt safe with Respondent
17 and fled her home. When the Victim returned home at around 9:00 p.m., she found Respondent in
18 the middle of the road, yelling that he had slashed her car tires. The Victim saw that Respondent
19 had, in fact, slashed three tires on her SUV and two tires on her sedan. The Respondent continued
20 screaming at the Victim and hit one of the Victim’s vehicles with his hand.¹ The Respondent told
21 the Victim that he “owned” Stockton, that she was “done,” and that “I’m gonna kill you.” The
22 Victim went inside her home and called 911. While the police were en route, the Victim went
23 back outside and asked the Respondent, “Are you really gonna kill me?” The Respondent
24 answered, “Yes, if you keep fucking with me.”

25 12. When the police responded, the Victim notified the police that the Respondent
26 suffered from bipolar disorder and was off his medications. As documented on the responding
27 officers’ body-worn camera footage, the Victim notified the officers that she did not feel safe

28 ¹ This act did not cause damage to Victim’s vehicle.

1 with the Respondent, that the Respondent slashed her tires with a pair of scissors, and that
2 Respondent had threatened to kill her in her sleep. The Victim stated, "I'm scared of him, he's
3 getting worse and worse, he needs his medications." The Victim also mentioned that the
4 Respondent manages to slip in and out of the hospital because he "knows what the protocols are."

5 13. The responding officers located the Respondent standing in the middle of the street,
6 unable to stay focused, and rambling nonsensically. When the officers asked the Respondent his
7 name, he initially said, "Police Officer." A few moments later, he stated his correct name and told
8 the officers that he was a doctor of podiatric medicine.² He admitted to slashing the Victim's tires
9 with a knife,³ justifying the act by stating that the Victim had used the vehicles to "hold him
10 hostage."

11 14. The police arrested the Respondent for felony vandalism. When the Respondent was
12 in the back of the patrol car, he repeatedly told officers to shoot him. As documented on the body-
13 worn camera footage, the Respondent rambled nonsensically, stating, "Have you spoken to
14 Sergeant Slaughter? It's somebody I gave all my weapons to. I don't want to get slaughtered, so I
15 gave Sergeant Slaughter all my weapons. Why am I saying all this? I'm a sniper. Name, rank,
16 serial number. Rank. Sniper 1. Serial number. 999699." He also stated, "I'm a sniper with a knife,
17 it's what I do best," and "My wife is military, I'm not, I'm nobody. I'm D.P.M, M.D., sniper 1,
18 alpha 1." He continued to repeat, "Alpha 1, Sniper 1."

19 15. This was not the Respondent's last contact with the police, nor was it his only arrest.
20 Approximately three days later, on August 31, 2023, Respondent experienced another mental
21 health episode. He jumped a fence, broke into the Victim's home, and refused to allow the Victim
22 entry into the home. The disturbance was so loud that a neighbor called to report yelling and
23 banging noises.

24 16. One day later, on September 1, 2023, the Respondent experienced yet another mental
25 health episode, which culminated in the Respondent strangling the Victim. The Victim told the

26 ² He began to repeat over and over, "My name is Dr. Palma, D.P.M., M.D." and "D.P.M.,
27 M.D., doctor of podiatric medicine." He told the officers that he worked at "all the nursing
homes."

28 ³ He mentioned that he used "some knife" but also rambled nonsensically that he "saw a
gun, a BB gun, I don't own a gun with bullets."

1 responding officers that the Respondent was “erratic and violent” all day and that he was
2 destroying their home. The Respondent and the Victim argued in their driveway, which is when
3 the Respondent strangled the Victim. A neighbor across the street witnessed the domestic
4 violence and interfered, and Respondent let go. The Victim suffered a red mark on the left side of
5 her neck, a laceration to her elbow, and a bruise to her left bicep. The Victim left the house and
6 slept in her car, but returned home at around 1:00 a.m. when she saw on her video camera system
7 that Respondent—while wearing a pair of gray scrubs—was destroying their home. The
8 Respondent broke several items in the home: he yanked the screen off a flat screen television,
9 broke his front windows, and broke furniture. When the police arrived, he told them that he
10 wanted to “die by suicide by cop” and told one officer, “shoot me.” He told the officers that he
11 had turned on the gas line in his backyard to “blow it up.” When the officers went to the
12 backyard, they did in fact find a propane tank that was turned all the way on. He claimed that the
13 Victim sent assassins to target him, and that he gave instructions to snipers to kill the Victim.
14 During the Respondent’s interaction with the officers, he continued to behave erratically—one
15 minute he was calm and saying that he loved the officers, and the next minute he asked them to
16 shoot him. Respondent was arrested for misdemeanor domestic violence.

17 17. On September 6, 2023, in a criminal case entitled, *The People of the State of*
18 *California v. Igal Palma*, Docket No. CR-2023-9513, the San Joaquin District Attorney’s Office
19 charged the Respondent with a misdemeanor violation of Penal Code section 273.5(a) (corporal
20 injury to spouse). Respondent was referred to mental health diversion. On September 16, 2024,
21 the San Joaquin District Attorney’s Office dismissed the case in the interest of justice.⁴

22 18. On February 16, 2024, Dr. Sandra Karpenko reviewed the police reports and a
23 CURES report for the Respondent as both provider and as patient. Dr. Karpenko found that the
24 Respondent self-prescribed medications to himself on twenty-nine occasions in the last three
25 years, including psychiatric medication and controlled substances.⁵ Dr. Karpenko concluded that
26 Respondent posed an imminent danger to the public due to his noncompliance with treatment for
27

28 ⁴ The circumstances surrounding the dismissal are unknown to the Board at this time.

⁵ Respondent is a podiatrist with limited training in psychiatric treatment.

1 his bipolar mood disorder, which caused Respondent to experience delusional, paranoid,
2 threatening, and violent behavior.

3 19. On December 19, 2024, the Board granted an order to compel a mental examination
4 of the Respondent pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 820.

5 20. On April 14, 2025, Dr. Alex Sahba conducted a mental examination of Respondent.
6 Dr. Sahba diagnosed the Respondent with unspecified bipolar disorder and attention deficit
7 hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) with inattentive presentation. Dr. Sahba concluded that
8 Respondent has a mental illness or condition which requires monitoring, treatment, oversight, or
9 other terms and conditions for him to practice medicine safely. Dr. Sahba concluded that
10 Respondent needs frequent, routine follow-up by a psychiatrist to adequately manage his
11 psychiatric symptoms.

12 **CAUSE FOR ACTION**

13 (Impaired Ability to Practice Medicine Safely)

14 21. The allegations in paragraphs 10-20 above are incorporated by reference as if set
15 forth in full.

16 22. Respondent Igal Palma, D.P.M, is subject to action under Code sections 2222, and/or
17 2460.1 and/or 2497(a) and/or 822 in that, due to a mental illness, Respondent's ability to practice
18 podiatric medicine safely is impaired.

19 **PRAYER**

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

22 1. Revoking or suspending Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License Number 5626, issued
23 to Respondent Igal Palma, D.P.M;

24 2. Ordering Respondent Igal Palma, D.P.M, to pay the Podiatric Medical Board the
25 reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and
26 Professions Code section 2497.5 and, if placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring;

27 3. Ordering Respondent Igal Palma, D.P.M, if placed on probation, to provide patient
28 notification in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 2228.1; and

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3 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
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DATED: NOV 24 2025



BRIAN NASLUND
Executive Officer
Podiatric Medical Board
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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