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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Dharmesh Arvind Patel, M.D. Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 125193 Respondent.	Case No. 800-2023-094469

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 December 2, 2025.

IT IS SO ORDERED November 25, 2025.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Sharlene Smith For
Reji Varghese
Executive Director

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
MACHAELA M. MINGARDI
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BEFORE THE
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: **DHARMESH ARVIND PATEL, M.D.** **513 Seagate Way** **Belmont, CA 94002-2558** **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 125193** Respondent.	Case No. 800-2023-094469 OAH No. **STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND ORDER**

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

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 Thomas Ostly, Deputy Attorney General.

2. DHARMESH ARVIND PATEL, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Shannon V. Baker, whose address is: 765 University Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95825.

3. On or about April 4, 2013, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 125193 to Respondent, which is set to expire on June 30, 2026.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 800-2023-094469 was filed before the Board and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on March, 14, 2025. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2023-094469 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2023-094469. Respondent also has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.

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

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

CULPABILITY

8. Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2023-094469, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.

9. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual basis for the charges in the Accusation and that those charges constitute cause for discipline.

Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest that cause for discipline exists based on those charges.

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

CONTINGENCY

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

12. Respondent understands that, by signing this stipulation, he enables the Executive Director of the Board to issue an order, on behalf of the Board, accepting the surrender of his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 125193 without further notice to, or opportunity to be heard by, Respondent.

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

14. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, except for this paragraph, which shall remain in full force and effect. Respondent fully understands and agrees that in deciding whether or not to approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, the Executive Director and/or the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or the Attorney General's Office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify the

Executive Director, the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future participation in this or any other matter affecting or involving respondent. In the event that the Executive Director on behalf of the Board does not, in his discretion, approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, with the exception of this paragraph, it shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever, and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party hereto. Respondent further agrees that should this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order be rejected for any reason by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, Respondent will assert no claim that the Executive Director, the Board, or any member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review, discussion and/or consideration of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order or of any matter or matters related hereto.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

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

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

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

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 125193, issued to Respondent DHARMESH ARVIND PATEL, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline

against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board.

2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a physician and surgeon in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.

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

4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked or surrendered license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2023-094469 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.

5. Respondent shall pay the agency its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of $103,364.75 prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license.

6. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2023-094469 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

7. Respondent shall pay the agency its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of $103,364.75 prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney Shannon V. Baker. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the

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Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

DATED: 11/24/2025

DHARMESH ARVIND PATEL, M.D.
Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent DHARMESH ARVIND PATEL, M.D. the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: 11/24/2025

SHANNON V. BAKER
Attorney for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

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

DATED: November 24, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
MACHAELA M. MINGARDI
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

THOMAS OSTLY
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2023-094469

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: **Dharmesh Arvind Patel, M.D.** **513 Seagate Way** **Belmont, CA 94002-2558** **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 125193,** Respondent.	Case No. 800-2023-094469 OAH No. **ACCUSATION**

PARTIES

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

2. On or about April 4, 2013, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 125193 to Dharmesh Arvind Patel, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and expired on June 30, 2026. As of June 20, 2024, Respondent is restricted from practicing medicine pursuant to a Penal Code section 23 superior court order.[1]

[1] This temporary suspension may be lifted or modified by the California Superior Court without notice to Complainant. The temporary suspension terminates automatically upon the closing of Respondent's criminal matter.

JURISDICTION AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS

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 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.

5. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed

one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other action taken in relation to discipline as the Board deems proper.

6. 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.

7. Section 822 of the Code states:

> If a licensing agency determines that its licentiate's ability to practice his or her profession safely is impaired because the licentiate is mentally ill, or physically ill

affecting competency, the licensing agency may take action by any one of the following methods:

(a) Revoking the licentiate's certificate or license.

(b) Suspending the licentiate's right to practice.

(c) Placing the licentiate on probation.

(d) Taking such other action in relation to the licentiate as the licensing agency in its discretion deems proper.

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

COST RECOVERY

8. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to 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, with failure of the licensee to comply subjecting the license to not being renewed or reinstated. If a case settles, recovery of investigation and enforcement costs may be included in a stipulated settlement.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

9. On January 2, 2023, Respondent intentionally drove his vehicle off California State Route 1 at Devil's Slide over a cliff and down several hundred feet to the bottom. The facts are as follows:

10. On January 2, 2023, Respondent was driving southbound on Highway 1, south of Pacifica, California with his wife and two young children as passengers in the vehicle. Around the Devil's Slide area, multiple witnesses observed that the brake lights were never engaged, and there were no skid marks evidencing an attempt to halt the forward progress of the vehicle.

11. Emergency personnel responded, rappelled down the cliff and found four injured people in the vehicle. In addition to Respondent, his wife was in the passenger seat and his two children were in the back seat. All sustained major injuries.

12. Respondent's children were extricated from the vehicle, raised up the cliffside, and then immediately airlifted for treatment at Stanford Medical Center.

13. When Respondent's wife[2] was being removed from the vehicle, she spoke with Paramedic One who had descended the cliff to render aid. While Paramedic One was working on extracting Respondent's wife, she stated multiple times Respondent had driven off of the cliff on purpose. She also stated Respondent needed a psychological evaluation. When Paramedic One heard these statements, he immediately relayed them to a supervisor.

14. When Respondent's wife was being assessed by Paramedic Two, she spontaneously stated "My husband needs help, this was on purpose and my husband tried to kill us."

15. After being brought up the cliff and waiting for the helicopter to transport her to Stanford Medical Center, Respondent's wife was interviewed by California Highway Patrol Officer (CHP Officer) J.R. During their brief interaction, Respondent's wife stated, "He drove off. He's depressed. He's a doctor. He said he was going to drive off the cliff. He purposely drove off."

16. While being airlifted, Respondent's wife made statements to Nurse One regarding her husband's mental state. These statements were consistent with her previous statements to Paramedic One and CHP Officer J.R.

17. On January 2, 2023, CHP Officers J.R. and A.S. responded to Stanford Medical Center to conduct additional interviews. They met with Respondent, who denied driving off of the cliff on purpose. Respondent stated that the tire pressure in the vehicle was low and that he had gone to three places to refill the tire, but their air pumps were not working. Respondent alleged that as he was driving the tire began to feel different and he pulled onto the dirt path to check his tire.

18. While being treated in the hospital, one of Respondent's minor children made statements while being treated by Nurse Two. Nurse Two relayed the content of the statements to

[2] Names of all occupants are withheld to protect their privacy.

CHP Officer J.R. Nurse Two relayed the statements made by the minor which described Respondent's mental state and actions before driving off the cliff.[3]

19. Video from the scene, the statements from witnesses, and the physical evidence collected all show that Respondent made a deliberate and willful right turn off the highway along a cliff beside the Pacific Ocean and drove off the cliff with the intent of killing himself and his passengers. Respondent's actions inflicted major injuries to himself and his passengers and are consistent with multiple counts of attempted murder as defined by the California Penal Code. The actions of Respondent also caused major injuries to his wife, a felony, as described by California Penal Code section 273.5(a), and to his children and Respondent committed felony child endangerment as described by California Penal Code Section 273(a). Finally, Respondent's statement to the CHP Officers on January 2, 2023, were false and intentionally misleading.

CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct)

20. The allegations in paragraphs 9 through 19 above are incorporated by reference as if set out in full.

21. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234(e) and/or 2234(f) of the Code, in that Respondent's actions injured his wife and children and could have resulted in death. Respondent inflicted great bodily injury upon one or more of them such that his wife spontaneously relayed to CHP Officers and Paramedics that Respondent "tried to kill" his family. The actions of Respondent demonstrate a disregard for the law, rights of others and the sanctity of human life. This disregard is directly related to and inconsistent with the safe and professional practice of medicine, and qualification, functions, duties and obligations of physicians.

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[3] There were at least two other instances in which the minor relayed nearly identical statements to other health care workers and investigators about Respondent's statements and actions before driving off the cliff.

CAUSE OF ACTION

(Unable to Practice Safely)

22. The allegations in paragraphs 9 through 19 above are incorporated by reference as if set out in full.

23. Respondent is subject to action under section 822 of the Code, in that Respondent is unable to practice safely due to mental illness. Respondent's mental health as evidenced above demonstrates an inability to practice safely.

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 125193, issued to Respondent Dharmesh Arvind Patel, M.D.;

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

3. Ordering Respondent Dharmesh Arvind Patel, 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; and

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

DATED: MAR 14 2025

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

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