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

In the Matter of the Petition to Revoke Probation Against:	)	
BILL JAMES RELEFORD, JR., D.P.M.	)	**Case No. 500-2017-000473**
Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No. E-3630	)	
Respondent	)	

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of Board of Podiatric Medicine, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on December 15, 2017.

IT IS SO ORDERED November 17, 2017.

BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE

By: _____
Michael A. Zapf, D.P.M., President

XAVIER BECERRA
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BEFORE THE
BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Petition to Revoke Probation Against: **BILL JAMES RELEFORD, JR., D.P.M.** **515 E. Hazel St., #9** **Inglewood, CA 90302** **Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No. E-3630,** Respondent.	Case No. 500-2017-000473 **STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY 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. Brian Naslund (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Board of Podiatric Medicine (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Wendy Widlus, Deputy Attorney General.

2. Respondent Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M. (Respondent) is representing himself in this proceeding and has chosen not to exercise his right to be represented by counsel.

3. On or about August 31, 1989, the Board issued Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License

No. E-3630 to Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M. (Respondent). The Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License is renewed and current, and will expire on February 28, 2019, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Petition to Revoke Probation No. 500-2017-000473 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Petition to Revoke Probation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on May 22, 2017. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Petition to Revoke Probation.

5. A copy of Petition to Revoke Probation No. 500-2017-000473 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

6. Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in Petition to Revoke Probation No. 500-2017-000473. Respondent has also carefully read, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.

7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Petition to Revoke Probation; the right to be represented by counsel at his own expense; 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.

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

CULPABILITY

9. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Petition to Revoke Probation No. 500-2017-000473.

10. Respondent agrees that his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License 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

11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board of Podiatric Medicine. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Podiatric Medicine may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent. 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.

12. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No. E-3630 issued to Respondent Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for an additional two (2) years beyond the seven year probationary term he is currently serving pursuant to the Board's Decision and Order dated May 23, 2014, the terms and conditions of which remain in full force and effect. After fully satisfying the current seven year probationary term, Respondent shall fully serve an additional two years of probation on the following terms and conditions.

1. **OBTAIN CURRENT LICENSE** Respondent must renew his California doctor of podiatric medicine's license within 30 days of the effective date of this Decision and Order.

2. **NOTIFICATION** Prior to engaging in the practice of medicine, the respondent

shall provide a true copy of the Decision(s) and Petition to Revoke Probation to the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to respondent, at any other facility where respondent engages in the practice of podiatric medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Division or its designee within 15 calendar days.

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

3. **PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS** Prior to receiving assistance from a physician assistant, Respondent must notify the supervising physician of the terms and conditions of his/her probation.

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

5. **QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS** Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.

6. **PROBATION COMPLIANCE UNIT** Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation unit. Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of Respondent's business and residence addresses. Changes of such addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Board or its designee. Under no circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business and Professions Code section 2021(b).

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of podiatric medicine in Respondent's place of residence. Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California doctor of podiatric medicine's license.

Respondent shall immediately inform the Board or its designee, in writing, of travel to any areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than 30

calendar days.

7. **INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE** Respondent shall be available in person for interviews either at Respondent's place of business or at the probation unit office with the Board or its designee, upon request, at various intervals and either with or without notice throughout the term of probation.

8. **RESIDING OR PRACTICING OUT-OF-STATE** In the event Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice, Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of departure and return. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding 30 calendar days in which Respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in section 2472 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program outside the State of California which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall be considered as time spent in the practice of medicine within the State. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will relieve Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions, with the exception of this condition, and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Law; Probation Unit Compliance; and Cost Recovery.

Respondent's license is subject to cancellation if Respondent's periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California totals two years. However, Respondent's license shall not be cancelled as long as Respondent is residing and practicing podiatric medicine in another state of the United States and is on active probation with the medical licensing authority of that state, in which case the two year period shall begin on the date probation is completed or terminated in that state.

9. **FAILURE TO PRACTICE PODIATRIC MEDICINE - CALIFORNIA RESIDENT** In the event the Respondent resides in the State of California and for any reason Respondent stops practicing podiatric medicine in California, Respondent shall notify the Board

or its designee in writing within 30 calendar days prior to the dates of non-practice and return to practice. Any period of non-practice within California as defined in this condition will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term and does not relieve Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the terms and conditions of probation. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding thirty calendar days in which Respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in section 2472 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall be considered time spent in the practice of medicine. For purposes of this condition, non-practice due to a Board-ordered suspension or in compliance with any other condition of probation shall not be considered a period of non-practice.

Failure to practice while in California for a total of two years, in any of the activities described in Business and Professions Code section 2472 shall be a violation of probation.

10. **COMPLETION OF PROBATION** Respondent shall comply with all financial obligations (e.g., cost recovery, restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate will be fully restored.

11. **VIOLATION OF PROBATION** If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an accusation or petition to revoke probation is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final, and no petition for modification of penalty shall be considered while there is an accusation or petition to revoke probation pending against Respondent.

12. **COST RECOVERY** Within 90 calendar days from the effective date of the Decision or other period agreed to by the Board or its d esignee, Respondent shall reimburse the Board the amount of $2,815.00 for its prosecution costs. The filing of bankruptcy or period of non-practice by Respondent shall not relieve the Respondent of his/her obligation to reimburse the Board for its costs.

13. **LICENSE SURRENDER** Following the effective date of this Decision, if Respondent ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons, or is otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request the voluntary surrender of Respondent's license. The Board reserves the right to evaluate the Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Respondent shall within 15 calendar days deliver Respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its designee and Respondent shall no longer practice podiatric medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation and the surrender of Respondent's license shall be deemed disciplinary action. If Respondent re-applies for a podiatric medical license, the application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.

14. **PROBATION MONITORING COSTS** Respondent shall pay the costs associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation as designated by the Board, which may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Board of Podiatric Medicine and delivered to the Board or its designee within 60 days after the start of the new fiscal year. Failure to pay costs within 30 calendar days of this date is a violation of probation.

15. **NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES** Respondent shall, upon or before the effective date of this Decision, post or circulate a notice which actually recites the offenses for which Respondent has been disciplined and the terms and conditions of probation to all employees involved in his/her practice. Within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall cause his/her employees to report to the Board in writing, acknowledging the employees have read the Accusation and Decision in the case and understand Respondent's terms and conditions of probation.

16. **CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT** Respondent shall notify the Board in writing, through the assigned probation officer, of any and all changes of employment, location, and address within thirty (30) days of such change.

17. **COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIRED CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION** Respondent shall submit satisfactory proof biennially to the Board of compliance with the

requirement to complete fifty hours of approved continuing medical education, and meet continuing competence requirements for re-licensure during each two (2) year renewal period.

18. **ETHICS COURSE** Within 60 days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in ethics, at Respondent's expense, approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Failure to successfully complete the course during the first year is a violation of probation.

An ethics course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision.

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ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Podiatric Medicine.

DATED: August 14, 2017

BILL JAMES RELEFORD, JR., D.P.M.
Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Podiatric Medicine.

Dated: 8/15/17

Respectfully submitted,

XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
E. A. JONES III
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

WENDY WIDLUS
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

LA2017504682
Stipulated Settlement Disciplinary Order (602).docx

Exhibit A

Petition to Revoke Probation No. 500-2017-000473

XAVIER BECERRA
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Attorneys for Complainant

FILED
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO May 22 20 17
BY Robyn Fitzwater ANALYST

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

In the Matter of the Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation Against, **BILL JAMES RELEFORD, JR., D.P.M.** **515 E. Hazel St., #9** **Inglewood, CA 90302** **Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No. E-3630,** Respondent.	Case No. 500-2017-000473 PETITION TO REVOKE PROBATION

Complainant alleges:

PARTIES

1. Brian Naslund (Complainant) brings this Petition to Revoke Probation solely in his official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Podiatric Medicine, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).

2. On or about August 31, 1989, the Board issued Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License Number E-3630 to Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M. (Respondent). The Doctor of Podiatric Medicine expired on February 28, 2015, and has not been renewed.

3. In a disciplinary action entitled *In the Matter of Accusation Against Bill James*

Releford Jr., D.P.M., Case No. 1B-1998-91425 the Board issued a decision, effective November 8, 2001, in which Respondent's Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License was revoked. However, the revocation was stayed and Respondent's Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License was placed on probation for a period of five (5) years with certain terms and conditions. A copy of that decision is attached as Exhibit A and is incorporated by reference.

4. In a disciplinary action entitled *In the Matter of Accusation Against Bill James Releford Jr., D.P.M.*, Case No. 1B-2011-216393, the Board issued a decision, effective June 20, 2014, in which Respondent's Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License was revoked. However, the revocation was stayed and Respondent's Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License was placed on probation for a period of seven (7) years with certain terms and conditions. A copy of that decision is attached as Exhibit B and is incorporated by reference.

JURISDICTION

5. This Petition to Revoke Probation 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.

6. Section 2460.1 of the Code states:

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

7. Section 2222 of the Code states:

"The California Board of Podiatric Medicine shall enforce and administer this article as to doctors of podiatric medicine. Any acts of unprofessional conduct or other violations proscribed by this chapter are applicable to licensed doctors of podiatric medicine and wherever the Medical Quality Hearing Panel established under Section 11371 of the Government Code is vested with the authority to enforce and carry out this chapter as to licensed physicians and surgeons, the Medical Quality Hearing Panel also possesses that same authority as to licensed doctors of podiatric medicine."

"The California Board of Podiatric Medicine may order the denial of an application or issue a certificate subject to conditions as set forth in Section 2221, or order the revocation, suspension, or other restriction of, or the modification of that penalty, and the reinstatement of any certificate of a doctor of podiatric medicine within its authority as granted by this chapter and in conjunction with the administrative hearing procedures established pursuant to Sections 11371, 11372, 11373, and 11529 of the Government Code. For these purposes, the California Board of Podiatric Medicine shall exercise the powers granted and be governed by the procedures set forth in this chapter."

8. 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."

9. Section 2497 of the Code states:

"(a) The board may order the denial of an application for, or the suspension of, or the revocation of, or the imposition of probationary conditions upon, a certificate to practice podiatric medicine for any of the causes set forth in Article 12 (commencing with Section 2220) in accordance with Section 2222.

"(b) The board may hear all matters, including but not limited to, any contested case or may assign any such matters to an administrative law judge. The proceedings shall be held in accordance with Section 2230. If a contested case is heard by the board itself, the administrative law judge who presided at the hearing shall be present during the board's consideration of the case and shall assist and advise the board."

COST RECOVERY

10. Section 2497.5 of the Code states:

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

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

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

"(d) In any judicial action for the recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision shall be conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment."(e)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the board shall not renew or reinstate the license of any licensee who has failed to pay all of the costs ordered under this section."(2) Notwithstanding paragraph

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

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

FIRST CAUSE TO REVOKE PROBATION

(Failure To Enroll In and Complete Ethics Course)

11. At all times after the effective date of Respondent's probation, Condition 3 stated:

"3. ETHICS COURSE Within 60 days after release from Federal custody, respondent shall enroll in a course in ethics, at respondent's expense, approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Failure to successfully complete the course during the first year is a violation of probation."

12. Respondent's probation is subject to revocation because he failed to comply with Probation Condition 3, referenced above. Respondent has failed to enroll in or complete an approved course in ethics.

SECOND CAUSE TO REVOKE PROBATION

(Failure To Pass A Written Examination)

13. At all times after the effective date of Respondent's probation, Condition 4 stated:

"4. EXAMINATION Within 60 days after release from Federal custody, respondent shall arrange to take and pass a written examination approved by the Board. Failure to successfully pass the examination within one year of the effective date of this Decision is a violation of probation. Respondent shall pay the costs of all examinations. For purposes of this condition, the exam shall be a passing score of the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners Part III examination consistent with Business and Professions Code section 2493."

14. Respondent's probation is subject to revocation because he failed to comply with Probation Condition 4, referenced above. Respondent has taken and failed the Part III examination three times since his release from federal custody.

THIRD CAUSE TO REVOKE PROBATION

(Failure to Maintain a Current Podiatric Medical License)

15. At all times after the effective date of Respondent's probation, Condition 11 stated:

"11. PROBATION COMPLIANCE UNIT Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California doctor of podiatric medicine's license."

16. Respondent's probation is subject to revocation because he failed to comply with Probation Condition 11, referenced above. Respondent's license has been delinquent since February 28, 2015.

FOURTH CAUSE TO REVOKE PROBATION

(Failure to Comply with Continuing Medical Education Requirements)

17. At all times after the effective date of Respondent's probation, Condition 22 stated:

"22. COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIRED CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION Respondent shall complete 50 hours of approved continuing medical education and submit on a bi-annual basis satisfactory proof of compliance of same to the Board during each two (2) year renewal period."

18. Respondent's probation is subject to revocation because he failed to comply with Probation Condition 22, referenced above. The Board has not received any certificates of continuing medical education since the Disciplinary Order took effect.

FIFTH CAUSE TO REVOKE PROBATION

(Failure to Comply with Probation Order)

19. Respondent's conditional license is subject to discipline pursuant to section 2227, subdivision (5), of the Code in that he violated terms and conditions of the conditional license issued by the Board. The circumstances are as follows:

20. The facts and circumstances alleged in paragraphs 11 through 18 are incorporated here as if fully set forth.

DISCIPLINE CONSIDERATIONS

21. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent, Complainant alleges that on or about November 8, 2001, in a prior disciplinary action entitled *In*

the Matter of Accusation Against Bill James Releford Jr., D.P.M., Case No. 1B-1998-91425 before the Board of Podiatric Medicine, Respondent's license was revoked, with the revocation stayed and Respondent was placed on probation for a period of five (5) years with certain terms and conditions as a result of his admissions to Gross Negligence, Repeated Negligent Acts, Incompetency, Dishonest Acts, Failure to Maintain Accurate Records, Excessive Treatment, and Unprofessional Conduct. That decision is now final and is incorporated 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 Board of Podiatric Medicine issue a decision:

1. Revoking the probation that was granted by the Board of Podiatric Medicine in Case No. 1B-2011-216393 and imposing the disciplinary order that was stayed thereby revoking Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No. E-3630 issued to Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M.;

2. Revoking or suspending Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No. E-3630, issued to Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M.;

3. Ordering Respondent Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M., to pay to the Board the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2497.5;

4. Ordering Respondent Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M., to pay the Board of Podiatric Medicine all unpaid costs of probation monitoring, as well as all unpaid cost recovery amounts, on the probation order issued May 23, 2014, in Case No. 1B-2011-216393; and

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

DATED: May 22, 2017

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

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Exhibit A

Decision and Order

Board of Podiatric Medicine Case No. 1B-1998-91425

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	)	
BILL JAMES RELEFORD, JR., D.P.M.	)	File No: 1B-1998-91425
Podiatric Medical License No. E-3630	)	OAH No: L-2001030470
Respondent.	)	

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Board of Podiatric Medicine, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on November 8, 2001.

DATED October 9, 2001.

BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE

Paul J. Califano, D.P.M.
President

BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General
of the State of California
MARK T. ROOHK, State Bar No. 132698
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Attorneys for Complainant

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: BILL JAMES RELEFORD, JR., D.P.M. 656 E. Regent Street Inglewood, CA 90301 Podiatrist License No. E 3630 Respondent.	Case No. 1B-1998-91425 OAH No. L-2001030470 **STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY 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. Complainant James Rathlesberger is the Executive Officer of the Board of Podiatric Medicine. He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this matter by Bill Lockyer, Attorney General of the State of California, by Mark T. Roohk, Deputy Attorney General.

2. Respondent is representing himself in this proceeding and has chosen not to exercise his right to be represented by counsel.

3. On or about August 31, 1989, the Board of Podiatric Medicine issued Podiatrist License Number E 3630 to Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M. ("Respondent"). The

Podiatrist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought and will expire on February 28, 2001, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 1B-1998-91425 was filed before the Board of Podiatric Medicine of the Department of Consumer Affairs ("Board"), and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation, together with all other statutorily required documents, was duly served on Respondent on January 23, 2001, and Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 1B-1998-91425 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

5. Respondent has carefully read and fully understands the nature of the charges and allegations in the Accusation and the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary 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 be represented by counsel, at his own expense, 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 the Accusation, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Podiatrist License.

9. For the purpose of resolving Accusation No. 1B-1998-91425 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 Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest those charges.

10. Respondent agrees that his Podiatrist License is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Order below.

CONTINGENCY

11. This stipulation shall be subject to the approval of the Board. Respondent understands and agrees that Board of Podiatric Medicine's staff and counsel for Complainant may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Order, except for this paragraph the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, 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.

12. The parties agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the original Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and signatures.

13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board shall, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Podiatrist License Number E 3630 issued to Respondent Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for five (5) years on the following terms and conditions.

1. ACTUAL SUSPENSION As part of probation, respondent is suspended from the practice of podiatric medicine for 30 days beginning the effective date of this decision.

2. POSTED NOTICE OF SUSPENSION Respondent shall prominently post a notice of the Board's Order of Suspension, in a place clearly visible to the public. Said notice, provided by the Board, shall remain so posted during the entire period of actual suspension.

3. PHYSICIAN ASSESSMENT & CLINICAL EDUCATION (PACE) PROGRAM Within 60 days of the effective date of this decision, respondent at his own expense shall enroll in the PACE program and shall undergo assessment and clinical training. After a full assessment by the PACE Evaluation Committee, respondent shall comply with all PACE program requirements and recommendations, including but not limited to participation in any clinical training recommended by the PACE program and submission to recommended treatment of any medical or mental condition identified in the PACE program assessment. Respondent shall complete the PACE program, including recommended clinical training and/or treatment, within six (6) month after the initial enrollment, unless the Board or its designee agrees in writing to a later completion date.

4. ETHICS Within 60 days of the effective date of this decision, respondent shall submit to the Board of Podiatric Medicine for its prior approval a course in Ethics, which respondent shall successfully complete during the first year of probation.

5. BILLING MONITOR Within 30 days of the effective date of this decision, or at such time as the terms of condition 1 above have been satisfied, respondent's billing practices will be monitored by another doctor of podiatric medicine. The Board shall, within the exercise of reasonable discretion, appoint the monitor from its panel of consultants. The monitor shall provide periodic reports to the Board or its designee. Respondent shall pay all costs for such monitoring and shall otherwise comply with all requirements of his contract with the monitor, a copy of which is contained in Appendix A. If the monitor terminates the contract or is no longer available, the Board or its designee shall appoint a new monitor immediately. Respondent shall not practice during the probation until he provides a copy of the contract with the current monitor to the probation officer and such contract is approved by the Board. Respondent shall be required to have a billing monitor for a period of one (1) year.

6. PROVISIONS FOR CESSATION OF PRACTICE In settlements or orders which provide for a cessation of practice, respondent shall comply with procedures provided by the Board probation officer regarding notification and management of patients.

7. NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES Respondent shall, upon or before the effective date of this Decision, post or circulate a notice which actually recites the offenses for which respondent has been disciplined and the terms and conditions of probation, to all employees involved in his practice. Within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this Decision, respondent shall cause his employees to report to the Board in writing, acknowledging the employees have read the Accusation and Decision in the case and understand respondent's terms and conditions of probation.

8. CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT Respondent shall notify the Board in writing, through the assigned probation officer, of any and all changes of employment, location, and address within thirty (30) days of such change.

9. PROBATION COSTS Respondent shall pay the administrative costs incurred by the Board associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation. Such costs shall be payable to the Board at the end of each fiscal year. Respondent will be provided with an invoice at the close of each fiscal year which must be paid within 30 days of receipt. The final invoice will be provided upon termination of probation and is also due and payable within 30 days of receipt. Failure to pay such costs shall be considered a violation of probation.

10. RECOVERY OF INVESTIGATION & PROSECUTION COSTS The respondent is hereby ordered to reimburse the Board the amount of $4,000 within one (1) year of the effective date of this decision for the recovery of the actual and reasonable costs of the investigation and prosecution of this matter as provided for in Section 2497.5 of the Business and Professions Code. Payments shall be made in equal quarterly installments of $1,000. Failure to reimburse the Board's cost of its investigation and prosecution shall constitute a violation of the probation order, unless the Board agrees in writing to payment by an alternative plan because of financial hardship. The filing of bankruptcy shall not relieve respondent of his responsibility to reimburse the Board for its investigative and prosecution costs.

11. OBEY ALL LAWS Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, and all rules governing the practice of podiatric medicine in California.

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

Notwithstanding any provision for tolling of requirements of probation, during the cessation of practice respondent shall continue to submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury.

13. SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation surveillance program.

14. INTERVIEW WITH PODIATRIC MEDICAL CONSULTANT Respondent shall appear in person for interviews with the Board's medical consultant, upon request, at various intervals and with reasonable notice.

15. TOLLING FOR CESSATION OF PRACTICE In the event the respondent fails to satisfactorily complete any provision of the order of probation, which results in the cessation of practice, all other provisions of probation other than the submission of quarterly reports shall be held in abeyance until respondent is permitted to resume the practice of podiatry. All provisions of probation shall recommence on the effective date of resumption of practice. Periods of cessation of practice will not apply to the reduction of the probationary period.

16. TOLLING FOR OUT-OF-STATE PRACTICE OR RESIDENCE In the event respondent should leave California to reside or to practice outside the state, respondent must notify the Board in writing of the dates of departure and return. Periods of residency or practice outside California will not apply to the reduction of this probationary period.

17. COMPLETION OF PROBATION Upon successful completion of probation, respondent's certificate will be fully restored.

18. VIOLATION OF PROBATION If respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an accusation or petition to revoke probation is filed against respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing

jurisdiction until the matter is final, the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final, and no petition for modification of penalty shall be considered while there is an accusation or petition to revoke probation pending against respondent.

19. COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIRED CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION Respondent shall submit satisfactory proof biennially to the Board of compliance with the requirements for re-licensure, including completing fifty (50) hours of approved continuing medical education, meeting continuing competence requirements, and possessing a current & valid certificate in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), during each two (2) year renewal period.

20. LICENSE SURRENDER Following the effective date of this decision, if respondent ceases practice due to retirement or health reasons, or is otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, respondent may request voluntarily surrender of his license to the Board. The Board reserves the right to evaluate respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrendered license, respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and I fully understand the terms and conditions and other matters contained therein, as well as the effect this stipulation will have on my Podiatrist License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement voluntarily, knowingly and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Disciplinary Order and Decision of the Board of Podiatric Medicine. I further agree that a facsimile copy of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile copies of signatures, may be used with the same force and effect as the originals.

DATED: July 30, 2001

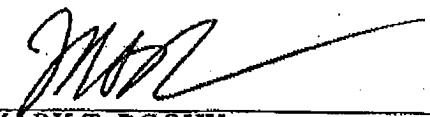
BILL JAMES REEFORD, JR., D.P.M.
Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Podiatric Medicine of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

DATED: 8/7/01

BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General
of the State of California



MARK T. ROOHK
Deputy Attorney General

Attorneys for Complainant

DOJ Docket Number: 03576160-LA00AD1996
Stipulation 11/9/00

Exhibit A:

Accusation Case No. 1B-1998-91425

FILED
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO January 23, 2001
BY [illegible] ANALYST

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Attorneys for Complainant

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: BILL JAMES RELEFORD, JR., D.P.M. 656 E. Regent St. Inglewood, CA 90301 Doctor of Podiatric Medicine Certificate No. E 3630 Respondent	Case No. 1B-1998-91425 **ACCUSATION**

Complainant alleges:

PARTIES

1. James Rathlesberger ("Complainant") brings this accusation solely in his official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Podiatric Medicine, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

2. On or about August 31, 1989, the Board of Podiatric Medicine issued Doctor of Podiatric Medicine Certificate Number E 3630 to Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M. ("Respondent"). The Doctor of Podiatric Medicine Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on February 28, 2001, unless renewed.

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JURISDICTION

3. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Podiatric Medicine, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California ("Board"), under the authority of the following sections of the Business and Professions Code ("Code").

4. Section 2222 of the Code states the California Board of Podiatric Medicine shall enforce and administer this article as to doctors of podiatric medicine. Any acts of unprofessional conduct or other violations proscribed by this chapter are applicable to licensed doctors of podiatric medicine and wherever the Medical Quality Hearing Panel established under Section 11371 of the Government Code is vested with the authority to enforce and carry out this chapter as to licensed physicians and surgeons, the Medical Quality Hearing Panel also possesses that same authority as to licensed doctors of podiatric medicine.

The California Board of Podiatric Medicine may order the denial of an application or issue a certificate subject to conditions as set forth in Section 2221, or order the revocation, suspension, or other restriction of, or the modification of that penalty, and the reinstatement of any certificate of a doctor of podiatric medicine within its authority as granted by this chapter and in conjunction with the administrative hearing procedures established pursuant to Sections 11371, 11372, 11373, and 11529 of the Government Code. For these purposes, the California Board of Podiatric Medicine shall exercise the powers granted and be governed by the procedures set forth in this chapter.

5. Section 2234 of the Code states the Division of Medical Quality 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, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate, any provision of this chapter.

(b) Gross negligence.

(c) Repeated negligent acts.

(d) Incompetence.

(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.

(f) Any action or conduct which would have warranted the denial of a certificate.

6. Section 2497 of the Code states:

(a) The board may order the denial of an application for, or the suspension of, or the revocation of, or the imposition of probationary conditions upon, a certificate to practice podiatric medicine for any of the causes set forth in Article 12 (commencing with Section 2220) in accordance with Section 2222.

(b) The board may hear all matters, including but not limited to, any contested case or may assign any such matters to an administrative law judge. The proceedings shall be held in accordance with Section 2230. If a contested case is heard by the board itself, the administrative law judge who presided at the hearing shall be present during the board's consideration of the case and shall assist and advise the board.

7. Section 2497.5 of the Code states:

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

8. Section 2228 of the Code states the authority of the board or a division of the board or the California Board of Podiatric Medicine to discipline a licensee by placing him or her on probation includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(a) Requiring the licensee to obtain additional professional training and to pass an examination upon the completion of the training. The examination may be written or oral, or both, and may be a practical or clinical examination, or both, at the option of the board or division or the administrative law judge.

(b) Requiring the licensee to submit to a complete diagnostic examination by one or more physicians and surgeons appointed by the division. If an examination is

ordered, the board or division shall receive and consider any other report of a complete diagnostic examination given by one or more physicians and surgeons of the licensee's choice.

(c) Restricting or limiting the extent, scope, or type of practice of the licensee, including requiring notice to applicable patients that the licensee is unable to perform the indicated treatment, where appropriate.

(d) Providing the option of alternative community service in cases other than violations relating to quality of care, as defined by the Division of Medical Quality.

9. Section 2266 of the Code states the failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes unprofessional conduct.

10. Section 725 of the Code states in relevant part that repeated acts of clearly excessive prescribing or 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, or optometrist.

11. Section 14124.12, subdivision (a), of the Welfare and Institutions Code states that upon receipt of written notice from the Medical Board of California, the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, or the Board of Dental Examiners of California, that a licensee's license has been placed on probation as a result of a disciplinary action, the department may not reimburse any Medi-Cal claim for the type of surgical service or invasive procedure that gave rise to the probation, including any dental surgery or invasive procedure, that was performed by the licensee on or after the effective date of probation and until the termination of all probationary terms and conditions or until the probationary period has ended, whichever occurs first. This section shall apply except in any case in which the relevant licensing board determines that compelling circumstances warrant the continued reimbursement during the probationary period of any Medi-Cal claim, including any claim for dental services, as so

described. In such a case, the department shall continue to reimburse the licensee for all procedures, except for those invasive or surgical procedures for which the licensee was placed on probation.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence)

12. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under 2234, subdivision (b) of the Code in that respondent was grossly negligent in the care and treatment of a patient. The circumstances are as follows:

a. On or about March 3, 1995, patient C.J. was admitted to Centinela Hospital Medical Center ("Centinela") via the emergency room with a diagnosis of acute hemorrhagic cerebrovascular accident (stroke). She was unable to swallow and a percutaneous endoscopic gastrotomy was performed. Her lower extremities had palpable pulses equal bilaterally. No ulcerations were documented. She was transferred to Community Convalescent and Rehabilitation Center ("CCRC") on April 12, 1995 with a guarded prognosis and a poor rehabilitation prognosis. Patient C.J. was bedbound and required total assistance on a daily basis. On April 12, 1995, the records show that a stage IV decubitus ulcer on the right buttocks and a stage II decubitus ulcer on both thighs were to be cleansed and Santyl enzyme applied followed by a clean, dry dressing. By April 26, 1995 the stage IV decubitus ulcer on the right buttocks had enlarged. Patient C.J. was transferred to Daniel Freeman Hospital ("Daniel Freeman") on April 30, 1995, where the admitting diagnosis of pneumonia, urosepsis, sacral decubitus ulcer with possible abscess, and post intercerebral hemorrhage with right hemiparesis was made. Sacral and heel decubiti were noted by the attending physician. On May 5, 1995, patient C.J. underwent surgical debridement of the decubitus ulcers on both heels and on her groin areas. She was transferred back to CCRC on May 8, 1995.

b. Upon admission to CCRC the ulcerative lesions on the heels were found to be stage IV. Patient C.J. was placed on oral antibiotics of Keflex 500mg T.I.D. for ten days. Blood chemistry reflected a high WBC of 12.5 on May 9, 1995, 8.7 on May

22, 1995, and 12.1 on June 16, 1995. The progress notes from CCRC reflect examination of and treatment to both heels by respondent, who had a contract with the CCRC to provide podiatric care to residents, on May 13, 1995, May 31, 1995 and June 17, 1995. A descriptive decubitus heel ulcer, full thickness 5.0cm in diameter with serious drainage was noted on the progress note of May 13, 1995. Treatment consisted of ulcer debridement, skin deroofed, with a directive found in the physician's orders for Santyl ointment *qd* and a request for the application of a LeNard splint to both heels. On May 31, 1995, the ulcers were again debrided to the subcutaneous tissues with no bleeding and no infection was noted. The LeNard splint was reordered and the Santyl ointment was to continue. On June 17, 1995, it was noted by respondent that the dressings had not been changed for three days and the wound had a very foul odor. A directive for change of dressings every twelve hours and wet to dry 0.5% acetic acid soaks was made. A surgical debridement of the sacral and heel ulcers was performed on June 22, 1995 at Daniel Freeman by Dr. R.C. The heel ulcers were described as 4cm by 4cm each and debridement included excision of bone deep to the os calcis.

c. On November 19, 1995, patient C.J. was again transferred to Daniel Freeman because of a shortness of breath. The admitting diagnosis was congestive heart failure (CHF), hypoxia, multiple infected decubitus ulcers, hypertension, anemia, severe peripheral vascular disease, hyponatremia and hypoalbuminemia. Laboratory data indicated a WBC of 16.2, hemoglobin of 6.5, hematocrit of 21.6, PO2 of 27, PCO2 of 37, pH of 7.48 with serum albumin at a low 1.7. Dr. K.F.L., the ER physician, examined the patient and filled out elder neglect papers. The patient was stabilized and aggressive antibiotic therapy was instituted with a combination of Cipro, Vancomycin, Flagyl, Augmentin and Diflucan. On November 22, 1995, Dr. R.C. performed debridement of the sacral and right heel ulcers with an additional below the knee amputation of the left ankle and foot. Pathology found fibrocalcific arteriosclerosis with extensive gangrene and ulceration (AK amputation left leg). Following the surgery patient C.J. continued afebrile and clinically stable and was transferred to the Centinela

Valley Care Center on December 14, 1995.

d. Patient C.J. was returned to Daniel Freeman on December 25, 1995 complaining of respiratory distress. Her WBC was 36. A diagnosis of CHF, probable sepsis, hyperkalemia, prerenal azotemia, peripheral vascular disease and multiple decubitus ulcers was made. The post-op leg wound was found to be closed with no apparent signs of infection. The ulcers were again debrided and the patient was placed on IV antibiotics of Gentamicin and Rocephin. Patient C.J.'s condition did not improve and she went into cardiopulmonary arrest on December 27, 1995.

e. Respondent's office notes, none of which were signed by respondent, reflect that he saw patient C.J. for surgical debridement on numerous occasions between May 10, 1995 and December 13, 1995, including on May 10, 12, 17, 19, 22, 24, 26, 29 and 31, June 2, 5, 12, 14, 16, 17 and 19, July 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28 and 31, August 2, 4, 9, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30 and 31, September 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 18, 29, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29, October 2, 9, 13, 16, 18, 20, 23, 25, 27 and 30, November 1, 2, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17 and 18, and December 13. The December 13 treatment and billing by respondent included debridement of the ulcer on the left foot, which foot had been amputated on November 22, 1995. Respondent's initial and subsequent progress notes in his office chart for patient C.J. contained no evidence of documentation of past medical history (e.g., complications secondary to her acute hypoxia, multiple infected decubitus ulcers, hypertension, anemia, sever peripheral vascular disease, hyponatremia and hypoalbuminemia), hospitalizations, or surgeries that might have assisted respondent in his evaluation of the patient. There were no laboratory tests, no x-rays to rule out osteomyelitis, or consultations with the patient's primary care physician. Over the course of time that respondent treated patient C.J., his progress notes failed to include operative reports, prognoses, or future treatment plans. No laboratory, x-ray or pathology reports were found in the progress notes of respondent. There were no references to wound cultures or antibiotics prescribed.

f. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995, respondent was grossly negligent in the care and treatment of patient C.J. in that he failed to establish, or document that he had established, a diagnosis and treatment plan that took into consideration the patient's past medical history, laboratory data, and consultation with the primary care physician.

g. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995, respondent was grossly negligent in that he performed multiple, continuous debridements of patient C.J.'s avascularized, gangrenous, non-responsive ulcers without reassessing, or documenting that he had reassessed, the treatment plan.

h. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995, respondent was grossly negligent in his documentation of his care and treatment of patient C.J. in that his notes lacked any significant patient medical history, objective findings, descriptive wound measurements (including documentation of the progress of wound care), or treatment plans.

i. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995, respondent was grossly negligent in his documentation of the care and treatment of patient C.J. in that there were no operative reports for the eighty-four surgical debridements allegedly performed by respondent on patient C.J.

j. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995, respondent was grossly negligent in the care and treatment of patient C.J. in that he failed to sign office notes reflecting services provided to patient C.J.

k. Between on or about May 10, 1995 and December 7, 1995, respondent was grossly negligent in the care and treatment of patient C.J. in that he failed to fully document his treatment of the patient in her chart at CCRC.

l. Between on or about May 10, 1995 and December 27, 1995, respondent was grossly negligent in that he repeatedly performed invasive surgery and/or provided treatment without documentation of informed consent.

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m. On or about December 13, 1995, respondent was grossly negligent in that he documented and billed for a procedure on patient C.J.'s left foot, which had been amputated on November 22, 1995.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Repeated Negligent Acts)

13. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivision (c) in that he engaged in repeated acts of negligence in the care and treatment of patient C.J. The circumstances are as follows:

a. The facts and circumstances alleged in subparagraphs 12.a. through 12.e. above are incorporated here as if fully set forth.

b. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995, respondent was negligent in the care and treatment of patient C.J. in that he failed to establish, or document that he had established, a diagnosis and treatment plan that took into consideration the patient's past medical history, laboratory data, and consultation with the primary care physician.

c. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995, respondent was negligent in that he performed multiple, continuous debridements of patient C.J.'s avascularized, gangrenous, non-responsive ulcers without reassessing, or documenting that he had reassessed, the treatment plan.

d. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995, respondent was negligent in his documentation of his care and treatment of patient C.J. in that his notes lacked any significant patient medical history, objective findings, descriptive wound measurements (including documentation of the progress of wound care), or treatment plans.

e. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995, respondent was negligent in his documentation of the care and treatment of patient C.J. in that there were no operative reports for the eighty-four surgeries performed by respondent on patient C.J.

f. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995, respondent was negligent in the care and treatment of patient C.J. in that he failed to sign office notes reflecting services provided to patient C.J.

g. Between on or about May 10, 1995 and December 7, 1995, respondent was negligent in the care and treatment of patient C.J. in that he failed to fully document his treatment of the patient in the patient's chart at CCRC.

h. Between on or about May 10, 1995 and December 27, 1995, respondent was negligent in that he repeatedly performed invasive surgery and/or provided treatment without documentation of informed consent.

i. On or about December 13, 1995, respondent was negligent in that he documented and billed for a procedure on patient C.J.'s left foot, which had been amputated on November 22, 1995.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Incompetency)

14. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivision (d), in that respondent was incompetent in the care and treatment of patient C.J. The circumstances are as follows:

a. The facts and circumstances alleged in subparagraphs 12.a. through 12.e. above are incorporated here as if fully set forth.

FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Dishonest Acts)

15. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivision (e) in that he engaged in dishonest acts. The circumstances are as follows:

a. The facts and circumstances alleged in subparagraphs 12.a. through 12.e. above are incorporated here as if fully set forth.

b. On or about December 13, 1995, respondent engaged in a dishonest act when he documented and billed for a procedure on patient C.J.'s left foot, which had been amputated on November 22, 1995.

FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Record Keeping)

16. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2266 of the Code in that respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to patient C.J. The circumstances are as follows:

a. The facts and circumstances alleged in subparagraphs 12.a. through 12.e. above are incorporated here as if fully set forth.

b. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995, respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records of his care and treatment of patient C.J. in that his notes lacked any significant patient medical history, objective findings, descriptive wound measurements (including documentation of the progress of wound care), or treatment plans.

c. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995, respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records of the care and treatment of patient C.J. in that there were no operative reports for the eighty-four surgeries performed by respondent on patient C.J.

d. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995, respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records of the care and treatment of patient C.J. in that he failed to sign office notes reflecting services provided to patient C.J.

e. Between on or about May 10, 1995 and December 7, 1995, respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records of the care and treatment of patient C.J. in that he failed to fully document his treatment of the patient in the patient's chart at CCRC.

f. Between on or about May 10, 1995 and December 27, 1995, respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records in that he repeatedly performed invasive surgery and/or provided treatment without documentation of informed consent.

SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Excessive Treatment)

17. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 729 of the Code in that respondent engaged in repeated acts of clearly excessive treatment of patient C.J. The circumstances are as follows:

a. The facts and circumstances alleged in subparagraphs 12.a. through 12.e. above are incorporated here as if fully set forth.

b. Between on or about May 10, 1995, and December 27, 1995, respondent engaged in repeated acts of clearly excessive treatment of patient C.J. in that he performed multiple, continuous debridements of patient C.J.'s avascularized, gangrenous, non-responsive ulcers.

SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct)

18. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234 in that engaged in acts of unprofessional conduct. The circumstances are as follows:

a. The facts and circumstances alleged in paragraphs 12. through 17. above are incorporated here 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 Board issue a decision:

1. Revoking or suspending Doctor of Podiatric Medicine Certificate Number E 3630, issued to Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M.;

2. Ordering Bill James Releford, Jr., D.P.M. to pay the Board the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2497.5, and, if placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring;

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

DATED: January 23, 2001.

James Rathlesberger
Executive Officer
Board of Podiatric Medicine
State of California
Complainant

caj: 12-12-00

Exhibit B

Decision and Order

Board of Podiatric Medicine Case No. 1B-2011-216393

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	)	
	)	File No. 1B-2011-216393
BILL JAMES RELEFORD JR., D.P.M.	)	
	)	
Doctor of Podiatric Medicine	)	
License No. E 3630	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby accepted and adopted by the Board of Podiatric Medicine of the Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California as its Decision in the above-entitled matter.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on June 20, 2014.

DATED May 23, 2014

BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE

Kristina M. Dixon, MBA, President

KAMALA D. HARRIS
Attorney General of California
JUDITH T. ALVARADO
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
STEVE DIEHL
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2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 5090
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Attorneys for Complainant

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: **BILL JAMES RELEFORD JR., DPM** **455 N. Prairie Ave.** **Inglewood, CA 90301** **Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License** **No. E 3630,** Respondent.	Case No. 1B-2011-216393 **STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY 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. James Rathlesberger ("Complainant") is the Executive Officer of the Board of Podiatric Medicine. He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this matter by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the State of California, by Steve Diehl, Deputy Attorney General.

2. Respondent BILL JAMES RELEFORD JR., DPM ("Respondent") is representing himself in this proceeding and has chosen not to exercise his right to be represented by counsel.

3. On or about August 31, 1989, the Board of Podiatric Medicine issued Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No. E 3630 to BILL JAMES RELEFORD JR., DPM (Respondent). The Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the

charges brought in Accusation No. 1B-2011-216393 and will expire on February 28, 2015, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 1B-2011-216393 was filed before the Board of Podiatric Medicine (Board) , Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on November 14, 2013. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.

5. A copy of Accusation No. 1B-2011-216393 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

6. Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 1B-2011-216393. Respondent has also carefully read, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.

7. 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 be represented by counsel at his own expense; 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.

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

CULPABILITY

9. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation No. 1B-2011-216393.

10. Respondent agrees that his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License 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

11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board of Podiatric Medicine. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Podiatric Medicine may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent. 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.

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

13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No. E 3630 issued to Respondent BILL JAMES RELEFORD JR., DPM (Respondent) is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for seven (7) years on the following terms and conditions.

1. ACTUAL SUSPENSION As part of probation, respondent is suspended from the practice of podiatric medicine for two years, beginning the sixteenth (16th) day after the effective date of this decision. This suspension shall be concurrent with any suspension ordered pursuant to an Automatic Suspension Order issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 2236.1, provided that respondent shall be suspended from the practice of podiatric medicine for a minimum of six months after release from Federal custody, whenever that may occur.

Respondent shall prominently post a notice of the Board's Order of Suspension, in a place clearly visible to the public. Said notice, provided by the Board, shall remain so posted during the entire period of suspension.

2. PROVISIONS FOR CESSATION OF PRACTICE During the period of suspension, respondent shall comply with procedures provided by the Board regarding notification and management of patients.

3. ETHICS COURSE Within 60 days after release from Federal custody, respondent shall enroll in a course in ethics, at respondent's expense, approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Failure to successfully complete the course during the first year is a violation of probation.

An ethics course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision.

4. EXAMINATION Within 60 calendar days after release from Federal custody, respondent shall arrange to take and pass a written examination approved by the Board. Failure to pass the examination within one year of the effective date of this Decision is a violation of probation. Respondent shall pay the costs of all examinations. For purposes of this condition, the exam shall be a passing score of the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners Part III examination consistent with Business and Professions Code section 2493.

Respondent shall not practice podiatric medicine until respondent has passed the required examination and has been so notified by the Board or its designee in writing. This prohibition shall not bar respondent from practicing in a clinical training program approved by the Board or its designee. Respondent's practice of podiatric medicine shall be restricted only to that which is required by the approved training program.

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5. PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION Within 30 days after release from Federal custody, and on whatever periodic basis thereafter may be required by the Board or its designee, respondent shall undergo a psychiatric evaluation (and psychological testing, if deemed necessary) by a Board appointed Board certified psychiatrist, who shall consider any information provided by the Board or designee and any other information the psychiatrist deems relevant, and shall furnish a written evaluation report to the Board or its designee. Psychiatric evaluations conducted prior to the effective date of the Decision shall not be accepted towards the fulfillment of the requirement. Respondent shall pay the cost of all psychiatric evaluations and psychological testing.

Respondent shall comply with all restrictions or conditions recommended by the evaluating psychiatrist within 15 calendar days after being notified by the Board or its designee. Failure to undergo and complete a psychiatric evaluation and psychological testing, or comply with the required additional conditions or restrictions, is a violation of probation.

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of podiatric medicine until notified by the Board or its designee that respondent is mentally fit to practice podiatric medicine safely. The period of time that respondent is not practicing medicine shall not be counted toward completion of the term of probation.

6. MONITORING - PRACTICE/BILLING Within 30 days after release from Federal custody, the entire practice shall be monitored, including, but not limited to the following: medical records, charting, pre and postoperative evaluations, all surgical procedures and billing records.

The Board shall immediately, within the exercise of reasonable discretion, appoint a doctor of podiatric medicine from its panel of medical consultants or panel of expert reviewers as the monitor.

The monitor shall provide quarterly reports to the Board or its designee which include an evaluation of respondent's performance, indicating whether respondent's practices are within the standards of practice of podiatric medicine or billing, or both, and whether respondent is practicing podiatric medicine safely.

The Board or its designee shall determine the frequency and practice areas to be monitored. Such monitoring shall be required during the entire period of probation. The Board or its designee may at its sole discretion also require prior approval by the monitor of any medical or surgical procedures engaged in by the respondent. The respondent shall pay all costs of such monitoring and shall otherwise comply with all requirements of his contract with the monitor, a copy of which is attached as "Appendix A - Agreement to Monitor Practice and/or Billing." If the monitor terminates the contract, or is no longer available, the Board or its designee shall appoint a new monitor immediately. Respondent shall not practice at any time during the probation until the respondent provides a copy of the contract with the current monitor to the probation investigator and such contract is approved by the Board.

Respondent shall provide access to the practice monitor of respondent's patient records and such monitor shall be permitted to make direct contact with any patients treated or cared for by respondent and to discuss any matters related to respondent's care and treatment of those patients. Respondent shall obtain any necessary patient releases to enable the monitor to review records and to make direct contact with patients. Respondent shall execute a release authorizing the monitor to provide to the Board or its designee any relevant information. If the practice monitor deems it necessary to directly contact any patient, and thus require the disclosure of such patient's identity, respondent shall notify the patient that the patient's identity has been requested pursuant to the Decision. This notification shall be signed and dated by each patient prior to the commencement or continuation of any examination or treatment of each patient by respondent and a copy of such notification shall be maintained in each patient's file. The notifications signed by respondent's patients shall be subject to inspection and copying by the Board or its designee at any time during the period of probation that respondent is required to comply with this condition. The practice monitor will sign a confidentiality agreement requiring him or her to keep all patient information regarding respondent's patients in complete confidence, except as otherwise required by the Board or its designee.

Failure to maintain all records, or to make all appropriate records available for immediate inspection and copying on the premises, or to comply with this condition as outlined above, is a

violation of probation.

In lieu of a monitor, respondent may participate in the professional enhancement program offered by the Physician Assessment and Clinical Education Program at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, that includes, at minimum, quarterly chart review, semi-annual practice assessment, and semi-annual review of professional growth and education. Respondent shall participate in the professional enhancement program at respondent's expense during the term of probation.

7. NOTIFICATION Prior to engaging in the practice of medicine, the respondent shall provide a true copy of the Decision(s) and Accusation(s) to the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to respondent, at any other facility where respondent engages in the practice of podiatric medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Division or its designee within 15 calendar days.

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

8. PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS Prior to receiving assistance from a physician assistant, respondent must notify the supervising physician of the terms and conditions of his probation.

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

10. QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.

11. PROBATION COMPLIANCE UNIT Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation unit. Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of respondent's business and residence addresses. Changes of such addresses shall be immediately communicated in

writing to the Board or its designee. Under no circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business and Professions Code section 2021(b).

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of podiatric medicine in respondent's place of residence. Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California doctor of podiatric medicine's license.

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

12. INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE Respondent shall be available in person for interviews either at respondent's place of business or at the probation unit office with the Board or its designee, upon request, at various intervals and either with or without notice throughout the term of probation.

13. RESIDING OR PRACTICING OUT-OF-STATE In the event respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice, respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of departure and return. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding 30 calendar days in which respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in section 2472 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program outside the State of California which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall be considered as time spent in the practice of medicine within the State. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will relieve respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions, with the exception of this condition, and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Law; Probation Unit Compliance; and Cost Recovery.

Respondent's license shall be automatically cancelled if respondent's periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California totals two years. However, respondent's

license shall not be cancelled as long as respondent is residing and practicing podiatric medicine in another state of the United States and is on active probation with the medical licensing authority of that state, in which case the two year period shall begin on the date probation is completed or terminated in that state.

14. FAILURE TO PRACTICE PODIATRIC MEDICINE - CALIFORNIA RESIDENT In the event the respondent resides in the State of California and for any reason respondent stops practicing podiatric medicine in California, respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing within 30 calendar days prior to the dates of non-practice and return to practice. Any period of non-practice within California as defined in this condition will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term and does not relieve respondent of the responsibility to comply with the terms and conditions of probation. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding thirty calendar days in which respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in section 2472 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall be considered time spent in the practice of medicine. For purposes of this condition, non-practice due to a Board-ordered suspension or in compliance with any other condition of probation shall not be considered a period of non-practice.

Respondent's license shall be automatically cancelled if respondent resides in California and for a total of two years, fails to engage in California in any of the activities described in Business and Professions Code section 2472.

15. COMPLETION OF PROBATION Respondent shall comply with all financial obligations (e.g., cost recovery, restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, respondent's certificate will be fully restored.

16. VIOLATION OF PROBATION If respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an accusation or petition to revoke probation is filed against respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the

matter is final, the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final, and no petition for modification of penalty shall be considered while there is an accusation or petition to revoke probation pending against respondent.

17. COST RECOVERY Within 90 calendar days from the effective date of the Decision or other period agreed to by the Board or its designee, respondent shall reimburse the Board the amount of $3,444.25 for its investigative and prosecution costs. The filing of bankruptcy or period of non-practice by respondent shall not relieve the respondent of his obligation to reimburse the Board for its costs.

18. LICENSE SURRENDER Following the effective date of this Decision, if respondent ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons, or is otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, respondent may request the voluntary surrender of respondent's license. The Board reserves the right to evaluate the respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, respondent shall within 15 calendar days deliver respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its designee and respondent shall no longer practice podiatric medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation and the surrender of respondent's license shall be deemed disciplinary action. If respondent re-applies for a podiatric medical license, the application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.

19. PROBATION MONITORING COSTS Respondent shall pay the costs associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation as designated by the Board, which may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Board of Podiatric Medicine and delivered to the Board or its designee within 60 days after the start of the new fiscal year. Failure to pay costs within 30 calendar days of this date is a violation of probation.

20. NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES Respondent shall, upon or before the effective date of this Decision, post or circulate a notice which actually recites the offenses for which respondent has been disciplined and the terms and conditions of probation to all employees involved in his practice. Within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this Decision, respondent shall cause his

employees to report to the Board in writing, acknowledging the employees have read the Accusation and Decision in the case and understand respondent's terms and conditions of probation.

21. CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT Respondent shall notify the Board in writing, through the assigned probation officer, of any and all changes of employment, location, and address within thirty (30) days of such change.

22. COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIRED CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION Respondent shall submit satisfactory proof biennially to the Board of compliance with the requirement to complete fifty hours of approved continuing medical education, and meet continuing competence requirements for re-licensure during each two (2) year renewal period.

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ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Podiatric Medicine.

DATED: April 20, 2014

BILL JAMES RELEFORD JR., DPM
Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Podiatric Medicine.

Dated: 4/25/2014

Respectfully submitted,

KAMALA D. HARRIS
Attorney General of California
JUDITH T. ALVARADO
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

STEVE DIEHL
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 1B-2011-216393

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FILED
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO November 14, 2013
BY Ian K. McClone ANALYST

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: **BILL JAMES RELEFORD JR., D.P.M.** **455 N. Prairie Avenue** **Inglewood, CA 90301** **Podiatrist License No. E-3630,** Respondent.	Case No. 1B-2011-216393 **ACCUSATION**

Complainant alleges:

PARTIES

1. James Rathlesberger (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Podiatric Medicine, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).

2. On or about August 31, 1989, the Board issued Podiatrist License Number E 3630 to BILL JAMES RELEFORD JR., DPM (Respondent). The Podiatrist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on February 28, 2015, unless renewed.

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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 unless otherwise indicated.

4. Section 2222 of the Code states:

"The California Board of Podiatric Medicine shall enforce and administer this article as to doctors of podiatric medicine. Any acts of unprofessional conduct or other violations proscribed by this chapter are applicable to licensed doctors of podiatric medicine and wherever the Medical Quality Hearing Panel established under Section 11371 of the Government Code is vested with the authority to enforce and carry out this chapter as to licensed physicians and surgeons, the Medical Quality Hearing Panel also possesses that same authority as to licensed doctors of podiatric medicine.

The California Board of Podiatric Medicine may order the denial of an application or issue a certificate subject to conditions as set forth in Section 2221, or order the revocation, suspension, or other restriction of, or the modification of that penalty, and the reinstatement of any certificate of a doctor of podiatric medicine within its authority as granted by this chapter and in conjunction with the administrative hearing procedures established pursuant to Sections 11371, 11372, 11373, and 11529 of the Government Code. For these purposes, the California Board of Podiatric Medicine shall exercise the powers granted and be governed by the procedures set forth in this chapter."

5. Section 2497 of the Code states:

"(a) The board may order the denial of an application for, or the suspension of, or the revocation of, or the imposition of probationary conditions upon, a certificate to practice podiatric medicine for any of the causes set forth in Article 12 (commencing with Section 2220) in accordance with Section 2222.

"(b) The board may hear all matters, including but not limited to, any contested case or may assign any such matters to an administrative law judge. The proceedings shall be held in accordance with Section 2230. If a contested case is heard by the board itself, the administrative

law judge who presided at the hearing shall be present during the board's consideration of the case and shall assist and advise the board."

6. 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 division.

"(2) Have his or her right to practice suspended for a period not to exceed one year upon order of the division.

"(3) Be placed on probation and be required to pay the costs of probation monitoring upon order of the division.

"(4) Be publicly reprimanded by the division.

"(5) Have any other action taken in relation to discipline as part of an order of probation, as the division 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 division 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."

7. Section 2236 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

"(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. The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence only of the fact that the conviction occurred.

"...

"(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[1] 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."

8. Section 2497.5 of the Code states:

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

"(b) The costs to be assessed shall be fixed by the administrative law judge and shall not in any event be increased by the board. When the board does not adopt a proposed decision and remands the case to an administrative law judge, the administrative law judge shall not increase the amount of any costs assessed in the proposed decision.

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

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

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

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[1] Pursuant to Section 2002 of the Code, "Division of Medical Quality" or "Division" shall be deemed to refer to the Medical Board of California.

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

"(f) All costs recovered under this section shall be deposited in the Podiatry Fund as a reimbursement in either the fiscal year in which the costs are actually recovered or the previous fiscal year, as the board may direct."

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Conviction of a Crime)

9. Respondent's license is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2236, in that he was convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a doctor of podiatric medicine. The circumstances are as follows:

10. Beginning on or before December 30, 1999, and continuing until on or after October 11, 2002, Respondent participated in a scheme to defraud Bank of America. As Respondent knew, Respondent's co-schemers would open business lines of credit at financial institutions for the purpose of withdrawing funds from the credit lines and not later returning the funds. As part of his role in the scheme, Respondent, among other things, negotiated and cashed checks from the credit lines. Respondent would then return a portion of the funds to a co-schemer and keep the remainder of the funds for himself. Two of the credit lines were opened at Respondent's request to benefit Respondent, namely, credit lines for businesses named California Podiatry of Diabetes Foot and Southern California Podiatry.

11. In total, Respondent deposited checks from four fraudulently obtained credit lines and Respondent attempted to help open one additional credit line. The total actual and intended loss amount resulting from those credit lines was more than $400,000. The checks Respondent negotiated in furtherance of this scheme had a total value of $217,500. One of those checks was negotiated by Respondent on or about May 30, 2002, in the amount of $38,750, drawn from the Bank of America business credit line for California Podiatry of Diabetes Foot.

12. On or about October 19, 2011, in the matter entitled *United States of America vs. Andrea Lorraine Avery, Kirkland Charles, and Bill James Releford, Jr.*, in the United States District Court for the Central District of California, case number CR 11-405(A)-MMM, a First Superseding Indictment was filed, naming Respondent in nineteen counts of violations of 18 U.S.C. §1344(2), Bank Fraud (Counts 1-19); and one count of a violation of 18 U.S.C. §1014 and §2, Aiding and Abetting the making of a False Statement to a Bank (Count 22); all felonies.

13. On or about February 14, 2012, Respondent executed a written plea agreement in which he agreed to plead guilty to a violation of 18 U.S.C. §1344(2), Bank Fraud, as alleged in count 11 of the First Superseding Indictment. As part of this plea agreement, Respondent agreed to a statement of facts that is substantially identical to paragraphs 10 and 11, *supra*. Respondent further agreed not to "contest facts agreed to in this agreement." Respondent further agreed that he "understands that the conviction in this case may also subject [him] to various other collateral consequences, including but not limited to...suspension or revocation of a professional license." Respondent further certified that he was "pleading guilty because [he was] guilty of the charges and wish to take advantage of the promises set forth in this agreement, and not for any other reason."

14. On or about May 14, 2012, Respondent entered a guilty plea to a violation of 18 U.S.C. §1344(2), Bank Fraud, as alleged in count 11 of the First Superseding Indictment.

15. On or about June 24, 2013, Respondent was sentenced to 24 months in federal prison. Upon release from imprisonment, Respondent is to be placed on supervised release for a term of three years. Respondent was also ordered to pay a fine of $10,000, and to pay restitution to Bank of America in the amount of $218,237.13. Execution of this sentence was stayed until October 24, 2013.

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PRAYER

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

1. Revoking or suspending Podiatrist License Number E 3630, issued to BILL JAMES RELEFORD JR., DPM

2. Ordering Bill James Releford, Jr. to pay the Board of Podiatric Medicine the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2497.5;

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

DATED: November 14, 2013

JAMES RATHLESBERGER
Executive Officer
Board of Podiatric Medicine
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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