

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

In the Matter of the)
First Amended Accusation)
Against:)
)
Ronald David Richmond, M.D.)
)
Physician's and Surgeon's)
Certificate No. G74763)
)
Respondent)
_____)

Case No. 800-2017-035844

DECISION

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

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2020,

IT IS SO ORDERED February 7, 2020.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

By:



**Kristina D. Lawson, J.D., Chair
Panel B**

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 JOSEPH F. MCKENNA III
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 231195
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5 San Diego, California 92101
P.O. Box 85266
6 San Diego, California 92186-5266
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8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

12 In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation
Against:

13 **RONALD DAVID RICHMOND, M.D.**
14 **26991 Crown Valley Parkway**
Mission Viejo, California 92691-6528

15 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.**
G 74763,

16 Respondent.
17

Case No. 800-2017-035844
OAH No. 2019050457

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

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

20 **PARTIES**

21 1. Christine J. Lally (Complainant) is the Interim Executive Director of the Medical Board
22 of California (Board). This action was brought by then Complainant Kimberly Kirchmeyer,¹
23 solely in her official capacity. Complainant is represented in this matter by Xavier Becerra,
24 Attorney General of the State of California, and Joseph F. McKenna III, Deputy Attorney General.

25 2. Respondent Ronald David Richmond, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this
26 proceeding by attorney John S. Baker, Esq., whose address is: 600 Anton Blvd., Suite 2000,
27 Costa Mesa, California, 92626.

28 ¹ Ms. Kirchmeyer became the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs on October 28, 2019.

1 **CULPABILITY**

2 9. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, Complainant could
3 establish a *prima facie* case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in First
4 Amended Accusation No. 800-2017-035844, and that he has thereby subjected his Physician's
5 and Surgeon's Certificate No. G74763 to disciplinary action.

6 10. Respondent agrees that if an accusation is filed against him before the Board, all
7 of the charges and allegations contained in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2017-035844
8 shall be deemed true, correct, and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of any such
9 proceeding.

10 **CONTINGENCY**

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

18 12. The parties agree that this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be null
19 and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the Board, except for
20 this paragraph, which shall remain in full force and effect. Respondent fully understands and
21 agrees that in deciding whether or not to approve and adopt this Stipulated Settlement and
22 Disciplinary Order, the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or
23 the Attorney General's Office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify
24 the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future participation in this or any
25 other matter affecting or involving Respondent. In the event that the Board does not, in its
26 discretion, approve and adopt this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, with the
27 exception of this paragraph, it shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value
28 whatsoever, and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party

1 hereto. Respondent further agrees that should this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order
2 be rejected for any reason by the Board, Respondent will assert no claim that the Board, or any
3 member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review, discussion and/or consideration of this
4 Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order or of any matter or matters related hereto.

5 **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

6 13. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties herein
7 to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of the
8 agreements of the parties in the above-entitled matter.

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

12 15. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree the
13 Board may, without further notice to or opportunity to be heard by Respondent, issue and enter
14 the following Disciplinary Order:

15 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

16 1. **PUBLIC REPRIMAND.**

17 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent Ronald David Richmond, M.D.'s Physician's
18 and Surgeon's Certificate No. G74763 shall be and is hereby Publicly Reprimanded pursuant to
19 California Business and Professions Code section 2227, subdivision (a), subsection (4). This
20 Public Reprimand, which is issued in connection with the allegations as set forth in First
21 Amended Accusation No. 800-2017-035844, is as follows:

22 Respondent committed negligence by prescribing controlled medications to
23 his family members without appropriate documentation.

24 2. **PRESCRIBING PRACTICES COURSE.**

25 Within sixty (60) calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall
26 enroll in a course in prescribing practices approved in advance by the Board or its designee.
27 Respondent shall provide the approved course provider with any information and documents that
28 the approved course provider may deem pertinent. Respondent shall participate in and

1 successfully complete the classroom component of the course not later than six (6) months after
2 Respondent's initial enrollment. Respondent shall successfully complete any other component of
3 the course within one (1) year of enrollment. The prescribing practices course shall be at
4 Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME)
5 requirements for renewal of licensure.

6 A prescribing practices course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges contained
7 in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2017-035844, but prior to the effective date of the
8 Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the
9 fulfillment of this condition if the course would have been approved by the Board or its designee
10 had the course been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

11 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
12 designee not later than fifteen (15) calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not
13 later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

14 3. MEDICAL RECORDS KEEPING COURSE.

15 Within sixty (60) calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall
16 enroll in a course in medical record keeping approved in advance by the Board or its designee.
17 Respondent shall provide the approved course provider with any information and documents
18 that the approved course provider may deem pertinent. Respondent shall participate in and
19 successfully complete the classroom component of the course not later than six (6) months after
20 Respondent's initial enrollment. Respondent shall successfully complete any other component
21 of the course within one (1) year of enrollment. The medical record keeping course shall be at
22 Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the CME requirements for renewal of licensure.

23 A medical record keeping course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges contained
24 in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2017-035844, but prior to the effective date of the
25 Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the
26 fulfillment of this condition if the course would have been approved by the Board or its designee
27 had the course been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

28 ////

1 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
2 designee not later than fifteen (15) calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not
3 later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

4 4. PROFESSIONALISM PROGRAM (ETHICS COURSE).

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

14 A professionalism program taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges contained in
15 First Amended Accusation No. 800-2017-035844, but prior to the effective date of the Decision
16 may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this
17 condition if the program would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the program
18 been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

19 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
20 designee not later than fifteen (15) calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not
21 later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

22 5. FAILURE TO COMPLY.

23 Any failure by Respondent to comply with the terms and conditions of the Disciplinary
24 Order set forth above shall constitute unprofessional conduct and grounds for further disciplinary
25 action.

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ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, John S. Baker, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G74763. 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 Medical Board of California.

DATED: 11/19/19 
RONALD DAVID RICHMOND, M.D.
Respondent

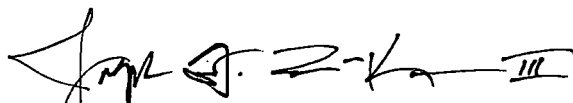
I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Ronald David Richmond, M.D., the terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: 11/18/19 
JOHN S. BAKER, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

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

DATED: NOVEMBER 18, 2019 Respectfully submitted,
XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General


JOSEPH F. MCKENNA III
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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

13 In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation
14 Against:

Case No. 800-2017-035844
OAH No. 2019050457

15 **Ronald David Richmond, M.D.**
16 **26991 Crown Valley Parkway**
Mission Viejo, California 92691-6528

FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION

17 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
18 **No. G 74763,**

19 Respondent.

20 Complainant alleges:

21 **PARTIES**

22 1. Christine J. Lally (Complainant) brings this First Amended Accusation solely in her
23 official capacity as the Interim Executive Director of the Medical Board of California,
24 Department of Consumer Affairs.

25 2. On or about July 23, 1992, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
26 Certificate No. G74763 to Ronald David Richmond, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and
27 Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought
28 herein and will expire on July 31, 2020, unless renewed.

1 **JURISDICTION**

2 3. This First Amended Accusation is brought before the Medical Board of California
3 (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section
4 references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.

5 4. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the
6 Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed
7 one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, be publicly
8 reprimanded which may include a requirement that the licensee complete relevant educational
9 courses, or have such other action taken in relation to discipline as the Board deems proper.

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

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

14 "(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or
15 abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter.

16 "(b) Gross negligence.

17 "(c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more
18 negligent acts or omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a
19 separate and distinct departure from the applicable standard of care shall constitute
20 repeated negligent acts.

21 "..."

22 6. Unprofessional conduct under section 2234 of the Code is conduct which breaches
23 the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or conduct which is unbecoming to a member
24 in good standing of the medical profession, and which demonstrates an unfitness to practice
25 medicine. (*Shea v. Board of Medical Examiners* (1978) 81 Cal.App.3d 564, 575.).

26 7. Section 2242 of the Code states:

27 "(a) Prescribing, dispensing, or furnishing dangerous drugs as defined in

28 ////

1 Section 4022 without an appropriate prior examination and a medical indication,
2 constitutes unprofessional conduct.

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

6 “(1) The licensee was a designated physician and surgeon or podiatrist serving
7 in the absence of the patient’s physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may
8 be, and if the drugs were prescribed, dispensed, or furnished only as necessary to
9 maintain the patient until the return of his or her practitioner, but in any case no
10 longer than 72 hours.

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

14 “(A) The practitioner had consulted with the registered nurse or licensed
15 vocational nurse who had reviewed the patient’s records.

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

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

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

25 8. Section 2266 of the Code states:

26 “The failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain adequate and accurate records
27 relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes unprofessional conduct.”

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1 9. Section 4022 of the Code states:

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

4 “(a) Any drug that bears the legend: ‘Caution: federal law prohibits dispensing
5 without prescription,’ ‘Rx only,’ or words of similar import.

6 “(b) Any device that bears the statement: ‘Caution: federal law restricts this device to
7 sale by or on the order of a __,’ ‘Rx only,’ or words of similar import, the blank to be
8 filled in with the designation of the practitioner licensed to use or order use of the device.

9 “(c) Any other drug or device that by federal or state law can be lawfully
10 dispensed only on prescription or furnished pursuant to Section 4006.”

11 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

12 **(Gross Negligence)**

13 10. Respondent has subjected his Physician’s and Surgeon’s Certificate No. G74763
14 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined in section 2234, subdivision (b),
15 of the Code, in that Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of his
16 family members, as more particularly alleged hereinafter:

17 11. Between in or around 2011, through in or around 2017, Respondent routinely
18 prescribed controlled substances to family members including, his wife, daughter, son, and father.
19 Significantly, Respondent did not have a physician-patient relationship with either of these family
20 members, and he did not perform and/or document performing an appropriate examination prior
21 to prescribing controlled substances to them. In addition, Respondent did not maintain any
22 medical records that documented a proper indication for the use of controlled substances by
23 family members; and he did not document any periodic monitoring of the use of controlled
24 substances that he had prescribed to them.

25 12. Respondent committed gross negligence in prescribing controlled substances to his
26 family members including, but not limited to, the following:

27 (a) Issuing multiple prescriptions for controlled substances to family
28 members without having a physician-patient relationship; and

1 (b) Issuing multiple prescriptions for controlled substances to family
2 members without documenting a proper indication and/or recording
3 periodic monitoring of the use of the prescriptions.

4 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

5 **(Repeated Negligent Acts)**

6 13. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
7 G74763 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined in section 2234,
8 subdivision (c), of the Code, in that Respondent committed repeated negligent acts in his care
9 and treatment of his family members, as more particularly alleged hereinafter:

10 14. Paragraph 11, above, is hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully
11 set forth herein.

12 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

13 **(Prescribing Dangerous Drugs Without an**

14 **Appropriate Prior Examination and/or Medical Indication)**

15 15. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
16 No. G74763 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined in sections 2242 and
17 4022, of the Code, in that Respondent prescribed, dispensed, or furnished dangerous drugs
18 without an appropriate prior examination and/or medical indication to family members including,
19 his wife, daughter, son, and father, as more particularly alleged in paragraph 11, above, which is
20 hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

21 **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

22 **(Failure to Maintain Adequate and Accurate Medical Records)**

23 16. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
24 G74763 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined in section 2266, of the
25 Code, in that Respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records in connection with
26 issuing prescriptions to family members, as more particularly alleged in paragraph 11, above,
27 which is hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

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1 **FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(Unprofessional Conduct)**

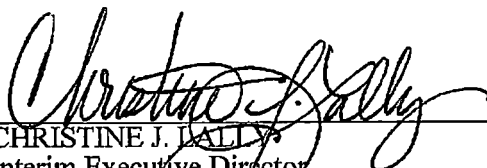
3 17. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
4 G74763 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234 of the Code, in that Respondent has
5 engaged in conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or
6 conduct which is unbecoming to a member in good standing of the medical profession, and
7 which demonstrates an unfitness to practice medicine, as more particularly alleged in paragraph
8 11, above, which is hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

9 **PRAYER**

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

- 12 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G74763, issued to
13 Respondent Ronald David Richmond, M.D.;
- 14 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Ronald David Richmond,
15 M.D.'s, authority to supervise physician assistants pursuant to section 3527 of the Code, and
16 advanced practice nurses;
- 17 3. Ordering Respondent Ronald David Richmond, M.D., to pay the Medical Board of
18 California the costs of probation monitoring, if placed on probation; and
- 19 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

20
21 DATED: November 15, 2019

22 
23 CHRISTINE J. DALLY
24 Interim Executive Director
25 Medical Board of California
26 Department of Consumer Affairs
27 State of California
28 *Complainant*

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