

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

In the Matter of the Accusation
Against:

Maureen Frances Martin, M.D.

Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. A 81341

Case No. 800-2018-041255

Respondent.

DECISION

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

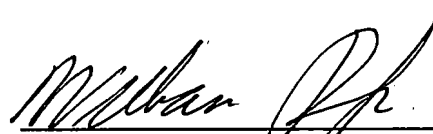
This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on

NOV 11 2020

IT IS SO ORDERED

NOV 04 2020

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



William Prasifka
Executive Director

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 STEVE DIEHL
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 MICHAEL C. BRUMMEL
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 236116
California Department of Justice
5 2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 5090
Fresno, CA 93721
6 Telephone: (559) 705-2307
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7 E-mail: Michael.Brummel@doj.ca.gov
Attorneys for Complainant
8

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

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:
13 **MAUREEN FRANCES MARTIN, M.D.**
14 **6818 Regency Crest Avenue**
Las Vegas, NV 8948
15 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.**
16 **A 81341**
17 Respondent.
18

Case No. 800-2018-041255
**STIPULATED SURRENDER OF
LICENSE AND ORDER**

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

21 **PARTIES**

22 1. William Prasifka (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of
23 California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this
24 matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Michael C. Brummel,
25 Deputy Attorney General.

26 2. MAUREEN FRANCES MARTIN, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this
27 proceeding by attorney Shelley A. Carder, Esq., whose address is: 13055 Walking Path Place, San
28 Diego, CA 92130.

1 3. On or about December 6, 2002, the Board issued Physician’s and Surgeon’s
2 Certificate No. A 81341 to MAUREEN FRANCES MARTIN, M.D. (Respondent). The
3 Physician’s and Surgeon’s Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the
4 charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2018-041255 and will expire on February 29, 2020,
5 unless renewed.

6 **JURISDICTION**

7 4. Accusation No. 800-2018-041255 was filed before the Board, and is currently
8 pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were
9 properly served on Respondent on July 16, 2020. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense
10 contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2018-041255 is attached as Exhibit A
11 and incorporated by reference.

12 **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

13 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the
14 charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2018-041255. Respondent also has carefully read,
15 fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License
16 and Order.

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

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

25 **CULPABILITY**

26 8. Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2018-
27 041255, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon her Physician’s and
28 Surgeon’s Certificate.

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ACCEPTANCE

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


DATED: _____
MAUREEN FRANCES MARTIN, M.D.
Respondent

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

DATED: _____
SHELLEY CARDER, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

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

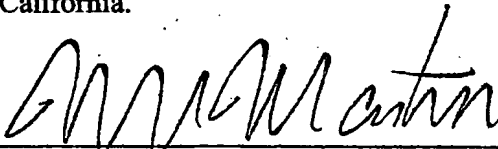
DATED: September 21, 2020
Respectfully submitted,
XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
STEVE DIEHL
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

MICHAEL C. BRUMMEL
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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ACCEPTANCE

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

DATED: 9/18/2020 
MAUREEN FRANCES MARTIN, M.D.
Respondent

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

DATED: 2020-09-18 
SHELLEY CARDER, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

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

DATED: _____ Respectfully submitted,
XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
STEVE DIEHL
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

MICHAEL C. BRUMMEL
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2018-041255

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 STEVE DIEHL
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 MICHAEL C. BRUMMEL
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 236116
California Department of Justice
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Fresno, CA 93721
6 Telephone: (559) 705-2307
Facsimile: (559) 445-5106
7 E-mail: Michael.Brummel@doj.ca.gov
Attorneys for Complainant

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

13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2018-041255

14 **Maureen Frances Martin, M.D.**
15 **6818 Regency Crest Avenue**
Las Vegas, NV 89148

A C C U S A T I O N

16 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
17 **No. A 81341,**

18 Respondent.
19
20

21 **PARTIES**

22 1. William Prasifka (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity
23 as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs
24 (Board).

25 2. On or about December 6, 2002, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
26 Certificate No. A 81341 to Maureen Frances Martin, 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 expired on February 29, 2020.

1 JURISDICTION

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

5 4. Section 2227 of the Code states:

6 (a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of
7 the Medical Quality Hearing Panel as designated in Section 11371 of the Government
8 Code, or whose default has been entered, and who is found guilty, or who has entered
9 into a stipulation for disciplinary action with the board, may, in accordance with the
10 provisions of this chapter:

11 (1) Have his or her license revoked upon order of the board.

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

14 (3) Be placed on probation and be required to pay the costs of probation
15 monitoring upon order of the board.

16 (4) Be publicly reprimanded by the board. The public reprimand may include a
17 requirement that the licensee complete relevant educational courses approved by the
18 board.

19 (5) Have any other action taken in relation to discipline as part of an order of
20 probation, as the board or an administrative law judge may deem proper.

21 (b) Any matter heard pursuant to subdivision (a), except for warning letters,
22 medical review or advisory conferences, professional competency examinations,
23 continuing education activities, and cost reimbursement associated therewith that are
24 agreed to with the board and successfully completed by the licensee, or other matters
25 made confidential or privileged by existing law, is deemed public, and shall be made
26 available to the public by the board pursuant to Section 803.1.

27 5. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

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

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

(b) Gross negligence.

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

(1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically

1 appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single
negligent act.

2 (2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or
3 omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but
4 not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the
licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure
constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.

5 (d) Incompetence.

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

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

10 (g) The failure by a certificate holder, in the absence of good cause, to attend
and participate in an interview by the board. This subdivision shall only apply to a
11 certificate holder who is the subject of an investigation by the board.

12 6. Section 2238 of the Code states:

A violation of any federal statute or federal regulation or any of the statutes or
13 regulations of this state regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances
constitutes unprofessional conduct.

14 7. Section 2239 of the Code states:

15 (a) The use or prescribing for or administering to himself or herself, of any
16 controlled substance; or the use of any of the dangerous drugs specified in Section
4022, or of alcoholic beverages, to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous
17 or injurious to the licensee, or to any other person or to the public, or to the extent that
such use impairs the ability of the licensee to practice medicine safely or more than
18 one misdemeanor or any felony involving the use, consumption, or
self-administration of any of the substances referred to in this section, or any
19 combination thereof, constitutes unprofessional conduct. The record of the
conviction is conclusive evidence of such unprofessional conduct.

20 (b) A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo
21 contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section. The
Medical Board may order discipline of the licensee in accordance with Section 2227
22 or the Medical Board may order the denial of the license when the time for appeal has
elapsed or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal or when an order
23 granting probation is made suspending imposition of sentence, irrespective of a
subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing
24 such person to withdraw his or her plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or
setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, complaint,
25 information, or indictment.

26 8. Health and Safety Code section 11173 states:

27 (a) No person shall obtain or attempt to obtain controlled substances, or procure or
28 attempt to procure the administration of or prescription for controlled substances, (1) by

1 fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or subterfuge; or (2) by the concealment of a material
2 fact.

3 (b) No person shall make a false statement in any prescription, order, report, or
4 record, required by this division.

5 (c) No person shall, for the purpose of obtaining controlled substances, falsely
6 assume the title of, or represent himself to be, a manufacturer, wholesaler, pharmacist,
7 physician, dentist, veterinarian, registered nurse, physician's assistant, or other authorized
8 person.

9 (d) No person shall affix any false or forged label to a package or receptacle
10 containing controlled substances.

11 9. Section 4324 of the Code states:

12 (a) Every person who signs the name of another, or of a fictitious person, or falsely
13 makes, alters, forges, utters, publishes, passes, or attempts to pass, as genuine, any
14 prescription for any drugs is guilty of forgery and upon conviction thereof shall be
15 punished by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code,
16 or by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year.

17 (b) Every person who has in his or her possession any drugs secured by a forged
18 prescription shall be punished by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section
19 1170 of the Penal Code, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year.

20
21 **PERTINENT DRUGS AND DEFINITIONS**

22 10. Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System 2.0 (CURES) is a
23 database of Schedule II, III, and IV controlled substance prescriptions dispensed in California
24 serving the public health, regulatory and oversight agencies and law enforcement. CURES 2.0 is
25 committed to the reduction of prescription drug abuse and diversion without affecting legitimate
26 medical practice or patient care.

27 11. Hydrocodone APAP (Vicodin®, Lortab® and Norco®) is a hydrocodone
28 combination of hydrocodone bitartrate and acetaminophen which was formerly a Schedule III
controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11056, subdivision (e), and a
dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022. On August 22, 2014,
the DEA published a final rule rescheduling hydrocodone combination products (HCPs) to
schedule II of the Controlled Substances Act, which became effective October 6, 2014. Schedule
II controlled substances are substances that have a currently accepted medical use in the United
States, but also have a high potential for abuse, and the abuse of which may lead to severe

1 psychological or physical dependence. When properly prescribed and indicated, it is used for the
2 treatment of moderate to severe pain. In addition to the potential for psychological and physical
3 dependence there is also the risk of acute liver failure which has resulted in a black box warning
4 being issued by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA black box warning provides
5 that "Acetaminophen has been associated with cases of acute liver failure, at times resulting in
6 liver transplant and death. Most of the cases of liver injury are associated with use of the
7 acetaminophen at doses that exceed 4000 milligrams per day, and often involve more than one
8 acetaminophen containing product."

9 12. Oxycodone (Oxaydo®, OxyCONTIN®, Oxyfast®, Roxicodone®, Xtampza ER®) is
10 a white odorless crystalline powder derived from an opium alkaloid. It is a pure agonist opioid
11 whose principal therapeutic action is analgesia. Other therapeutic effects of oxycodone include
12 anxiolysis, euphoria, and feelings of relaxation. Oxycodone is a Schedule II controlled substance
13 and narcotic as defined by section 11055, subdivision (b)(1) of the Health and Safety Code, a
14 Schedule II controlled substance as defined by Section 1308.12 (b)(1) of Title 21 of the code of
15 Federal Regulations, and a dangerous drug as defined in Business and Professions Code section
16 4022. When properly prescribed and indicated, oxycodone is used for the management of pain
17 severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment for which alternative
18 treatment options are inadequate. Respiratory depression is the chief hazard from all opioid
19 agonist preparations. The risk of respiratory depression and overdose is increased with the
20 concomitant use of benzodiazepines or when prescribed to patients with pre-existing respiratory
21 depression. Oxycodone should be used with caution and started in a reduced dosage (1/3 to 1/2
22 of the usual dosage) in patients who are concurrently receiving other central nervous system
23 depressants including sedatives or hypnotics, general anesthetics, phenothiazines, other
24 tranquilizers, and alcohol. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has identified
25 oxycodone, as a drug of abuse. (Drugs of Abuse, A DEA Resource Guide (2011 Edition), at p.
26 41.)

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1 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(Dishonest or Corrupt Acts)**

3 13. Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 81341 is subject to
4 disciplinary action under section 2227, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (e), in that she
5 committed an act(s) involving dishonesty or corruption which is substantially related to the
6 qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon. The circumstances are as follows:

7 14. At all times relevant to this Accusation, Respondent worked as the Chief of Surgery
8 at Kern Medical Center¹ located in Bakersfield, California.

9 15. On or about November 22, 2017, Respondent underwent left total knee replacement
10 surgery at KMC. Respondent was discharged from KMC the following day, with a prescription
11 from her surgeon's office for #84 Oxycodone HCL – Acetaminophen tablets.

12 16. On or about December 16, 2017, Respondent presented a forged prescription to a
13 retail pharmacy for #100 Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5/325mg. Respondent checked the box
14 corresponding to her surgeon and his DEA number, forged his signature, and dated the
15 prescription December 16, 2017. The pharmacy filled the prescription presented by Respondent
16 without incident.

17 17. On or about January 4, 2018, Respondent returned to work. When she arrived at the
18 office, she told her medical assistant (MA) that she had just fallen in the KMC parking lot.
19 Respondent wrote a prescription to herself for controlled substances, but forged the prescription
20 so that it appeared to have been prescribed by her surgeon. Respondent checked the box
21 corresponding to her surgeon and his DEA number, forged his signature, and dated the
22 prescription January 3, 2018. The prescription was for #100 Percocet 10/325. Respondent
23 provided the prescription to her MA, and asked her to have the prescription filled at the KMC
24 pharmacy. Respondent's MA dropped the prescription off, planning to return to pick up the pills
25 shortly thereafter.

26 18. The KMC pharmacy noticed that the signature on Respondent's purported
27 prescription did not match the signature that they had on file for her surgeon. Pharmacy staff

28 ¹ Hereinafter referred to as "KMC."

1 attempted to contact Respondent's surgeon by phone three times, before being told that he was
2 out of the office on vacation. The pharmacy staff contacted Respondent's MA, and told her that
3 they would not be able to fill the prescription. The MA told them that she would collect the
4 prescription, and have another provider prescribe to Respondent.

5 19. The MA returned to Respondent's office, complaining to coworkers that the KMC
6 pharmacy refused to fill Respondent's forged prescription, although the MA believed the
7 prescription was genuine. Another physician, upon hearing of Respondent's difficulty with the
8 pharmacy, provided Respondent with a prescription for #30 Percocet 5/325. Respondent didn't
9 tell the MA that the prescription was forged, and allowed the MA to take the second prescription
10 from a new physician to the KMC pharmacy. In the afternoon, the MA retrieved the prescription
11 for controlled substances, and Respondent directed her to place it on Respondent's desk.

12 20. The KMC pharmacy staff reviewed Respondent's CURES report, and identified
13 another prescription that Respondent had filled for #100 Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5/325mg, at a
14 retail pharmacy on December 16, 2017. They requested a copy of the prescription from the retail
15 pharmacy, and upon comparison, noticed that it was also a forgery, similar to the one presented
16 by Respondent at their pharmacy.

17 21. On or about January 7, 2018, the KMC pharmacy staff notified KMC management
18 about the two forged prescriptions that Respondent had filled for herself at the KMC pharmacy,
19 and at a retail pharmacy.

20 22. On or about January 8, 2018, KMC management met with Respondent to discuss the
21 allegations that she forged two prescriptions for controlled substances. Respondent admitted that
22 she wrote the prescriptions, and that she signed her surgeon's name on the prescriptions.
23 Respondent explained that she was in pain, knew her surgeon was out of town, and wanted to
24 expedite the prescriptions.

25 23. On or about February 5, 2018, Respondent resigned her employment at KMC.
26 Following her resignation, Respondent met with her surgeon in person at her home on an
27 unknown date. Respondent told her surgeon that the forged prescriptions were for her personal
28 use, and that the reason was that she needed the drugs, but didn't want to bother him.

1 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(Violation of Statutes Regulating Controlled Substances)**

3 24. Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 81341 is subject to
4 disciplinary action under section 2227, as defined by section 2238, in that she violated a federal
5 statute or government regulation, or regulation of the State of California regulating dangerous
6 drugs or controlled substances, which constitutes unprofessional conduct, as more particularly
7 alleged in paragraphs 15 through 23, which are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as
8 if fully set forth herein.

9 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

10 **(Self-Administration and/or Dangerous Use of Controlled Substances)**

11 25. Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 81341 is subject to
12 disciplinary action under section 2227, as defined by section 2239, in that she used or prescribed
13 or administered to herself a controlled substance, to the extent or in such a manner as to be
14 dangerous or injurious to the licensee, or to any other person or to the public, which constitutes
15 unprofessional conduct, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 15 through 23, which are
16 hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

17 **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

18 **(Violation of the Medical Practice Act)**

19 26. Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 81341 is subject to
20 disciplinary action under section 2227, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (a), in that she
21 violated or attempted to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting the violation of, or
22 conspiring to violate any provision of the Medical Practice Act, as more particularly alleged in
23 paragraphs 15 through 23, which are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set
24 forth herein.

25 27. Respondent obtained or attempted to obtain controlled substances by fraud, deceit,
26 misrepresentation, subterfuge, or the concealment of a material fact, in violation of Health and
27 Safety Code section 11173.

1 28. Respondent made a false statement in any prescription, order, report or record, in
2 violation of Health and Safety Code section 11173.

3 29. Respondent falsely assumed the title of, or represented herself to be another
4 physician, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11173.

5 30. Respondent signed the name of another, or falsely made, altered, forged, uttered,
6 published, passed, or attempted to pass, as genuine, a prescription for drugs, in violation of
7 Section 4324.

8 31. Respondent committed an act involving dishonesty or corruption that was
9 substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon, in
10 violation of Section 2234, subdivision (e).

11 32. Respondent violated a federal statute, or federal regulation, or statute or regulation of
12 this state regulating drugs or controlled substances, in violation of Section 2238.

13 33. Respondent used or prescribed for or administered to herself a controlled substance,
14 to such an extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to the licensee, or to any
15 person or to the public, in violation of Section 2239.

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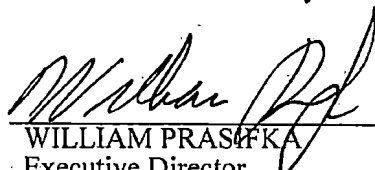
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PRAYER

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

1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 81341, issued to Maureen Frances Martin, M.D.;
2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Maureen Frances Martin, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
3. Ordering Maureen Frances Martin, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the costs of probation monitoring; and
4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: JUL 16 2020



WILLIAM PRASIFKA
Executive Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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