

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

**In the Matter of the Accusation
Against:**

Sharon Sookdeo Drost, M.D.

**Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. A 85903**

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2020-064337

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 January 7, 2022.

IT IS SO ORDERED December 9, 2021.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



**Laurie Rose Lubiano, J.D., Chair
Panel A**

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 JANE ZACK SIMON
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 LAWRENCE MERCER
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 111898
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000
5 San Francisco, CA 94102-7004
Telephone: (415) 510-3488
6 Facsimile: (415) 703-5480
Attorneys for Complainant
7

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

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

13 **SHARON SOOKDEO DROST, M.D.**
14 **2211 Via Maderos**
Los Altos, CA 94024-7113

15 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A**
16 **85903**

17 Respondent.

Case No. 800-2020-064337

OAH No. 2021070445

STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER

18
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 Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Lawrence Mercer, Deputy
25 Attorney General.

26 2. Respondent Sharon Sookdeo Drost, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this
27 proceeding by attorney Jonathan C. Turner, Esq., whose address is: 3620 American River Drive,
28 Suite 120, Sacramento, CA 95864

1 3. On or about February 6, 2004, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
2 No. A 85903 to Sharon Sookdeo Drost, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's
3 Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation
4 No. 800-2020-064337, and will expire on June 30, 2023, unless renewed. Said certificate is
5 currently in Retired status and no practice is permitted.

6 **JURISDICTION**

7 4. Accusation No. 800-2020-064337 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 March 19, 2021. Respondent timely filed her Notice of
10 Defense contesting the Accusation.

11 5. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2020-064337 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated
12 herein by reference.

13 **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

14 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the
15 charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2020-064337. Respondent has also carefully read,
16 fully discussed with her counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and
17 Disciplinary Order.

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

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

26 **CULPABILITY**

27 9. Respondent admits that she was arrested on the charges and convicted of the Vehicle
28 Code violation alleged in Accusation No. 800-2020-064337.

1 to Vehicle Code § 23103.5, the District Attorney filed a statement of satisfaction and
2 agreed to entry of a *nolo contendere* plea to violation of Vehicle Code § 23103, which
3 constitutes conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, duties and
4 functions of a physician and surgeon.

5 ACCEPTANCE

6 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully
7 discussed it with my attorney, Jonathan C. Turner, Esq.. I understand the stipulation and the
8 effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. By entering into this stipulation, I
9 fully understand that, upon formal acceptance by the Board, I shall receive this Public Reprimand
10 from the Board. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily,
11 knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical
12 Board of California.

13 DATED: 10/21/2021 Sharon Sookdeo Drost
14 SHARON SOOKDEO DROST, M.D.
Respondent

15 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Sharon Sookdeo Drost, M.D. the terms
16 and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary
17 Order. I approve its form and content.

18 DATED: 10/21/2021 Jw C. Turner
19 JONATHAN C. TURNER, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

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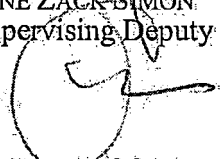
ENDORSEMENT

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

DATED: 10/27/2021

Respectfully submitted,

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
JANE ZACK-SIMON
Supervising Deputy Attorney General



LAWRENCE MERCER
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2020-064337

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 JANE ZACK SIMON
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 LAWRENCE MERCER
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 111898
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8 **BEFORE THE**
9 **MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2020-064337

13 **Sharon Sookdeo Drost, M.D.**

2211 Via Maderos
14 Los Altos, CA 94024-7113

15 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
No. A 85903,

16 Respondent.
17

A C C U S A T I O N

18
19 **PARTIES**

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

23 2. On or about February 6, 2004, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
24 Certificate Number A 85903 to Sharon Sookdeo Drost, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and
25 Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought
26 herein and will expire on June 30, 2021, unless renewed.

27 ///

28

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 2234 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

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

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

11 5. Section 2236 of the Code states, in pertinent parts:

12 (a) The conviction of any offense substantially related to the qualifications,
13 functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon constitutes unprofessional conduct
14 within the meaning of this chapter [Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act]. The record
15 of conviction shall be conclusive evidence only of the fact that the conviction
16 occurred.

17 . . . (d) A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction after a plea of nolo
18 contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section and
19 Section 2236.1. The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that
20 the conviction occurred.

21 6. Section 2239 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

22 (a) The use or prescribing for or administering to himself or herself, of any
23 controlled substance; or the use of any of the dangerous drugs specified in Section
24 4022, or of alcoholic beverages, to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous
25 or injurious to the licensee, or to any other person or to the public, or to the extent that
26 such use impairs the ability of the licensee to practice medicine safely or more than
27 one misdemeanor or any felony involving the use, consumption, or
28 self-administration of any of the substances referred to in this section, or any
combination thereof, constitutes unprofessional conduct. The record of the
conviction is conclusive evidence of such unprofessional conduct.

22 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

23 **(Excessive Use of Drugs/Alcohol)**

24 7. Respondent Sharon Sookdeo Drost, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under
25 sections 2234 and/or 2234(a) and/or 2239 in that Respondent consumed drugs and/or alcohol in
26 such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to the licensee, other persons and the public. The
27 circumstances are as follows:
28

1 8. On January 17, 2020, Respondent was involved in a single auto collision in Los
2 Altos, California. After leaving home, Respondent's vehicle crossed over into the opposite lane
3 and collided with a neighbor's retaining wall, causing damage to the retaining wall and dislodging
4 her vehicle's fender liner and a portion of its front-end spoiler. Respondent left the scene and
5 continued traveling to a local supermarket, where she collided with a disabled sign and signpost
6 at the front of the parking spot. Supermarket employees observed her, noticed the smell of alcohol
7 and notified the police.

8 9. When the responding officer arrived at the scene, he observed objective signs of
9 intoxication. Respondent admitted to ingesting temazepam¹ and alcohol in the hours prior to
10 operating a motor vehicle. She was unable to perform field sobriety tests and her blood alcohol
11 was measured at .19 and .20 at the scene. Respondent provided a blood sample, which
12 subsequently tested positive for alcohol (.239) as well as temazepam and lorazepam (a
13 benzodiazepine indicated for the treatment of anxiety).

14 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

15 **(Criminal Conviction)**

16 10. Respondent Sharon Sookdeo Drost, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under
17 sections 2234 and/or 2234(a) and/or 2236 in that she was convicted of a crime substantially
18 related to the qualifications, functions and duties of a physician and surgeon. The circumstances
19 are as follows:

20 11. The allegations of the First Cause for Discipline are incorporated herein by reference.

21 12. Respondent was charged with driving under the influence (DUI), but pursuant to
22 Vehicle Code § 23103.5, the District Attorney filed a statement of satisfaction that Respondent
23 enter a plea of *nolo contendere* to violation of Vehicle Code § 23103(a) (reckless driving) and the
24 other charges were dismissed.

25

26 ¹ Temazepam, which is marketed under the trade name Restoril, is a benzodiazepine
27 hypnotic agent and Schedule IV controlled substance. Temazepam is indicated for the short-term
28 treatment of insomnia and should not be combined with alcohol. Temazepam may cause serious
side effects, such as engaging in activities -- including driving -- while still in a sleeping state and
alcohol potentially increases the risk and severity of these side effects.

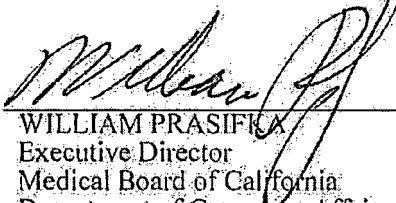
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PRAYER

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 85903, issued to Sharon Sookdeo Drost, M.D.;
2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Sharon Sookdeo Drost, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
3. Ordering Sharon Sookdeo Drost, 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: MAR 19 2021



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

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