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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Elizabeth Ming-Sum Kwong, M.D. Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 85547 Respondent.	Case No. 800-2024-109787

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 September 9, 2025.

IT IS SO ORDERED September 2, 2025.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Reji Varghese, Executive Director

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: **ELIZABETH MING-SUM KWONG, M.D.** **904 Calle Canta** **Glendale, CA 91208** **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 85547,** Respondent.	Case No. 800-2024-109787 OAH No. 2025080387 **STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND ORDER**

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

PARTIES

1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Rebecca L. Smith, Deputy Attorney General.

2. Elizabeth Ming-Sum Kwong, M.D. (Respondent) is representing herself in this proceeding and has chosen not to exercise her right to be represented by counsel.

3. On or about December 31, 2003, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 85547 to Respondent. That license was in full force and effect at all times

relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2024-109787 and expired on May 31, 2025.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 800-2024-109787 was filed before the Board and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on July 29, 2025. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2024-109787 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

5. Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2024-109787. Respondent also has carefully read, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.

6. Respondent is fully aware of her 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 her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her 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 admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation No. 800-2024-109787, agrees that cause exists for discipline and hereby surrenders her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 85547 for the Board's formal acceptance.

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

CONTINGENCY

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

11. Respondent understands that, by signing this stipulation, she enables the Executive Director of the Board to issue an order, on behalf of the Board, accepting the surrender of her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 85547 without further notice to, or opportunity to be heard by, Respondent.

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

13. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, except for this paragraph, which shall remain in full force and effect. Respondent fully understands and agrees that in deciding whether or not to approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, the Executive Director and/or the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or the Attorney General's Office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify the Executive Director, the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future participation in this or any other matter affecting or involving respondent. In the event that the Executive Director on behalf of the Board does not, in his discretion, approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, with the exception of this paragraph, it shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever, and shall not be relied

upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party hereto. Respondent further agrees that should this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order be rejected for any reason by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, Respondent will assert no claim that the Executive Director, the Board, or any member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review, discussion and/or consideration of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order or of any matter or matters related hereto.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

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

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

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

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 85547, issued to Respondent ELIZABETH MING-SUM KWONG, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board.

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

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

4. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2024-109787 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

5. Respondent shall pay the agency its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of $21,643.50 (Twenty-One Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Three Dollars and Fifty Cents) prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license.

6. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations, and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked or surrendered license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2024-109787 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. 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: 8/30/2025

Elizabeth Kwong

ELIZABETH MING-SUM KWONG, M.D.
Respondent

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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 2, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
JUDITH T. ALVARADO
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

REBECCA L. SMITH
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2024-109787

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: **ELIZABETH MING-SUM KWONG, M.D.** **904 Calle Canta** **Glendale, CA 91208** **Physician's and surgeon's Certificate No. A 85547,** Respondent.	Case No. 800-2024-109787 OAH No. **ACCUSATION**

PARTIES

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

2. On or about December 31, 2003, the Medical Board issued Physician's and surgeon's Certificate Number A 85547 to Elizabeth Ming-Sum Kwong, M.D. (Respondent). That license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and expired on May 31, 2025.

3. On July 11, 2025, an Interim Suspension Order was issued by the Office of Administrative Hearings. Pursuant to that Order, Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 85547 is suspended.

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JURISDICTION

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

5. Section 2004 of the Code states:

The board shall have the responsibility for the following:

(a) The enforcement of the disciplinary and criminal provisions of the Medical Practice Act.

(b) The administration and hearing of disciplinary actions.

(c) Carrying out disciplinary actions appropriate to findings made by a panel or an administrative law judge.

(d) Suspending, revoking, or otherwise limiting certificates after the conclusion of disciplinary actions.

(e) Reviewing the quality of medical practice carried out by physician and surgeon certificate holders under the jurisdiction of the board.

(f) Approving undergraduate and graduate medical education programs.

(g) Approving clinical clerkship and special programs and hospitals for the programs in subdivision (f).

(h) Issuing licenses and certificates under the board's jurisdiction.

(i) Administering the board's continuing medical education program.

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 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.

7. Section 118 of the Code states:

(a) The withdrawal of an application for a license after it has been filed with a board in the department shall not, unless the board has consented in writing to such withdrawal, deprive the board of its authority to institute or continue a proceeding against the applicant for the denial of the license upon any ground provided by law or to enter an order denying the license upon any such ground.

(b) The suspension, expiration, or forfeiture by operation of law of a license issued by a board in the department, or its suspension, forfeiture, or cancellation by order of the board or by order of a court of law, or its surrender without the written consent of the board, shall not, during any period in which it may be renewed, restored, reissued, or reinstated, deprive the board of its authority to institute or continue a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee upon any ground provided by law or to enter an order suspending or revoking the license or otherwise taking disciplinary action against the licensee on any such ground.

(c) As used in this section, "board" includes an individual who is authorized by any provision of this code to issue, suspend, or revoke a license, and "license" includes "certificate," "registration," and "permit."

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

8. Section 820 of the Code states:

Whenever it appears that any person holding a license, certificate or permit under this division or under any initiative act referred to in this division may be unable to practice his or her profession safely because the licentiate's ability to practice is impaired due to mental illness, or physical illness affecting competency, the licensing agency may order the licentiate to be examined by one or more physicians and surgeons or psychologists designated by the agency. The report of the examiners shall be made available to the licentiate and may be received as direct evidence in proceedings conducted pursuant to Section 822.

9. Section 822 of the Code states:

If a licensing agency determines that its licentiate's ability to practice his or her profession safely is impaired because the licentiate is mentally ill, or physically ill affecting competency, the licensing agency may take action by any one of the following methods:

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

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

(c) Placing the licentiate on probation.

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

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

10. Section 824 of the Code states:

The licensing agency may proceed against a licentiate under either Section 820, or 822, or under both sections.

COST RECOVERY

11. Section 125.3 of the Code states:

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law, in any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before any board within the department or before the Osteopathic Medical Board, upon request of the entity bringing the proceeding, the administrative law judge may direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

(b) In the case of a disciplined licensee that is a corporation or a partnership, the order may be made against the licensed corporate entity or licensed partnership.

(c) A certified copy of the actual costs, or a good faith estimate of costs where actual costs are not available, signed by the entity bringing the proceeding or its designated representative shall be prima facie evidence of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case. The costs shall include the amount of investigative and enforcement costs up to the date of the hearing, including, but not limited to, charges imposed by the Attorney General.

(d) The administrative law judge shall make a proposed finding of the amount of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case when requested pursuant to subdivision (a). The finding of the administrative law judge with regard to costs shall not be reviewable by the board to increase the cost award. The board may reduce or eliminate the cost award, or remand to the administrative law judge if the proposed decision fails to make a finding on costs requested pursuant to subdivision (a).

(e) If an order for recovery of costs is made and timely payment is not made as directed in the board's decision, the board may enforce the order for repayment in any appropriate court. This right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights the board may have as to any licensee to pay costs.

(f) In any action for 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.

(g) (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 that one-year period for the unpaid costs.

(h) All costs recovered under this section shall be considered a reimbursement for costs incurred and shall be deposited in the fund of the board recovering the costs to be available upon appropriation by the Legislature.

(i) Nothing in this section shall preclude a board from including the recovery of the costs of investigation and enforcement of a case in any stipulated settlement.

(j) This section does not apply to any board if a specific statutory provision in that board's licensing act provides for recovery of costs in an administrative disciplinary proceeding.

CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Inability to Safely Practice Medicine)

12. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to section 822 of the Code in that she cannot safely practice medicine without practice restrictions. The circumstances are as follows:

13. On June 27, 2024, Glendale Police Officers responded to an assault call at Respondent's residence, where she lived with her elderly parents. When the officers arrived at the residence, they found Respondent's father, then 85 years old, in the living room bleeding from the bridge of his nose. There were multiple glass bottles shattered on the floor and hot sauce on the walls of the kitchen. Respondent's father stated that Respondent had thrown a glass ball from a chandelier which hit him in the nose after an argument. Respondent's father stated that Respondent had thrown clothes and glass outside in the street and when Respondent's father asked Respondent why she was doing this, she became angry, threw bottles around the house, and threw glass balls off a chandelier at him. The officers went upstairs to speak with Respondent, who was in the shower and refusing to come out. Respondent yelled at the officers and told them that they were harassing her. When Respondent finally exited the bathroom, she was handcuffed and placed in the officers' patrol car. The officers were unable to obtain a statement from Respondent due to her yelling. Respondent was arrested and taken to Glendale City Jail. An emergency restraining order was issued and served on Respondent.

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14. On July 1, 2024, in the matter of *The People of the State of California v. Elizabeth Minsum Kwong*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24GDCM01126-01, Respondent was charged with battery of an elder person/dependent adult in violation of Penal Code section 243.25, a misdemeanor. On July 3, 2024, at the time of Respondent's arraignment, Respondent's counsel requested the proceedings be suspended for an evaluation of Respondent's mental competence. On July 17, 2024, Respondent was found not mentally competent to stand trial. On August 9, 2024, Respondent was found eligible to undergo mental health diversion. Respondent was ordered to comply with the mental health treatment plan, including taking all medication prescribed by a doctor. On August 19, 2024, the Court was informed by the Department of Health Services that Respondent refused all mental health services. At that time, the Court terminated mental health diversion and dismissed the criminal proceeding.

15. On April 9, 2025, Respondent underwent a mental examination by Board appointed psychiatrist, E.S., M.D. to evaluate Respondent's ability to safely practice medicine.

16. At the time of Dr. E.S.'s evaluation, Respondent stated that she was unemployed and living in a residential facility operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Enriched Residential Services (ERS).[1]

17. On the day Respondent was arrested, she stated that a "misunderstanding" occurred. Respondent described that while cleaning the kitchen, she threw a bottle of vinegar into the trash, but she missed, and the bottle shattered on the floor. At that time, Respondent's father tried to enter the kitchen, and Respondent felt concerned that he would injure himself on the glass. In an attempt to get her father's attention, Respondent picked up what she described as a glass ball of about two inches in diameter, similar to a paperweight, and threw it at her father. She believed that throwing the glass ball was faster than calling out to him. Respondent stated that the "misunderstanding" was that she was aggressive, angry, and violent, when she was simply trying

[1] ERS is a Los Angeles County Mental Health program designed to provide comprehensive mental health and rehabilitative services in a non-institutional residential setting for adults, who would be at risk of hospitalization, re-hospitalization or other institutional placement if they were not in the ERS program. The ERS program accommodates persons discharged from a locked subacute, acute psychiatric inpatient units, jails, or intensive residential facilities at risk of needing higher level of care. On-site mental health and supportive services are provided at the ERS facilities with the goal to stabilize, prepare, and transition individuals to a stable independent community living environment.

to get her father's attention.

18. Following the arrest, Respondent was taken to G. A. Hospital for psychiatric evaluation and remained hospitalized in the psychiatric unit for two months. Thereafter, Respondent was discharged to a crisis residential treatment center. She was then re-hospitalized for another two-week stabilization period after putting her hand through a glass cabinet door.

19. Respondent stated that in early 2025, she was discharged to the ERS facility where she has attended group therapy and individual therapy. She has also received various psychiatric support services, and psychiatric medication treatment with a psychiatrist.

20. With respect to the mental status examination, Respondent was assessed as having very poor judgment with impaired overall reality testing and adaptation to reality. Respondent's overall level of psychological insight was assessed as poor.

21. Dr. E.S.'s diagnostic impression of Respondent is unspecified psychotic disorder versus mood disorder with psychotic features, likely schizoaffective disorder, bipolar type.

22. Schizoaffective disorder and bipolar disorder with psychotic features are severe psychiatric illnesses associated with symptoms of mood disturbance, behavioral disturbance, thought disorder, and impairments in reality testing. A psychotic disorder affects impulse control, judgment, cognition, reality testing, rational thinking, interpersonal relatedness, and overall behavioral organization.

23. Respondent was found to have an admitted history of intermittent noncompliance with psychiatric medications. Respondent has recently been symptomatic with associated psychosis and violent behavioral disturbances. Her arrest was related to behavioral symptoms occurring during a period of noncompliance with treatment. Respondent's severe behavioral disturbances required a psychiatric hospitalization. She is currently undergoing intensive behavioral rehabilitation therapies, along with psychiatric treatment with mood stabilization and antipsychotic pharmacotherapy at a supervised residential psychiatric treatment facility.

24. Respondent's severe and persistent mental illness is incompatible with the safe practice of medicine. Respondent's history indicates a chronic vulnerability to severe behavioral disturbance including violent emotional outbursts, chronic impairments in reality testing, and

paranoid misinterpretations of events. There is an excessive ongoing risk of relapse of symptoms and functional deterioration that cannot be mitigated even with optimal pharmacotherapy and maximal psychiatric support and supervision.

25. Respondent is unable to safely practice medicine.

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 85547, issued to Respondent Elizabeth Ming-Sum Kwong, M.D.;

2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Elizabeth Ming-Sum Kwong, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

3. Ordering Respondent Elizabeth Ming-Sum Kwong, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring; and

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

DATED: JUL 29 2025

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

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