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

In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against:	
Tammy Theresa Stokes, L.M.	Case No. 800-2016-028082
Midwife Certificate No. LM 384	
Respondent.	

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 IT IS SO ORDERED AUG 2 5 2020

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Kristina D. Lawson, J.D., Chair

Panel B

1 2 3 4 5 6 7	XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California MATTHEW M. DAVIS Supervising Deputy Attorney General LEANNA E. SHIELDS Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 239872 600 West Broadway, Suite 1800 San Diego, CA 92101 P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, CA 92186-5266 Telephone: (619) 738-9401 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061		
8	Attorneys for Complainant		
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10 11 12	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
13	In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation	Case No. 800-2016-028082	
14	Against:	OAH No. 2019120809	
15	TAMMY THERESA STOKES, L.M.	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND	
16	35385 Beech Avenue Yucaipa, CA 92399-3923	DISCIPLINARY ORDER	
17	Midwife Certificate No. LM 384,		
18	Respondent.		
19			
20	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGR	EED by and between the parties to the above-	
21	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:		
22	PARTIES		
23	1. Christine J. Lally (Complainant) is the Interim Executive Director of the Medical		
24	Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board). She brought this action solely in		
25	her official capacity and is represented in this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the		
26	State of California, by LeAnna E. Shields, Deputy Attorney General.		
27		L.M. (Respondent) is represented in this	
28	proceeding by attorney Peter R. Osinoff, Esq., with	h Bonne, Bridges, Mueller, O'Keefe & Nichols	
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whose address is 355 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1750, Los Angeles, CA 90071, phone number: (213) 480-1900.

3. On or about December 27, 2013, the Board issued Midwife Certificate No. LM 384 to Respondent. The Midwife Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2016-028082, and will expire on August 31, 2021, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. On November 21, 2019, the First Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-028082 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. A true and correct copy of the first Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-028082 and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on November 21, 2019. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A true and correct copy of the First Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-028082 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and fully understands the charges and allegations in the First Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-028082. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and fully understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary 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 First Amended Accusation; 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. Having the benefit of counsel, Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

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CULPABILITY

- 8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation contained in paragraphs 1-7, 9-30, 32-33, in the First Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-028082, and that she has thereby subjected her Midwife Certificate No. LM 384 to disciplinary action.
- 9. Respondent agrees that her Midwife Certificate No. LM 384 is subject to discipline and she agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

- 10. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to approval of the Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be submitted to the Board for its consideration in the above-entitled matter and, further, that the Board shall have a reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on this Stipulated Settlement 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 Board considers and acts upon it.
- 11. The parties agree that this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by 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 Settlement and Disciplinary Order, 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 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 Board does not, in its discretion, approve and adopt this Stipulated Settlement 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 Settlement and Disciplinary Order be rejected for any reason by the Board, Respondent will assert no claim that the Board, or any

member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review, discussion and/or consideration of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order or of any matter or matters related hereto.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

- 12. This Stipulated Settlement 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.
- 13. The parties agree that copies of this Stipulated Settlement 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.
- 14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Midwife Certificate No. LM 384 issued to Respondent Tammy Theresa Stokes, L.M., shall be and is hereby publicly reprimanded. This public reprimand, which is issued in connection with the First Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-028082, is as follows:

From on or about September 17, 2014, through on or about December 12, 2016, Respondent committed repeated negligent acts and failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in her care and treatment of Patients A, B, C, D, E, F, and G, as more fully described in the First Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-028082.

1. <u>EDUCATION COURSE</u>. Within one (1) year of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall complete not less than forty (40) hours of Continuing Medical Education (CME). The CME courses shall be aimed at correcting any areas of deficient practice or knowledge in the practice of midwifery. The forty (40) hours of CME shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the CME requirements for renewal of licensure. Respondent shall submit proof of completion to the Board or its designee.

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2. <u>MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING COURSE</u>. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in medical record keeping approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall provide the approved course provider with any information and documents that the approved course provider may deem pertinent. Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete the classroom component of the course not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment. Respondent shall successfully complete any other component of the course within one (1) year of enrollment. The medical record keeping course shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

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

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

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

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

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

4. COST RECOVERY. Respondent shall reimburse the Board the costs of the investigation and prosecution of this case, which are \$8,000.00, within one (1) year of the effective date of this Decision and Order. The sum of \$8,000.00 shall be paid in full directly to the Board within twelve (12) months from the effective date of this Decision and Order. Respondent may separate the payment into four (4) equal quarterly payments of \$2,000.00 each. The filing of bankruptcy by Respondent shall not relieve Respondent of her responsibility to reimburse the Board for these costs. Failure to reimburse the Board's cost of investigation and prosecution shall constitute unprofessional conduct and grounds for discipline.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Peter R. Osinoff, Esq. 1 fully understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Midwife Certificate No. LM 384. 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:	4/2020	
	, ,	TAMMY THERESA STOKES, L.M.

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1	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Tammy Theresa Stokes, L.M., the terms		
2	and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary		
3	Order. I approve its form and content.		
4			
5	DATED: May 1, 2020 Peter Osinoff		
6	PETER R. OSINOFF, ESQ. Attorney for Respondent		
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8	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>		
9	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully		
10	submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California.		
11	DATED: Respectfully submitted,		
12	Xavier Becerra		
13	Attorney General of California MATTHEW M. DAVIS		
14	Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
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16	LEANNA E. SHIELDS		
17	Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant		
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1	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Tammy Theresa Stokes, L.M., the terms		
2	and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary		
3	Order. I approve its form and content.		
4			
5	DATED:		
6	PETER R. OSINOFF, ESQ. Attorney for Respondent		
7			
8	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>		
9	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully		
10	submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California.		
11	DATED: 5/7/2020 Respectfully submitted,		
12	Xavier Becerra		
13	Attorney General of California MATTHEW M. DAVIS		
14	Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
15	A Colonial C		
16	LEANNA E. SHIELDS		
17	Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant		
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Exhibit A

First Amended Accusation No. 800-2016-028082

FILED STATE OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA 1 XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California SACRAMENTO NOV. 21 2 MATTHEW M. DAVIS BY A CERECOLD ANALYST Supervising Deputy Attorney General 3 LEANNA E. SHIELDS Deputy Attorney General 4 State Bar No. 239872 600 West Broadway, Suite 1800 5 San Diego, CA 92101 P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, CA 92186-5266 6 Telephone: (619) 738-9401 7 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061 8 Attorneys for Complainant 9 10 BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA 11 DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA 12 In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation 13 Case No. 800-2016-028082 Against: 14 15 TAMMY THERESA STOKES, L.M. FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION 35385 Beech Avenue 16 Yucaipa, CA 92399-3923 17 Midwife Certificate No. LM 384, (Cal. Gov. Code, § 11507.) 18 Respondent. 19 20 **PARTIES** Christine J. Lally (Complainant) brings this First Amended Accusation solely in her 21 1. official capacity as the Interim Executive Director of the Medical Board of California. 22 On or about December 27, 2013, the Medical Board of California issued Midwife 23 2. Certificate No. LM 384 to Tammy Theresa Stokes, L.M. (Respondent). The Midwife Certificate 24 was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on 25 26 August 31, 2021, unless renewed. 27 /// 28 ///

JURISDICTION

- This First Amended Accusation, which supersedes the Accusation filed on November 3. 18, 2019, in the above-entitled matter, is brought before the Medical Board of California (Board) for the Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated. 4.
 - Section 2519 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

The board may suspend, revoke, or place on probation the license of a midwife for any of the following:

- (a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
- (1) Incompetence or gross negligence in carrying out the usual functions of a licensed midwife.
- (e) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision or term of this chapter.
- 5. Section 2234 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

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:

- (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 appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single negligent act.
- (2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but 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.

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

COST RECOVERY

7. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate 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.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence)

8. Respondent has subjected her Midwife Certificate No. LM 384 to disciplinary action under section 2519, as defined by section 2519, subdivision (a)(1), of the Code, in that Respondent committed incompetence or gross negligence in her care and treatment of one or more patients, as more particularly alleged hereinafter:

Patient A1

- 9. On or about March 16, 2016, a prescription for progesterone² was filled by Patient A, a then 60-year-old female. According to I.C. Pharmacy records, the prescription was issued over the phone by Respondent, who indicated the prescription was authorized by another practitioner, M.K., who is a certified nurse midwife with a valid furnishing number.
- 10. On or about March 16, 2016, a prescription for testosterone³ was filled by Patient A. According to I.C. Pharmacy records, the prescription was issued over the phone by Respondent, who indicated the prescription was authorized by M.K.

¹ Patient identities have been withheld for patient privacy purposes.

² Progesterone is medication commonly used in the treatment of infertility, symptoms associated with premenstrual syndrome, and other gynecological disorders. It is a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

³ Testosterone is a medication commonly used in the treatment of infertility. It is a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

⁵ Nitrofurantoin is an antibiotic used to treat or prevent certain bladder infections. It is a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

⁶ Penicillin is an antibiotic used to treat a wide range of infections. It is a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

1 **PRAYER** WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, 2 and that following the hearing, the Medical Board of California issue a decision: 3 Revoking or suspending Midwife Certificate No. LM 384, issued to Respondent 1. 4 5 Tammy Theresa Stokes, L.M.; 2. Ordering Respondent Tammy Theresa Stokes, L.M. to pay the Medical Board of 6 California the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, and, if placed on 7 probation, the costs of probation monitoring; and 8 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper. 9 10 DATED: November 21, 2019 11 12 Interim Executive Director Medical Board of California 13 Department of Consumer Affairs State of California 14 Complainant 15 16 SD2019702815 72050275.docx 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28