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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Richard Gordon Phair, M.D.

Physician's & Surgeon's Certificate No. G 78581

Respondent

Case No.: 800-2018-048156

## DENIAL BY OPERATION OF LAW PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION

No action having been taken on the Petition for Reconsideration, filed by Richard Gordon Phair, M.D., and the time for action having expired at 5:00 p.m. on June 7, 2021, the petition is deemed denied by operation of law.

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Richard Gordon Phair, M.D.

Physician's & Surgeon's Certificate No. G 78581

Respondent

Case No. 800-2018-048156

**ORDER GRANTING STAY** 

(Government Code Section 11521)

Richard Gordon Phair, M.D. has filed a Request for Stay of execution of the Decision in this matter, currently stayed until May 28, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

Execution is now stayed until June 7, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

This stay is granted solely for the purpose of allowing the Board time to review and consider the Petition for Reconsideration.

DATED: May 28, 2021

ໜ່ງ William Prasifka Executive Director

Medical Board of California

Reji Varghese Deputy Director

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Richard Gordon Phair, M.D.

Physician's & Surgeon's Certificate No G78581

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2018-048156

ORDER GRANTING STAY

(Government Code Section 11521)

Michael A. Firestone, MBA, JD., on behalf of Respondent, Richard Gordon Phair, M.D., has filed a Request for Stay of execution of the Decision in this matter with an effective date of April 28, 2021, at 5:00 p.m..

Execution is stayed until May 28, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

This stay is granted solely for the purpose of allowing the Respondent to file a Petition for Reconsideration.

DATED: April 26, 2021

William Prasitka Executive Director

Medical Board of California

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1	XAVIER BECERRA				
2	Attorney General of California E. A. JONES III				
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General JONATHAN NGUYEN				
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 263420 California Department of Justice 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6434				
5					
6					
7	Facsimile: (916) 731-2117 Attorneys for Complainant				
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9	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA				
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
11					
12	In the Metter of the Acquestion Against.	Case No. 800-2018-048156			
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case 140. 600-2016-046130			
14	RICHARD GORDON PHAIR, M.D. 4001 Inglewood Avenue	DEFAULT DECICION			
15	Building 101, Unit 126 Redondo Beach, CA 90278	DEFAULT DECISION AND ORDER			
16	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G	[Gov. Code, §11520]			
17	78581,				
18	Respondent.	,			
19					
20	FINDINGS OF FACT				
21	1. On or about June 24, 2020, Complainant William Prasifka, in his official capacity as				
22	the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, file				
23	Accusation No. 800-2018-048156 against RICHARD GORDON PHAIR, M.D. (Respondent)				
24	before the Medical Board of California.				
25	2. On or about March 30, 1994, the Medical Board of California (Board) issued				
26	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 78581 to Respondent. The Physician's and Surgeon's				
27	Certificate expired on October 31, 2019, and has not been renewed. A Certificate of Licensure is				
28	attached as Exhibit A in the accompanying Default Decision Evidence Packet, and is incorporate				
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(RICHARD GORDON PHAIR, M.D.) DEFAULT DECISION & ORDER (CASE NO. 800-2018-048156)

herein by reference.

- 3. On or about June 24, 2020, Anna Logan, an employee of the Complainant Agency, served by Certified Mail a copy of the Accusation No. 800-2018-048156, Statement to Respondent, Notice of Defense, Request for Discovery, and Government Code sections 11507.5, 11507.6, and 11507.7 to Respondent's address of record with the Board, which was and is 4001 Inglewood Avenue, Building 101, Unit 126, Redondo Beach, CA 90278. A copy of the Accusation, the related documents, and Declaration of Service are attached as Exhibit B in the accompanying Default Decision Evidence Packet, and are incorporated herein by reference.
- 4. Service of the Accusation was effective as a matter of law under the provisions of Government Code section 11505, subdivision (c).
- 5. On or about August 25, 2020, a Certified Mail receipt was returned by the U.S. Postal Service. The receipt was signed by "Tim Hughes" on June 26, 2020. A copy of the Certified Mail receipt is attached as Exhibit C in the accompanying Default Decision Packet, and is incorporated herein by reference.
- 6. On or about November 2, 2020, an envelope containing copy of the Accusation No. 800-2018-048156, Statement to Respondent, Notice of Defense, Request for Discovery, and Government Code sections 11507.5, 11507.6, and 11507.7 mailed by Anna Logan, an employee of the Complainant Agency, was returned to the Board. It had a label marked, "RETURN TO SENDER, NO LONGER AT THIS ADDRESS, UNABLE TO FORWARD, RETURN TO SENDER." A copy of the returned envelope that contained Accusation No. 800-2018-048156, Statement to Respondent, Notice of Defense, Request for Discovery, and Government Code sections 11507.5, 11507.6, and 11507.7 is attached as Exhibit D in the accompanying Default Decision Evidence Packet, and is incorporated herein by reference.
- 7. On or about August 8, 2020, Joseph McGaha, an employee of the California Department of Justice, served by First Class U.S. Mail, a copy of the Courtesy Notice of Default, a copy of the Accusation No. 800-2018-048156, Statement to Respondent, Notice of Defense, Request for Discovery, and Government Code sections 11507.5, 11507.6, and 11507.7 to Respondent's address of record with the Board, which was and is 4001 Inglewood Avenue,

Building 101, Unit 126, Redondo Beach, CA 90278. The documents were returned by the U.S. Postal Service as undeliverable. A copy of the Courtesy Notice of Default, the related documents, and Declaration of Service are attached as Exhibit E in the accompanying Default Decision Evidence Packet, and are incorporated herein by reference. A copy of the returned envelope that contained the Courtesy Notice of Default, the related documents, and Declaration of Service is attached as Exhibit F in the accompanying Default Decision Evidence Packet, and is incorporated herein by reference.

- 8. Business and Professions Code section 118 states, in pertinent part:
- (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 license on any such ground.
- 9. Government Code section 11506 states, in pertinent part:
- (c) The respondent shall be entitled to a hearing on the merits if the respondent files a notice of defense, and the notice shall be deemed a specific denial of all parts of the accusation not expressly admitted. Failure to file a notice of defense shall constitute a waiver of respondent's right to a hearing, but the agency in its discretion may nevertheless grant a hearing.
- 10. Respondent failed to file a Notice of Defense within 15 days after service upon him of the Accusation, and therefore waived his right to a hearing on the merits of Accusation No. 800-2018-048156.
  - 11. California Government Code section 11520 states, in pertinent part:
  - (a) If the respondent either fails to file a notice of defense or to appear at the hearing, the agency may take action based upon the respondent's express admissions or upon other evidence and affidavits may be used as evidence without any notice to respondent.
- 12. Pursuant to its authority under Government Code section 11520, the Board finds Respondent is in default. The Board will take action without further hearing and, based on Respondent's express admissions by way of default and the evidence before it, contained in Exhibits A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, and K, finds that the allegations in Accusation No. 800-

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Based on the foregoing findings of fact, Respondent RICHARD GORDON PHAIR, 1. M.D. has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 78581 to discipline.

**DETERMINATION OF ISSUES** 

- A copy of the Accusation and the related documents and Declaration of Service are 2. attached.
  - 3. The agency has jurisdiction to adjudicate this case by default.
- 4. Pursuant to its authority under California Government Code section 11520, and based on the evidence before it, the Board hereby finds that the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2018-048156, and the Findings of Facts contained in paragraphs 1 through 12, above, and each of them separately and severally, are true. A true and correct copy of Accusation No. 800-2018-048156 and the related documents and Declarations of Service are attached as Exhibit B.
- The Medical Board of California is authorized to revoke Respondent's Physician's and 5. Surgeon's Certificate based upon the following violations alleged in the Accusation:
- Failure To Comply with a Board Order Issued Under Section 820 of the Code: Respondent failed to comply with a Board Order issued under section 820 of the Code when he failed to appear for two previously scheduled physical examinations ordered by the Board under section 820 of the Code. These acts are in violation of section 821 of the Code. (See Exhibits H, I. J. and K attached in the accompanying Default Decision Evidence Packet and incorporated herein);
- Unprofessional Conduct: Respondent committed unprofessional conduct by b. failing to comply with a Board Order issued under section 820 of the Code. This act is in violation of section 2234 of the Code. (See Exhibits H, I, J, and K attached in the accompanying Default Decision Evidence Packet and incorporated herein.)

#### **ORDER**

IT IS SO ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 78581, heretofore issued to Respondent RICHARD GORDON PHAIR, M.D., is revoked.

If Respondent ever files an application for relicensus California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstat Respondent must comply with all laws, regulations, and prevoked license in effect at the time the petition for reinstat Pursuant to Government Code section 11520, subdi	ement of a revoked license. rocedures for reinstatement of a atement is filed.		
Respondent must comply with all laws, regulations, and prevoked license in effect at the time the petition for reinstance.	rocedures for reinstatement of a atement is filed.		
revoked license in effect at the time the petition for reinsta	atement is filed.		
5 Pursuant to Government Code section 11520, subdi	vision (c), Respondent may serve a		
6 written motion requesting that the Decision be vacated an	written motion requesting that the Decision be vacated and stating the grounds relied on within		
7 seven (7) days after service of the Decision on Responder	t. The agency in its discretion may		
8 vacate the Decision and grant a hearing on a showing of g			
This Decision shall become effective on APR 28	This Decision shall become effective on APR 2 8 2021		
10 It is so ORDERED MAR 2 9 2021			
11 It is so ORDERED	•		
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13 FOR THE MED	ICAL BOARD OF		
14 CALIFORNIA	OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
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1	XAVIER BECERRA				
2	Attorney General of California E. A. Jones III				
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General JONATHAN NGUYEN				
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 263420				
5	California Department of Justice 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702				
6	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6434				
7	Facsimile: (916) 731-2117 Attorneys for Complainant				
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9	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA				
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS				
11	STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
12	In the Ma	tter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2018-048156		
13		-	ACCUSATION		
14	Richard Gordon Phair, M.D. 4001 Inglewood Avenue Building 101, Unit 126		ACCUBATION		
15	Redondo	Beach, CA 90278			
16	Physician No. G 78:	n's and Surgeon's Certificate 581,			
17 18		Respondent.			
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20		PART	<u>ries</u>		
21	William Prasifka (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity				
22	as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs				
23	(Board).	(Board).			
24	2.	2. On or about March 30, 1994, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's			
25	Certificate	Certificate Number G 78581 to Richard Gordon Phair, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and			
26	Surgeon's	Surgeon's Certificate expired on October 31, 2019, and has not been renewed.			
27		JURISDICTION			
28	3,	This Accusation is brought before the	Board, under the authority of the following		
		,			

(RICHARD GORDON PHAIR, M.D.) ACCUSATION NO. 800-2018-048156

laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.

- 4. Section 820 of the code states, in pertinent part: "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."
- 5. Section 821 of the Code states: "The licentiate's failure to comply with an order issued under Section 820 shall constitute grounds for the suspension or revocation of the licentiate's certificate or license."
  - 6. Section 2234 of the Code states:

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.

### FACTUAL SUMMARY

- 7. On or about March 16, 2020, acting on reports that Respondent appeared to be mentally or physically ill, the Board issued an order pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 820, Case No. 800-2018-048156, compelling Respondent to undergo mental and physical examinations to determine whether he was impaired by a mental or physical illness affecting his competency to practice medicine.
- 8. On or about April 7, 2020, Investigator Jesse Lopez with the Department of Consumer Affairs, Division of Investigation, Health Quality Investigation Unit, contacted Dr. Bernard Katz to perform a physical examination and Dr. Alex Sahba to perform a mental examination of Respondent. Special Investigator Chris Jensen with the Board contacted

Respondent by phone and sent him the times and dates of his physical and mental examinations by email. A physical examination with Dr. Bernard Katz was scheduled for April 14, 2020 at 3:00 pm for Respondent.

- 9. On or about April 9, 2020, Special Investigator Jensen sent Respondent a notice of appointments, by Certified and regular U. S. Mail, confirming an appointment with Dr. Bernard Katz for a physical examination on April 14, 2020 at 3:00 pm.
- 10. On or about April 14, 2020, Special Investigator Jensen received an email from Dr. Katz stating Respondent had called him five minutes prior to 3:00 pm and said he could not make the appointment until 4:00 pm. Dr. Katz could not accommodate the delay. Special Investigator Jensen called Respondent and left a voicemail message. Special Investigator Jensen also sent Respondent an email, instructing him to contact Dr. Katz to reschedule his physical examination. Respondent rescheduled his physical examination with Dr. Katz for April 16, 2020.
- 11. Respondent failed to attend his April 16, 2020 appointment with Dr. Katz. On or about April 20, 2020, Dr. Katz contacted Special Investigator Jensen and informed him that Respondent did not come for his rescheduled appointment on April 16, 2020.

#### FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

#### (Failure To Comply With An Order Issued Under Section 820 Of The Code)

- 12. By reason of the facts set forth in paragraphs 7 through 11 above, Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 821 of the Code in that Respondent failed to comply with an order issued under Section 820 of the Code by failing to appear for two previously scheduled physical examinations ordered by the Board under Section 820 of the Code.
- 13. Respondent's acts and/or omissions as set forth in paragraphs 7 through 11 above, whether proven individually, jointly, or in any combination thereof, constitutes Respondent's failure to comply with an order issued under Section 820 of the Code, pursuant to Section 821 of the Code.

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#### SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

#### (Unprofessional Conduct)

- By reason of the facts and allegations set forth in paragraphs 7 through 13 above, 14. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 2234, of the Code in that Respondent failed to comply with an order issued under Section 820 of the Code by failing to appear for two previously scheduled physical examinations ordered by the Board under Section 820 of the Code.
- Respondent's acts and/or omissions as set forth in paragraphs 7 through 13 above, whether proven individually, jointly, or in any combination thereof, constitute unprofessional conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of a profession, or conduct which is unbecoming of a member in good standing of a profession in violation of Section 2234 of the Code.

#### **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:

- Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number G 78581, 1. issued to Richard Gordon Phair, M.D.;
- Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Richard Gordon Phair, M.D.'s authority 2. to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
- Ordering Richard Gordon Phair, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the 3. costs of probation monitoring; and
  - Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: JUN 2 4 2020

**Executive Director** 

Medical Board of California

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

Complainant

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1	XAVIER B				
2	Attorney General of California E. A. JONES III				
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General JONATHAN NGUYEN				
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 263420				
5	California Department of Justice 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702				
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9	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA				
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
11		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	·		
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13		Gordon Phair, M.D.	ACCUSATION		
14	4001 Ing	glewood Avenue g 101, Unit 126			
15		o Beach, CA 90278			
16	Physicia No. G 78	n's and Surgeon's Certificate 8581,			
17		Respondent.			
18					
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21	1. William Prasifka (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity				
22	as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs				
23	(Board).				
24	2. On or about March 30, 1994, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's				
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27	JURISDICTION  Out of the state				
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- 4. Section 820 of the code states, in pertinent part: "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."
- 5. Section 821 of the Code states: "The licentiate's failure to comply with an order issued under Section 820 shall constitute grounds for the suspension or revocation of the licentiate's certificate or license."
  - 6. Section 2234 of the Code states:

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.

#### **FACTUAL SUMMARY**

- 7. On or about March 16, 2020, acting on reports that Respondent appeared to be mentally or physically ill, the Board issued an order pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 820, Case No. 800-2018-048156, compelling Respondent to undergo mental and physical examinations to determine whether he was impaired by a mental or physical illness affecting his competency to practice medicine.
- 8. On or about April 7, 2020, Investigator Jesse Lopez with the Department of Consumer Affairs, Division of Investigation, Health Quality Investigation Unit, contacted Dr. Bernard Katz to perform a physical examination and Dr. Alex Sahba to perform a mental examination of Respondent. Special Investigator Chris Jensen with the Board contacted

Respondent by phone and sent him the times and dates of his physical and mental examinations by email. A physical examination with Dr. Bernard Katz was scheduled for April 14, 2020 at 3:00 pm for Respondent.

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- 11. Respondent failed to attend his April 16, 2020 appointment with Dr. Katz. On or about April 20, 2020, Dr. Katz contacted Special Investigator Jensen and informed him that Respondent did not come for his rescheduled appointment on April 16, 2020.

#### FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

### (Failure To Comply With An Order Issued Under Section 820 Of The Code)

- 12. By reason of the facts set forth in paragraphs 7 through 11 above, Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 821 of the Code in that Respondent failed to comply with an order issued under Section 820 of the Code by failing to appear for two previously scheduled physical examinations ordered by the Board under Section 820 of the Code.
- 13. Respondent's acts and/or omissions as set forth in paragraphs 7 through 11 above, whether proven individually, jointly, or in any combination thereof, constitutes Respondent's failure to comply with an order issued under Section 820 of the Code, pursuant to Section 821 of the Code.

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#### SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

#### (Unprofessional Conduct)

- By reason of the facts and allegations set forth in paragraphs 7 through 13 above, Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 2234, of the Code in that Respondent failed to comply with an order issued under Section 820 of the Code by failing to appear for two previously scheduled physical examinations ordered by the Board under Section 820 of the Code.
- Respondent's acts and/or omissions as set forth in paragraphs 7 through 13 above. whether proven individually, jointly, or in any combination thereof, constitute unprofessional conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of a profession, or conduct which is unbecoming of a member in good standing of a profession in violation of Section 2234 of the Code.

#### **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 G 78581, issued to Richard Gordon Phair, M.D.;
- 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Richard Gordon Phair, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
- Ordering Richard Gordon Phair, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the costs of probation monitoring; and
  - Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

JUN 2 4 2020 DATED:

> **Executive Director** Medical Board of California

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California Complainant

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