

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Bridget Mercy Chen, M.D.

**Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. A 66849**

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2020-068257

DECISION

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License 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 27, 2023.

IT IS SO ORDERED January 20, 2023.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



**Reji Varghese
Deputy Director**

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 ROBERT W. LINCOLN
Deputy Attorney General
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8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

14 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2020-068257

OAH No. 2022070224

15 **BRIDGET MERCY CHEN, M.D.**
6061 Banbury Street
16 San Diego, California 92139

**STIPULATED SURRENDER OF
LICENSE AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

17 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
A 66849

18 Respondent.

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

22 **PARTIES**

23 1. William Prasifka (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of
24 California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this
25 matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Robert W. Lincoln, Deputy
26 Attorney General.

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1 2. Bridget Mercy Chen, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney
2 Nicole T. Irmer, Esq. and Kimberly J. Elkin, Esq., whose address is: 2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite
3 1060
4 San Diego, CA 92103.

5 3. On or about October 30, 1998, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
6 No. A 66849 to Bridget Mercy Chen, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's
7 Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation
8 No. 800-2020-068257 and will expire on October 31, 2022, unless renewed.

9 4. On or about August 9, 2022, Respondent and Complainant entered into a Stipulation
10 Between Parties Re: Interim Suspension Order, immediately suspending Physician's and
11 Surgeon's Certificate No. A 66849, and prohibiting Respondent from practicing medicine in the
12 State of California. As a result, Respondent remains suspended from the practice of medicine
13 pending the issuance of a final decision on the Accusation.

14 **JURISDICTION**

15 5. On or about September 12, 2022, Accusation No. 800-2020-068257, was filed before
16 the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily
17 required documents were properly served on Respondent on September 12, 2022. Respondent
18 timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 800-
19 2020-068257 is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

20 **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

21 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the
22 charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2020-068257. Respondent also has carefully read,
23 fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License
24 and Disciplinary Order.

25 7. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a
26 hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine
27 the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right
28 to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of

1 documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other
2 rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

3 8. Having the benefit of counsel, Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently
4 waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

5 **CULPABILITY**

6 9. Respondent admits that, at an administrative hearing, Complainant could establish a
7 prima facie case with respect to the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2020-068257,
8 agrees that she has thereby subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 66849 to
9 discipline, and hereby surrenders her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 66849 for the
10 Board's formal acceptance.

11 10. Respondent further agrees that if she ever petitions for reinstatement of her
12 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 66849, all charges and allegations contained in
13 Accusation No. 800-2020-068257, shall be deemed true, correct, and fully admitted by
14 Respondent for purposes of any such proceedings or any other licensing proceeding involving
15 Respondent in the State of California or elsewhere.

16 11. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation she enables the Executive
17 Director of the Board to issue an order, on behalf of the Board, accepting the surrender of her
18 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 66849 without further process.

19 **RESERVATION**

20 12. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this
21 proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Medical Board of California or other
22 professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or
23 civil proceeding.

24 **CONTINGENCY**

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

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

9 15. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order
10 shall be null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the
11 Executive Director on behalf of the Board, except for this paragraph, which shall remain in full
12 force and effect. Respondent fully understands and agrees that in deciding whether or not to
13 approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, the Executive
14 Director and/or the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or the
15 Attorney General's Office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify the
16 Executive Director, the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future
17 participation in this or any other matter affecting or involving Respondent. In the event that the
18 Executive Director on behalf of the Board does not, in his discretion, approve and adopt this
19 Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, with the exception of this paragraph, it
20 shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever, and shall not be relied
21 upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party hereto. Respondent further agrees
22 that should this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order be rejected for any reason
23 by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, Respondent will assert no claim that the
24 Executive Director, the Board, or any member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review,
25 discussion and/or consideration of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order or
26 of any matter or matters related hereto.

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5. Respondent shall pay the agency its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$6,421.25 (six thousand four hundred and twenty one dollars and twenty five cents) prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license.

6. 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. 800-2020-068257 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.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorneys Nicole Irmer, Esq. and Kimberly J. Elkin, 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 Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Disciplinary Order of the Medical Board of California.

10/03/2022

DATED:

10/03/2022

DocuSigned by:

Susan Eisenberg

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DocuSigned by:

[Signature]

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BRIDGET MERCY CHEN, M.D. by and through Susan Eisenberg and Jon McTeer, her attorneys in fact.

Respondent

DocuSigned by:

[Signature]

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NICOLE T. IRMER, ESQ..

Attorney for Respondent

DocuSigned by:

Kimberly J. Elkin

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KIMBERLY J. ELKIN, ESQ.

Attorney for Respondent

DATED:

10/04/2022

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DATED:

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

ROBERT W. LINCOLN
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

7

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2020-068257

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10 **BEFORE THE**
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
11 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
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13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2020-068257

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15 **BRIDGET MERCY CHEN, M.D.**
6061 Banbury Street
16 San Diego, California 92139

A C C U S A T I O N

17 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
18 **No. A 66849,**

Respondent.

19
20
21 Complainant alleges:

22 **PARTIES**

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

26 2. On or about October 30, 1998, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
27 Certificate No. A 66849 to Bridget Mercy Chen, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and
28

1 Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought
2 herein and will expire on October 31, 2022, unless renewed.

3 3. On August 9, 2022, an Interim Suspension Order was issued suspending
4 Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. Her license is still suspended.

5 **JURISDICTION**

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

9 4. Section 822 of the Code states:

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

13 (a) Revoking the licensee's certificate or license.

14 (b) Suspending the licensee's right to practice.

15 (c) Placing the licensee on probation.

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

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

22 **SECTION 822 CAUSE FOR ACTION**

23 **(Mental Illness and/or Physical Illness Affecting Competency)**

24 5. Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 66849 is subject to action
25 under section 822, of the Code, in that Respondent's ability to practice medicine safely is
26 impaired because she is mentally ill and/or physically ill which is affecting her competency.

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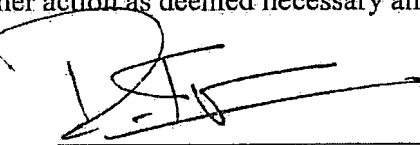
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PRAYER

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 No. A 66849, issued to Bridget Mercy Chen, M.D.;
2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Bridget Mercy Chen, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
3. Ordering Bridget Mercy Chen, 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;
4. Ordering Respondent Bridget Mercy Chen, M.D., if placed on probation, to provide patient notification in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 2228.1;
5. Taking action as authorized by section 822 of the Code as the Medical Board, in its discretion, deems necessary and proper; and
6. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: SEP 12 2022



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

Reji Varghese
Deputy Director

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