# BEFORE THE BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	) No. 1B-94-35623
ROGER K. LEIR, D.P.M.	) }
Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No. E-1171,	) )
Respondent.	}

## **DECISION AND ORDER**

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Board of Podiatric Medicine, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective on April 23, 1999 at 5:00 p.m.

Order Dated March 24, 1999

BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE

Iva Greene, President

1	BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General of the State of California	
2	ROBERT McKIM BELL (State Bar No. 56332)  Deputy Attorney General	
3	California Department of Justice 300 South Spring Street, Suite 5212	
4	Los Angeles, California 90013-1233 Telephone: (213) 897-2556	
5	Attorneys for Complainant	
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7	BEFORE TH BOARD OF PODIATRI	
8	DEPARTMENT OF CONS STATE OF CALI	UMER AFFAIRS
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11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	) Case No. 1B-94-35623
12	ROGER K. LEIR, D.P.M. 253 Lombard Street, Suite B	, ) ) STIPULATED SETTLEMENT
13	Thousand Oaks, California 91360	AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER
14	Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No. E-1171,	) )
15	Respondent.	) )
16		)
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18	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties	
19	to the above-entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:	
20		nber 1B-94-35623 was filed with the
21	Board of Podiatric Medicine (the "Board") on	July 30, 1998, and is currently
22	pending against Roger K. Leir, D.P.M. (the "re	espondent").
23	2. The Accusation, together	with all statutorily required
24	documents, was duly served on the responde	nt on or about July 30, 1998, and
25	respondent filed his Notice of Defense contes	ting the Accusation on or about
26	August 14, 1998. A copy of Accusation No.	1B-94-35623 is attached as Exhibit
27	"A" and hereby incorporated by reference as	if fully set forth.

- 3. Complainant, James Rathlesberger, is the Executive Officer of the Board of Podiatric Medicine and brought this action solely in his official capacity.

  The Complainant is represented by the Attorney General of California, Bill Lockyer, by and through Deputy Attorney General Robert McKim Bell.
- 4. At all times relevant herein, respondent has been licensed by the Board of Podiatric Medicine under Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No. E-1171.
- 5. Respondent is represented by Gerald Lewis Price, whose address is 2161 Argyle Avenue, Hollywood, California 90068-2901.
- 6. Respondent and his attorney have fully read and discussed the charges contained in Accusation Number 1B-94-35623. Respondent has been fully advised regarding his legal rights and the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 7. Respondent understands the nature of the charges alleged in the Accusation and that, if proven at hearing, the charges and allegations would constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License. Respondent is fully aware of his right to a hearing on the charges contained in the Accusation, his right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against him, his right to the use of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents in both defense and mitigation of the charges, his right to reconsideration, court review and any and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 8. Respondent knowingly, voluntarily and irrevocably waives and gives up each of these rights.
- 9. Respondent admits that in his treatment of a single male patient in 1990 he committed repeated negligent acts and has thereby subjected his license to disciplinary action under section 2234 of the Code. Respondent agrees

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The admissions made by respondent herein are for the purpose 10. of this proceeding and any other proceedings in which the Board of Podiatric Medicine, or other professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceedings.

Based on the foregoing admissions and stipulated matters, the 11. parties agree that the Board shall, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following order:

#### **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License number E-1171 issued to Roger K. Leir, D.P.M. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and respondent is placed on probation for three years on the following terms and conditions.

PACE PROGRAM Within 90 days from the effective date of 1. this decision, respondent, at his expense, shall enroll in The Physician Assessment and Clinical Education Program at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine (hereinafter, the "PACE Program") and shall undergo assessment, clinical training and examination. First, the respondent shall undergo the comprehensive assessment program including the measurement of medical skills and knowledge, the appraisal of physical health and psychological testing. After assessment, the PACE Evaluation Committee will review all results and make a recommendation to the Board or its designee, the respondent and other authorized personnel as to what clinical training is required, including scope and length, treatment of any medical or psychological condition, and any other factors affecting the respondent's practice of podiatry. The respondent shall undertake whatever clinical training and treatment of any medical or psychological condition as may be

recommended by the PACE Program. Finally, at the completion of the PACE Program, respondent shall submit to an examination of its contents and substance. The examination shall be designed and administered by the PACE faculty. Respondent shall not be deemed to have successfully completed the program unless he passes the examination. Respondent agrees that the determination of the PACE Program faculty as to whether or not he has passed the examination and/or successfully completed the PACE Program shall be binding.

Respondent shall complete the PACE Program no later than six months after his initial enrollment unless the BPM or its designee agrees in writing to a later time for completion.

If respondent successfully completes the PACE Program, including the examination referenced above, he agrees to cause the PACE representatives to forward a Certification of Successful Completion of the program to BPM or its designee.

If respondent fails to successfully complete the PACE Program within the time limits outlined above, he shall be suspended from the practice of podiatry.

Failure to participate in, and successfully complete all phases of the PACE Program, as outlined above, shall constitute a violation of probation.

- 2. <u>INFECTIOUS DISEASE COURSEWORK</u> Within 90 days of the effective date of this decision, respondent shall submit to the BPM or its designee, for its prior approval, a course or courses in the management of infectious diseases. The exact number of hours and the specific content of the program shall be determined by the BPM or its designee and will be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education requirements for relicensure. Respondent shall successfully complete the coursework within the first year of probation.
- 3. <u>PROBATION COSTS</u> Respondent shall pay the administrative costs incurred by the BPM associated with probation monitoring each and every

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year of probation. These costs are \$80/hour but shall not exceed \$1,500/year. Such costs shall be payable to the BPM at the end of each fiscal year. Respondent will be provided with an invoice at the close of each fiscal year which must be paid within 30 days of receipt. The final invoice will be provided upon termination of probation and is also due and payable within 30 days of receipt. Failure to pay such costs shall be considered a violation of probation.

- 4. RECOVERY OF INVESTIGATION & PROSECUTION COSTS The respondent is hereby ordered to reimburse the BPM the amount of \$4,000 for the recovery of the actual and reasonable costs of the investigation and prosecution of this matter as provided for in Section 2497.5 of the Business and Professions Code. Repayment of these costs are payable over three years in annual installments of not less than \$1,000. Failure to reimburse the BPM's cost of its investigation and prosecution shall constitute a violation of the probation order, unless the BPM agrees in writing to payment by a different installment plan because of financial hardship.
- 5. <u>OBEY ALL LAWS</u> Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, and all rules governing the practice of podiatric medicine in California.
- 6. <u>QUARTERLY REPORTS</u> Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations, under penalty of perjury, on forms provided by the BPM, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation.

Notwithstanding any provision for tolling of requirements of probation, during the cessation of practice respondent shall continue to submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury.

- 7. <u>SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM</u> Respondent shall comply with the BPM's probation surveillance program.
- 8. <u>INTERVIEW WITH PODIATRIC MEDICAL CONSULTANT</u>
  Respondent shall appear in person for interviews with the BPM's medical

- 9. TOLLING FOR CESSATION OF PRACTICE In the event the respondent fails to satisfactorily complete any provision of the order of probation, which results in the cessation of practice, all other provisions of probation other than the submission of quarterly reports shall be held in abeyance until respondent is permitted to resume the practice of podiatry. All provisions of probation shall recommence on the effective date of resumption of practice. Periods of cessation of practice will not apply to the reduction of the probationary period.
- 10. TOLLING FOR OUT-OF-STATE PRACTICE OR RESIDENCE In the event respondent should leave California to reside or to practice outside the state, respondent must notify the BPM in writing of the dates of departure and return. Periods of residency or practice outside California will not apply to the reduction of this probationary period.
- 11. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u> Upon successful completion of probation, respondent's certificate will be fully restored.
- any respect, the BPM, after giving respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an accusation or petition to revoke probation is filed against respondent during probation, the BPM shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final, and no petition for modification of penalty shall be considered while there is an accusation or petition to revoke probation pending against respondent.
- 13. COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIRED CONTINUING MEDICAL

  EDUCATION Respondent shall submit satisfactory proof biennially to the BPM of compliance with the requirement to complete fifty (50) hours of approved continuing medical education for re-licensure during each two (2) year renewal

period.

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#### CONTINGENCY

This stipulation shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Podiatric Medicine. Respondent understands and agrees that Board staff and counsel for complainant may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by respondent or his counsel. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Order, the stipulation shall be of no force or effect, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action in this matter by virtue of its consideration of this stipulation.

#### **ACCEPTANCE**

I have read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I have fully discussed the terms and conditions and other matters contained therein with my attorney, Gerald Lewis Price. I understand the effect this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order will have on my Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License, and agree to be bound thereby. I enter this stipulation freely, knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily.

DATED: 2-16-99

ROZER K. LEIR, D.P.M.

Respondent

1	I have read and fully discussed the terms and conditions and other
2	matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order with
3	respondent Roger K. Leir, D.P.M., and approve of its form and content.
4	DATED: $\frac{2-16-9}{}$ .
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6	July 10'2
7	Gerald Lewis Price Attorney for Respondent
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9	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>
10	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby
11	respectfully submitted for the consideration of the Board of Podiatric Medicine.
12	DATED: 2/23/99
13	BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General
14	of the State of California
15	Roser Ball
16	ROBERT McKIM BELL Deputy Attorney General
17	Attorneys for Complainant
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21	Exhibit: Accusation
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# EXHIBIT A Accusation No. 1B-94-35623

1 2 3 4 5 6	DANIEL E. LUNGREN, Attorney General of the State of California ROBERT McKIM BELL, (State Bar No. 56332) Deputy Attorney General California Department of Justice 300 South Spring Street, Suite 5212 Los Angeles, California 90013-1233 Telephone: (213) 897-2556  Attorneys for Complainant  FILED STATE OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA SACRAMENTO July 30 1998 BY Latter Johnson ANALYST
8	BEFORE THE BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA
10	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
11	In the Matter of the Accusation ) Case No. 1B-94-35623 Against:
12	ROGER K. LEIR, D.P.M. ) ACCUSATION
13	253 Lombard St., Ste. B ) Thousand Oaks, Ca. 91360 )
14 15	Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License ) No. E-1171,
16	Respondent.)
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18	The Complainant alleges:
19	<u>PARTIES</u>
20	1. James Rathlesberger ("Complainant") brings this
21	accusation solely in his official capacity as the Executive Officer
22	of the Board of Podiatric Medicine, Department of Consumer Affairs,
23	State of California (hereinafter the "Board").
24	2. On or about September 3, 1964, Doctor of Podiatric
25	License No. E-1171 was issued by the Board to ROGER K. LEIR, D.P.M.
26	(hereinafter "respondent"). At all times relevant to the charges
27	brought herein, this license has been in full force and effect.

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## **JURISDICTION**

- This accusation is brought before the Board under the authority of the following sections of the Business and Professions Code (hereinafter "Code"):
  - Section 2497 of the Code provides:
  - (a) The board may order the denial of an application for, or the suspension of, or the revocation of, or the imposition of probationary conditions upon, a certificate to practice podiatric medicine for any of the causes set forth in Article 12 (commencing with Section 2220) in accordance with Section 2222.
  - "(b) The board may hear all matters, including but not limited to, any contested case or may assign any such matters to an administrative law judge. The proceedings shall be held in accordance with Section If a contested case is heard by the board itself, the administrative law judge who presided at the hearing shall be present during the board's consideration of the case and shall assist and advise the board.
  - Section 2222 of the Code provides that the other may order the revocation, suspension, restriction of any podiatrist's certificate.
  - Section 2234 of the Code provides unprofessional includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - "(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the

violation of, or conspiring to violate, any provision of this chapter.

- "(b) Gross negligence.
- "(c) Repeated negligent acts.
- "(d) Incompetence.
- "(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.
- "(f) Any action or conduct which would have warranted the denial of a certificate."
  - D. Section 2497.5 of the Code provides, in part:
- "(a) The board may request the administrative law judge, under his or her proposed decision in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the board, to direct any licensee found guilty of unprofessional conduct to pay to the board a sum not to exceed the actual and reasonable costs of the investigation and prosecution of the case."
- E. Section 125.3 of the Code provides that in any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before any board within the Department of Consumer Affairs, the board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay not only the costs of the investigation and enforcement but also the Attorney General costs of the case.

- "(a) No funds appropriated by this act may be expended to pay any Medi-Cal claim for any service performed by a physician while that physician's license is under suspension or revocation due to a disciplinary action of the Medical Board of California.
- expended to pay any Medi-Cal claim for any surgical service or other invasive procedure performed on any Medi-Cal beneficiary by a physician if that physician has been placed on probation due to a disciplinary action of the Medical Board of California related to the performance of that specific service or procedure on any patient, except in any case where the board makes a determination during its disciplinary process that there exist compelling circumstances that warrant continued Medi-Cal reimbursement during the probationary period."

# FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence--Patient M.E.1/)

5. Respondent ROGER K. LEIR, D.P.M., is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivision (b), of the Code in that respondent was grossly negligent in the care, treatment, and management of patient M.E. The circumstances are as

<sup>1.</sup> All references to patients in this pleading shall be by initials only. The true name(s) of the patient(s) are known to respondent and will be provided to him upon a timely written discovery request under Government Code section 11507.6.

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- A. On or about April 12, 1989, M.E., then 65 years old, was initially evaluated by respondent. Thereafter, and continuing over the course of the next several months, respondent treated M.E., on a weekly basis, with hydrotherapy and ultrasound.
- B. On or about August 1, 1990, M.E. underwent outpatient podiatric surgery on his left foot. The surgery was performed by respondent. Following surgery, M.E. did not do well.
- Patient M.E. was seen by respondent on August C. Among other things, M.E. complained of severe pain, surgery surrounding the redness and swelling, Respondent treated M.E. with ultrasound and continued him on Patient M.E.'s condition did not improve. antibiotics. Patient M.E. returned on August 8, 1990, with a reported decrease in pain and increase in edema. Patient M.E. next was seen by respondent on August 15, 1990, and again on August 18, 1990.
- D. On or about August 21, 1990, M.E. was admitted to Westlake Medical Center by Felix Negron, M.D., M.E.'s primary physician. Dr. Negron's diagnosis was cellulitis resulting from a staph aureus wound infection of the left first and second toes which occurred following the podiatric surgery performed by respondent on August 1, 1990.
- E. M.E. received care from Drs. Negron, Khoo, Statner and Harris during his hospitalization. Because M.E.'s

condition did not improve with conservative measures, Dr. Harris performed a surgical debridement on August 25, 1990.

M.E.'s wounds were left open. M.E. was treated with local wound care and prescribed antibiotics by Dr. Statner. Following a hospitalization of nearly three weeks, M.E. was

discharged to his home.

- F. On September 7 and 14, 1990, M.E. was seen by Dr. Harris on an out-patient basis. M.E.'s wounds began healing.
- G. On or about September 18, 1990, however, M.E. again was hospitalized. The principal diagnosis was acute osteomyelitis. The secondary diagnoses included convulsions and a 102 degree fever of unknown origin. Physical examination upon admission showed that M.E. had swelling and tenderness of the left great toe. M.E. was evaluated by Mark Mazur, M.D., an infectious disease specialist. M.E.'s antibiotic medication was changed and his febrile episode resolved. On or about September 24, 1990, M.E. was discharged from the hospital with a diagnosis of osteomyelitis.
- M.E. remained under the care, treatment, and management of Dr. Harris through and including January 22, 1993. Between August 1, 1990, the date of the surgery performed by respondent, and January 22, 1993, M.E. developed problems with residual arthritis in his left great toe interphalangeal joint causing M.E. marked limitation of motion and discomfort during weight bearing activities.
  - I. The following acts and omissions to act of

respondent, singularly and collectively, during the care, treatment and management of patient M.E., constituted extreme departures from the standard of care:

- (1) Respondent failed to perform the appropriate diagnostic tests for the detection of an acute postoperative infection despite the patient's signs and symptoms, following surgery, indicating same and which resulted in osteomyelitis.
- (2) Respondent failed to refer patient M.E. to an outside consultant in order to have the appropriate diagnostic tests performed for the detection of an acute postoperative infection or to assume the care, treatment, and management of a patient to whom respondent was unable to render proper care and treatment.
- (3) Respondent employed and continued to employ hydrotherapy and ultrasound as treatment modalities despite the signs and symptoms indicating an acute postoperative infection.
- (4) Respondent failed to diagnose an acute postoperative infection that could develop into osteomyelitis.

#### SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Repeated Negligent Acts--Patient M.E.)

6. Respondent ROGER K. LEIR, D.P.M., is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234 of the Code in that respondent committed repeated negligent acts during the care, treatment, and management of patient M.E. The circumstances are as follows:

- A. Complainant refers to and, by this reference, incorporates herein the allegations set forth in paragraph 5, subparagraphs A through H, inclusive, above, as though fully set forth.
- B. The following acts and omissions to act of respondent, singularly and collectively, during the care, treatment and management of patient M.E., constituted departures from the standard of care:
- (1) Respondent failed to perform the appropriate diagnostic tests for the detection of an acute postoperative infection despite the patient's signs and symptoms, following surgery, indicating same and which resulted in osteomyelitis.
- (2) Respondent failed to refer patient M.E. to an outside consultant in order to have the appropriate diagnostic tests performed for the detection of an acute postoperative infection or to assume the care, treatment, and management of a patient to whom respondent was unable to render proper care and treatment.
- (3) Respondent employed and continued to employ hydrotherapy and ultrasound as treatment modalities despite the signs and symptoms indicating an acute postoperative infection.
- (4) Respondent failed to diagnose an acute postoperative infection that could develop into osteomyelitis.

## THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Incompetence)

7. Respondent ROGER K. LEIR, D.P.M., is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivision (d), of the Code for incompetence in that respondent demonstrated a lack of knowledge or ability to discharge his professional medical obligations during his care, treatment and management of patient M.E. The circumstances are as follows:

A. Complainant refers to and, by this reference, incorporates herein the allegations set forth in paragraph 5, subparagraphs A through I, inclusive, above, as though fully set forth.

1	<u>PRAYER</u>
2	WHEREFORE, the complainant requests that a hearing be
3	held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing,
4	the Board issue a decision:
5	1. Revoking or suspending Doctor of Podiatric Medicine
6	License No. E-1171, heretofore issued to respondent ROGER K. LEIR,
7	D.P.M.;
8	<ol> <li>Revoking, suspending or denying approval of</li> </ol>
9	respondent's authority to supervise physician's assistants,
10	pursuant to section 3527 of the Code;
11	3. Ordering respondent to pay the Board the reasonable
12	costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case and, if
13	placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring; and,
14	4. Taking such other and further action as the Board
15	deems necessary and proper.
16	DATED: July 30, 1998
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18	Tayon 1/12
19	James Rathlesberger
20	Executive Officer  Board of Podiatric Medicine
21	Department of Consumer Affairs State of California
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Complainant

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