

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners
1105 Terminal Way #301
Reno, Nevada 89502
(775) 688-2559

1 **BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**
2 **OF THE STATE OF NEVADA**

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6 **In the Matter of Charges and**
7 **Complaint Against**
8 **ANDREW J. WELCH, M.D.,**
9 **Respondent.**

Case No. 15-5474-1

FILED

JUN - 7 2016

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: _____

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11 **SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

12 The Investigative Committee (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners
13 (Board) and Andrew J. Welch, M.D. (Respondent), a licensed physician in Nevada, who is
14 represented J. Mitchell Cobeaga, Esq., hereby enter into this Settlement Agreement (Agreement)
15 based on the following:¹

16 **A. Background**

17 1. Respondent is a physician licensed by the Board, pursuant to Chapter 630 of the
18 Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Chapter 630 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC)
19 (collectively, the Medical Practice Act), to practice medicine in Nevada since December 2, 1978,
20 (License No. 3713).

21 2. On March 10, 2015, in Case No. 15-5474-1, the IC filed a formal Complaint
22 (Complaint) charging Respondent with violating the Medical Practice Act. Specifically, this
23 Complaint alleges two (2) counts of violation of NRS 630.3062(1) for failing to maintain accurate
24

25 ¹ All agreements and admissions made by Respondent are solely for final disposition of this matter
26 and any subsequent related administrative proceedings or civil litigation involving the Board and
27 Respondent. Therefore, Respondent's agreements and admissions are not intended or made for
28 any other use, such as in the context of another state or federal government regulatory agency
proceeding, state or federal civil or criminal proceeding, any state or federal court proceeding, or
any credentialing or privileges matter.

1 and/or complete medical records relating to the diagnosis, treatment and care of Patients A & B when
2 Respondent failed to record his care and treatment of the aforementioned patients in 2013. By reason
3 of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

4 3. Respondent was properly served with a copy of this Complaint, has reviewed and
5 understands this Complaint, and has had the opportunity to consult with competent counsel
6 concerning the nature and significance of this Complaint.

7 4. Respondent is hereby advised of his rights regarding this administrative matter, and of
8 his opportunity to defend against the allegations in the Complaint. Specifically, Respondent has
9 certain rights in this administrative matter as set out by the United States Constitution, the Nevada
10 Constitution, the Medical Practice Act, and the Nevada Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which is
11 contained in NRS Chapter 233B. These rights include the right to a formal hearing on the allegations
12 in the Complaint, the right to representation by counsel, at his own expense, in the preparation and
13 presentation of his defense, the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses and evidence against
14 him, the right to written findings of fact, conclusions of law and order reflecting the final decision of
15 the Board, and the right to judicial review of the Board's order, if the decision is adverse to him.

16 5. Respondent understands that, under the Board's charge to protect the public by
17 regulating the practice of medicine, the Board may take disciplinary action against Respondent's
18 license, including license probation, license suspension, license revocation and imposition of
19 administrative fines, as well as any other reasonable requirement or limitation, if the Board
20 concludes that Respondent violated one or more provisions of the Medical Practice Act.

21 6. Respondent understands and agrees that this Agreement, by and between
22 Respondent and the IC, is not with the Board, and that the IC will present this Agreement to the
23 Board for consideration in open session at a duly noticed and scheduled meeting. Respondent
24 understands that the IC shall advocate for the Board's approval of this Agreement, but that the
25 Board has the right to decide in its own discretion whether or not to approve this Agreement.
26 Respondent further understands and agrees that if the Board approves this Agreement, then the
27 terms and conditions enumerated below shall be binding and enforceable upon him and the Board.

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1 **B. Terms & Conditions**

2 NOW, THEREFORE, in order to resolve the matters addressed herein, i.e., the matters
3 with regard to the Complaint, Respondent and the IC hereby agree to the following terms and
4 conditions:

5 1. **Jurisdiction.** Respondent is, and at all times relevant to the Complaint has been, a
6 physician licensed to practice medicine in Nevada subject to the jurisdiction of the Board as set
7 forth in the Medical Practice Act.

8 2. **Representation by Counsel/Knowing, Willing and Intelligent Agreement.**
9 Respondent understands that he may retain and consult counsel prior to entering into this
10 Agreement at his own expense. Respondent acknowledges he is represented by counsel,
11 and wishes to resolve the matters addressed herein with counsel. Respondent agrees that if
12 representation by counsel in this matter materially changes prior to entering into this Agreement
13 and for the duration of this Agreement, that counsel for the IC will be timely notified of the
14 material change. Respondent agrees that he knowingly, willingly and intelligently enters into this
15 Agreement after deciding to have a full consultation with and upon the advice of legal counsel.

16 3. **Waiver of Rights.** In connection with this Agreement, and the associated terms
17 and conditions, Respondent knowingly, willingly and intelligently waives all rights in connection
18 with this administrative matter. Respondent hereby knowingly, willingly and intelligently waives
19 all rights arising under the United States Constitution, the Nevada Constitution, the Medical
20 Practice Act, the APA and any other legal rights that may be available to him or that may apply to
21 him in connection with the administrative proceedings resulting from the Complaint filed in this
22 matter, including defense of the Complaint, adjudication of the allegations set forth in the
23 Complaint, and imposition of any disciplinary actions or sanctions ordered by the Board.
24 Respondent agrees to settle and resolve the allegations of the Complaint as set out by this
25 Agreement, without a hearing or any further proceedings and without the right to judicial review.

26 4. **Acknowledgement of Reasonable Basis to Proceed.** Respondent acknowledges
27 that the IC believes it has a reasonable basis to allege that Respondent engaged in conduct that is
28 grounds for discipline pursuant to the Medical Practice Act. The Board acknowledges Respondent

1 is not admitting that the Board's claims/counts as alleged in the Complaint have merit and
2 Respondent is agreeing to resolve this matter to avoid the costs of hearing and potential
3 subsequent litigation. Respondent asserts if this matter were to proceed to hearing, he has
4 evidence, witnesses, expert witness(es) and defenses to the counts/claims alleged in Complaint,
5 but for the purposes of resolving the matter and for no other purpose, Respondent waives the
6 presentation of evidence, witnesses, expert witnesses, and defenses in order to effectuate this
7 Agreement.

8 **5. Consent to Entry of Order.** In order to resolve this Complaint pending against
9 Respondent without incurring any further costs or the expense associated with a hearing, Respondent
10 hereby agrees that the Board may issue an order finding that Respondent engaged in conduct that
11 is grounds for discipline pursuant to the Medical Practice Act. Accordingly, the following terms
12 and conditions are hereby agreed upon:

13 A. Respondent admits to the allegation of two (2) violations of NRS 630.3062(1)
14 when he failed to record his treatment and care for Patients A & B in 2013.

15 B. Respondent will pay the costs and expenses incurred in the investigation and
16 prosecution of the above-referenced matter within one hundred twenty (120) days of the
17 Board's acceptance, adoption and approval of this Agreement, the current amount being
18 \$1,004.00, not including any costs that may be necessary to finalize this Agreement.

19 C. Respondent shall take six (6) hours of continuing medical education (CME) related
20 to general orthopedic practice within twelve (12) months from the date of the Board's
21 acceptance, adoption and approval of this Agreement. The aforementioned hours of CME
22 shall be in addition to any CME requirements that are regularly imposed upon Respondent
23 as a condition of licensure in the state of Nevada and shall be approved by the Board prior
24 to their completion.

25 D. This Agreement shall be reported to the appropriate entities and parties as required
26 by law, including, but not limited to, the National Practitioner Data Bank.

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1 **6. Release From Liability.** In execution of this Agreement, Respondent understands
2 and agrees that the state of Nevada, the Board, and each of its members, staff, counsel,
3 investigators, experts, peer reviewers, committees, panels, hearing officers, consultants and agents
4 are immune from civil liability for any decision or action taken in good faith in response to
5 information acquired by the Board. NRS 630.364(2)(a). Respondent agrees to release the state of
6 Nevada, the Board, and each of its members, staff, counsel, investigators, experts, peer reviewers,
7 committees, panels, hearing officers, consultants and agents from any and all manner of actions,
8 causes of action, suits, debts, judgments, executions, claims and demands whatsoever, known and
9 unknown, in law or equity, that Respondent ever had, now has, may have or claim to have, against
10 any or all of the persons, government agencies or entities named in this paragraph arising out of,
11 or by reason of, this investigation, this Agreement or the administration of the case referenced
12 herein.

13 **7. Procedure for Adoption of Agreement.** The IC and counsel for the IC shall
14 recommend approval and adoption of the terms and conditions of this Agreement by the Board in
15 resolution of this Complaint. In the course of seeking Board acceptance, approval and adoption of
16 this Agreement, counsel for the IC may communicate directly with the Board staff and the
17 adjudicating members of the Board.

18 Respondent acknowledges that such contacts and communications may be made or
19 conducted ex parte, without notice or opportunity to be heard on his part until the public Board
20 meeting where this Agreement is discussed, and that such contacts and communications may
21 include, but not be limited to, matters concerning this Agreement, the Complaint and any and all
22 information of every nature whatsoever related to this matter. The IC and its counsel agree that
23 Respondent may appear at the Board meeting where this Agreement is discussed and, if requested,
24 respond to any questions that may be addressed to the IC or the IC's counsel.

25 **8. Effect of Acceptance of Agreement by Board.** In the event the Board accepts,
26 approves and adopts this Agreement, the Board shall issue a final order, making this Agreement
27 an order of the Board.

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1 **9. Effect of Rejection of Agreement by Board.** In the event the Board does not
2 accept, approve and adopt this Agreement, this Agreement shall be null, void and of no force and
3 effect except as to the following agreement regarding adjudications: (1) Respondent agrees that,
4 notwithstanding rejection of this Agreement by the Board, nothing contained in this Agreement
5 and nothing that occurs pursuant to efforts of the IC to seek the Board's acceptance of this
6 Agreement shall disqualify any member of the adjudicating panel of the Board from considering
7 this Complaint and from participating in disciplinary proceedings against Respondent, including
8 adjudication of this case; and (2) Respondent further agrees that he shall not seek to disqualify any
9 such member absent evidence of bad faith.

10 **10. Binding Effect.** If approved by the Board, Respondent understands that this
11 Agreement is a binding and enforceable contract upon Respondent and the Board.

12 **11. Forum Selection Clause.** The parties agree that in the event either party is
13 required to seek enforcement of this Agreement in district court, the parties consent to such
14 jurisdiction and agree that exclusive jurisdiction shall be in the Second Judicial District Court,
15 state of Nevada, Washoe County.

16 **12. Attorneys' Fees and Costs.** The parties agree that in the event an action is
17 commenced in district court to enforce any provision of this Agreement, the prevailing party shall
18 be entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

19 **13. Failure to Comply with Terms.** Should Respondent fail to comply with any term
20 or condition of this Agreement once the Agreement has been accepted, approved and adopted by
21 the Board, the IC shall be authorized to immediately suspend Respondent's license to practice
22 medicine in Nevada pending an Order To Show Cause Hearing, which will be duly noticed.
23 Failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement, including failure to pay any fines, costs,
24 expenses or fees owed to the Board, is a failure to comply with an order of the Board, which may
25 result in additional disciplinary action being taken against Respondent. NRS 630.3065(2)(a).
26 Further, Respondent's failure to remit payment to the Board for monies agreed to be paid as a
27 condition of this Agreement may subject Respondent to civil collection efforts.

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OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

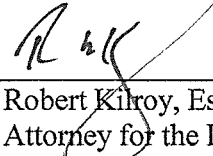
Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

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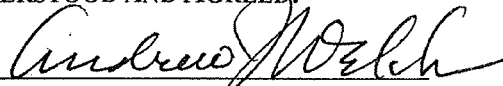
1 Dated this 13 day of April, 2016.

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3 By: 
4 Robert Kilroy, Esq.
5 Attorney for the Investigative Committee

6 Dated this 11 day of April, 2016.

7 By: 
8 J. Mitchell Cobeaga, Esq.
9 Attorney for the Respondent

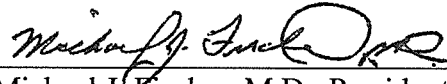
10 UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED:

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12 ANDREW J. WELCH, M.D., Respondent

13 Dated this 11 day of April, 2016.

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1 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the foregoing Settlement Agreement is approved and accepted by the
2 Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners on the third day of June 2016, with the final total amount of
3 costs due of \$1,004.00.

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6 Michael J. Fischer, M.D., President
7 NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
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