

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners Summarily Suspends Practitioners for the Unlicensed Practice of Medicine, Malpractice and the Administration of Sedation and Anesthesia at an Unpermitted Facility

Reno, NV – In separate actions pending before the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board), the Investigative Committee (IC) of the Board has summarily suspended the licenses to practice medicine of Maryanne DeForest Phillips, M.D., and Tammy Lynn Hankins, PA-C, related to numerous alleged violations of Nevada’s Medical Practice Act that have taken place at “Vida Spa,” a so-called “medical spa” located at 3225 S Rainbow Blvd # 206, Las Vegas, NV 89146.

On June 28, 2021, the IC issued its Order of Summary Suspension against Maryanne DeForest Phillips, M.D., in Case No. 21-10032-1, alleging that Dr. Phillips administered Propofol for the purposes of anesthesia or sedation to at least seventy-two (72) individual patients, for invasive surgical procedures she performed on them at Vida Spa. In addition, it is alleged that Dr. Phillips, in concert with Vida Spa’s staff, falsified patient medical records in order to conceal her unlawful conduct. NRS 630.373 expressly prohibits a physician or physician assistant to administer or supervise directly the administration of general anesthesia, conscious sedation or deep sedation to patients at a facility that does not maintain a proper permit from the Nevada Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance as required by NRS Chapter 449.

On July 20, 2021, the IC issued its First Amended Complaint and Order of Summary Suspension against Tammy Lynn Hankins, PA-C, in Case No. 21-51633-1, alleging fifty-three (53) violations of the Nevada Medical Practice Act by PA Hankins, all occurring at Vida Spa, including charges of the Unlicensed Practice of Medicine, Malpractice, Fraudulent, Illegal, Unauthorized and Otherwise Inappropriate Prescribing of Controlled Substances, Illegal Injection of Botox and Dermal Fillers, and the Administration of Conscious Sedation at an Unaccredited and Unpermitted Facility, among other charges.

Vida Spa is not a permitted or accredited surgical facility, and it is unsafe and unlawful to perform invasive surgeries and administer sedation and anesthesia in places that are not properly licensed, equipped, permitted, accredited and inspected. Board staff, in cooperation with several public health and safety agencies, has conducted a thorough investigation of activities occurring at Vida Spa. The IC issued these suspension orders based on evidence that the health, safety and welfare of the public and patients was at risk of imminent and continued harm due to the activities occurring at Vida Spa.

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Pursuant to constitutional due process rights applicable in disciplinary actions related to professional licenses, and consistent with Nevada's Medical Practice Act, NRS Chapter 630, Dr. Phillips and PA-C Hankins have been served notice of the respective allegations and will each have an opportunity for a hearing to address those allegations.

“Both the unlicensed practice of medicine and the performance of invasive and potentially dangerous surgical procedures at unaccredited facilities is a growing problem in Nevada. Unsuspecting patients are being harmed, some sustaining life-threatening injuries and infections. The IC’s recent filings in these cases, while only allegations at this point, reflect the Board’s serious concern regarding these ongoing dangers to public safety,” said Edward O. Cousineau, J.D., Executive Director of the Board.

Consumers are encouraged to verify licensure for health care practitioners licensed by the Board by going to the Board’s Licensee Lookup at <https://medboard.nv.gov>. In addition, the Board’s public filings are available at https://medboard.nv.gov/Resources/Public/Public_Filings_by_Year/, and disciplinary actions taken by the Board are available at <https://medboard.nv.gov/Patients/Disciplinary/DisciplinaryActions/>.

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The Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners serves the State of Nevada by ensuring that only well-qualified, competent physicians, physician assistants, respiratory therapists and perfusionists are licensed to practice in Nevada. The Board responds expediently to complaints by conducting fair and thorough investigations that result in appropriate action. In all Board activities, the Board places the interests of the public before the interests of the medical profession, and encourages public input and involvement, as we work to improve the quality of medical practice in Nevada.