

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

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4 **In the Matter of Charges and**
5 **Complaint Against**
6 **KAREN RAE ABBOTT, M.D.,**
7 **Respondent.**

Case No. 18-29273-1

FILED

OCT 31 2018

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL EXAMINERS
By: 

9 **COMPLAINT**

10 The Investigative Committee¹ (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board)
11 hereby issues this formal Complaint (Complaint) against Karen Rae Abbott, M.D. (Respondent), a
12 physician licensed in Nevada. After investigating this matter, the IC has a reasonable basis to
13 believe that Respondent has violated provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 630 and
14 Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 630 (collectively, the Medical Practice Act). The IC
15 alleges the following facts:

16 1. Respondent was licensed (License No. 11149) in Nevada by the Board on September
17 10, 2004, and is currently licensed with scopes of practice listed as gynecology, infertility and
18 urology.

19 2. On July 18, 2013, Patient A, who was a 42 year old female at the time, presented to
20 Respondent with pelvic pain complaints. Her true identity is not disclosed in this Complaint to
21 protect her identity, but her identity is disclosed in the Patient Designation contemporaneously
22 served on Respondent with this Complaint. Patient A's history included obesity, chronic
23 hypertension, hyperlipidemia, three (3) prior cesarean sections, total abdominal hysterectomy,
24 appendectomy, and bladder sling. There was a scheduled laparoscopic bilateral salpingo-
25 oophorectomy. The medical records do not indicate any workup of this patient's symptoms or the
26 possible etiologies of her pains. The only treatment was to schedule a surgery, which lacks any
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28 ¹ The Investigative Committee (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board), at the time this formal Complaint was authorized for filing, was composed of Board members Rachakonda D. Prabhu, M.D., Ms. Sandy Peltyn and Victor M. Muro, M.D.

1 medical justification provided for by the Respondent in the medical records.

2 3. On July 23, 2013, Patient A underwent the following: a laparoscopic lysis of
3 adhesions, an enterolysis, a bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy and a cystoscopy. The medical
4 records do not indicate any signed, executed informed consent form that states the risks, benefits
5 or alternatives to the surgery scheduled and performed.

6 4. On July 24, 2013, Patient A presented to Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center
7 Emergency Room with complaints of lower right quadrant abdominal pain and was admitted for
8 possible constipation or bowel obstruction, and this patient's care was managed by the
9 Respondent.

10 5. On July 26, 2013, Patient A became hypotensive, was admitted into the Intensive
11 Care Unit (ICU) and was subsequently treated for septic shock. Later the night of the 26th, Patient
12 A was taken to the Operating Room (OR) where a bowel injury was noted and subsequently
13 repaired.

14 6. Subsequent to this July 26, 2013, OR procedure for a bowel injury, which records
15 indicate occurred during the July 23, 2013, surgery, Patient A had several more surgeries,
16 developed fistulas, had peritonitis and suffered from the following: ventilator dependent
17 respiratory failure, kidney failure, metabolic encephalopathy, septicemia and post-operative
18 psychosis, and, eventually she had to be transferred from Saint Mary's to another facility, Tahoe
19 Pacific Hospital, for a long-term IV antibiotic treatment program and intensive management of her
20 enterocutaneous fistulas.

21 7. The IC reviewed the findings from an Independent Medical Expert (IME), who
22 reviewed the medical records and additional relevant documentation and opined that Respondent's
23 acts and/or omissions violated the Medical Practice Act.

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COUNT I

NRS 630.301(4) (Malpractice)

8. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

9. NRS 630.301(4) provides that malpractice by a physician is grounds for initiating disciplinary action against a licensee.

10. NAC 630.040 defines malpractice as the failure of a physician, in treating a patient, to use the reasonable care, skill, or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances.

11. As demonstrated by, but not limited to, the above-outlined facts, Respondent failed to use the reasonable care, skill or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances when she treated Patient A.

12. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

COUNT II

NRS 630.3062(1)(a) (Failure to Maintain Complete Medical Records)

13. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

14. NRS 630.3062(1)(a) provides that the failure to maintain timely, legible, accurate and complete medical records relating to the diagnosis, treatment and care of a patient is grounds for initiating discipline against a licensee.

15. Respondent failed to maintain timely, legible, accurate and complete medical records relating to the diagnosis, treatment and care of Patient A.

16. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

WHEREFORE, the Investigative Committee prays:

1. That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners give Respondent notice of the charges herein against her and give her notice that she may file an answer to the Complaint herein as set forth in NRS 630.339(2) within twenty (20) days of service of the Complaint;

VERIFICATION

1 STATE OF NEVADA)
2 : ss.
3 COUNTY OF CLARK)

4 Rachakonda D. Prabhu, M.D., hereby deposes and states under penalty of perjury under
5 the laws of the state of Nevada that he is the Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the
6 Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners that authorized the foregoing Complaint against the
7 Respondent herein; that he has read the foregoing Complaint; and based upon information
8 discovered during the course of the investigation into a complaint against Respondent, he believes
9 the allegations and charges in the foregoing Complaint against Respondent are true, accurate and
10 correct.

11 Dated this 31st day of October, 2018.



Wayne Hardwick, M.D.
Chairman, Investigative Committee
Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that I am employed by Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners and that on 31st day of October 2018, I served a filed copy of the formal COMPLAINT, PATIENT DESIGNATION and fingerprint information, via U.S. Mail to the following:

Edward J. Lemons
Lemons, Grundy & Eisenberg
6005 Plumas Street, Third Floor
Reno, Nevada 89519

Dated this 31st day of October, 2018.



Sheri L. Quigley
Legal Assistant