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

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**In the Matter of Charges and
Complaint Against
LUKE ST. JOHN CESARETTI, M.D.,
Respondent.**

Case No. 18-7235-1

FILED

DEC - 3 2018

**NEVADA STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

By: _____

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SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

The Investigative Committee¹ (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board) by and through Robert Kilroy, Esq., General Counsel for the Board and attorney for the IC, and Luke St. John Cesaretti, M.D. (Respondent), a licensed Physician in Nevada, assisted by his attorney, Shirley Blazich, Esq., of the law firm of Alverson, Taylor & Sanders, hereby enter into this Settlement Agreement (Agreement) based on the following:²

A. Background

1. Respondent is a medical doctor currently licensed (License No. 6238) in active status by the Board pursuant to Chapter 630 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Chapter 630 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) (collectively, the Medical Practice Act), to practice medicine in Nevada since June 8, 1991.

2. On July 31, 2018, in Case No. 18-7235-1, the IC filed a formal Complaint (Complaint) charging Respondent with violating the Medical Practice Act. Specifically, the Complaint alleges: Count I, one violation of NRS 630.301(4) (Malpractice) and Count II, one violation of NRS 630.3062(1)³ (Failure to Maintain Complete Medical Records). By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

¹ At the time of this formal complaint was authorized to file, the IC was composed of Board members Rachakonda D. Prabhu M.D., Chairman, Victor M. Muro, and Ms. Sandy Peltyn, public member.

² All agreements and admissions made by Respondent are solely for final disposition of this matter and any subsequent related administrative proceedings or civil litigation involving the Board and Respondent. Therefore, Respondent's agreements and admissions are not intended or made for 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.

³ Statute is now codified as NRS 630.3062(1)(a).

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners
9600 Gateway Drive
Reno, Nevada 89521
(775) 688-2559

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

4 4. Respondent is hereby advised of his rights regarding this administrative matter, and of
5 his opportunity to defend against the allegations in the Complaint. Specifically, Respondent has
6 certain rights in this administrative matter as set out by the United States Constitution, the Nevada
7 Constitution, the Medical Practice Act, the Nevada Open Meeting Law (OML), which is contained in
8 NRS Chapter 241, and the Nevada Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which is contained in NRS
9 Chapter 233B. These rights include the right to a formal hearing on the allegations in the Complaint,
10 the right to representation by counsel, at his own expense, in the preparation and presentation of his
11 defense, the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses and evidence against him, the right to
12 written findings of fact, conclusions of law and order reflecting the final decision of the Board, and the
13 right to judicial review of the Board's order, if the decision is adverse to him.

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

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

26 **B. Terms & Conditions**

27 **NOW, THEREFORE**, in order to resolve the matters addressed herein, i.e., the matters
28 with regard to the Complaint, Respondent and the IC hereby agree to the following terms and

1 conditions:

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

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

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

22 4. **Acknowledgement of Reasonable Basis to Proceed.** Respondent acknowledges
23 that the IC believes it has a reasonable basis to allege that Respondent engaged in conduct that is
24 grounds for discipline pursuant to the Medical Practice Act. The Board acknowledges Respondent
25 is not admitting that the Board's claims/counts as alleged in the Complaint have merit and
26 Respondent is agreeing to resolve this matter to avoid the costs of hearing and potential
27 subsequent litigation. Respondent asserts if this matter were to proceed to hearing, he has
28 evidence, witnesses, expert witness (es) and defenses to the counts/claims alleged in the

1 Complaint, but for the purposes of resolving the matter and for no other purpose, Respondent
2 waives the presentation of evidence, witnesses, expert witnesses, and defenses in order to
3 effectuate this Agreement.

4 **5. Consent to Entry of Order.** In order to resolve this Complaint pending against
5 Respondent, Respondent hereby agrees that the Board may issue an order finding that Respondent
6 engaged in conduct that is grounds for discipline pursuant to the Medical Practice Act. Accordingly,
7 the following terms and conditions are hereby agreed upon:

8 A. Respondent admits to one (1) allegation of violating NRS 630.3062(1)⁴ (medical
9 records).

10 B. Respondent will pay the costs and expenses incurred in the investigation and
11 prosecution of the above-referenced matter within sixty (60) days of the Board's
12 acceptance, adoption and approval of this Agreement, the current amount being \$3,750.00,
13 not including any costs that may be necessary to finalize this Agreement.

14 C. Respondent shall take three (3) hours of continuing medical education (CME) related
15 to electronic medical records within six (6) months from the date of the Board's acceptance,
16 adoption and approval of this Agreement. The aforementioned hours of CME *shall be in*
17 *addition* to any CME requirements that are regularly imposed upon Respondent as a
18 condition of licensure in the State of Nevada and shall be approved by the Board prior to
19 their completion.

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

22 E. Respondent shall receive a Public Letter of Reprimand.

23 F. Count I shall be dismissed with prejudice.

24 **6. Release From Liability.** In execution of this Agreement, Respondent understands
25 and agrees that the State of Nevada, the Board, and each of its members, staff, counsel,
26 investigators, experts, peer reviewers, committees, panels, hearing officers, consultants and agents
27 are immune from civil liability for any decision or action taken in good faith in response to
28

⁴ Statute is now codified as NRS 630.3062(1)(a).

1 information acquired by the Board. NRS 630.364(2)(a). Respondent agrees to release the State of
2 Nevada, the Board, and each of its members, staff, counsel, investigators, experts, peer reviewers,
3 committees, panels, hearing officers, consultants and agents from any and all manner of actions,
4 causes of action, suits, debts, judgments, executions, claims and demands whatsoever, known and
5 unknown, in law or equity, that Respondent ever had, now has, may have or claim to have, against
6 any or all of the persons, government agencies or entities named in this paragraph arising out of,
7 or by reason of, this investigation, this Agreement or the administration of the case referenced
8 herein.

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

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

21 8. Effect of Acceptance of Agreement by Board. In the event the Board accepts,
22 approves and adopts this Agreement, the Board shall issue a final order, making this Agreement
23 an order of the Board.

24 9. Effect of Rejection of Agreement by Board. In the event the Board does not
25 accept, approve and adopt this Agreement, this Agreement shall be null, void and of no force and
26 effect except as to the following agreement regarding adjudications: (1) Respondent agrees that,
27 notwithstanding rejection of this Agreement by the Board, nothing contained in this Agreement
28 and nothing that occurs pursuant to efforts of the IC to seek the Board's acceptance of this

1 Agreement shall disqualify any member of the adjudicating panel of the Board from considering
2 this Complaint and from participating in disciplinary proceedings against Respondent, including
3 adjudication of this case; and (2) Respondent further agrees that he shall not seek to disqualify any
4 such member absent evidence of bad faith.

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

7 11. Forum Selection Clause. The parties agree that in the event either party is required
8 to seek enforcement of this Agreement in district court, the parties consent to such jurisdiction and
9 agree that exclusive jurisdiction shall be in the Second Judicial District Court, State of Nevada,
10 Washoe County.

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

14 13. Failure to Comply with Terms. Should Respondent fail to comply with any term or
15 condition of this Agreement once the Agreement has been accepted, approved and adopted by the
16 Board, the IC shall be authorized to immediately suspend Respondent's license to practice
17 medicine in Nevada pending an Order To Show Cause Hearing, which will be duly noticed.
18 Failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement, including failure to pay any fines, costs,
19 expenses or fees owed to the Board, is a failure to comply with an order of the Board, which may
20 result in additional disciplinary action being taken against Respondent. NRS 630.3065(2)(a).

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Further, Respondent's failure to remit payment to the Board for monies agreed to be paid as a condition of this Agreement may subject Respondent to civil collection efforts.

Dated this 22 day of October, 2018.

By: [Signature]
Robert Kilroy, Esq.
Attorney for the Investigative Committee

Dated this 19 day of October, 2018.

By: [Signature]
Shirley Blazich, Esq.
Attorney for the Respondent

UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED:

[Signature]
Luke Saint John Cesaretti, M.D., Respondent

Dated this _____ day of 10/19/18, 2018.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

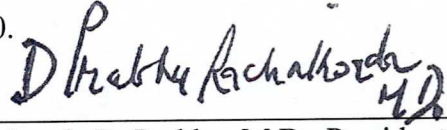
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IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the foregoing Settlement Agreement is approved and accepted by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners on the 30th day of November, 2018, with the final total amount of costs due of \$3,750.00.



Rachakonda D. Prabhu, M.D., President
NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS