## Reno, Nevada 89521 (775) 688-2559

### BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

\* \* \* \* \*

In the Matter of Charges and Complaint

**Against:** 

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GEORGE PETER CHAMBERS, M.D.

Respondent.

Case No. 22-27891-1

FILED

SEP 2 1 2022

**NEVADA STATE BOARD OF** MEDICAD EXAMINERS

### **COMPLAINT**

The Investigative Committee<sup>1</sup> (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board), by and through Brandee Mooneyhan, J.D., Deputy General Counsel and attorney for the IC, having a reasonable basis to believe that George Peter Chambers, M.D., (Respondent) violated the provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 630 and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 630 (collectively, the Medical Practice Act), hereby issues its Complaint, stating the IC's charges and allegations as follows:

- Respondent was at all times relative to this Complaint a medical doctor holding an 1. active license to practice medicine in the State of Nevada (License No. 10476). Respondent was originally licensed by the Board on April 30, 2003, and specializes in obstetrics and gynecology.
- 2. As noted by the Committee on Ethics of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the "relationship between obstetrician-gynecologists and their patients . . . requires a high level of trust and professional responsibility," because the practice of this medical specialty "includes interactions in times of intense emotion and vulnerability for patients and involves sensitive physical examinations and medically necessary disclosure of private information about symptoms and experiences." See AGOC Committee Opinion No. 796, Sexual Misconduct (January 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, at the time this formal Complaint was authorized for filing, was composed of Board members Victor M. Muro, M.D., Chowdhury H. Ahsan, M.D., Ph.D., FACC, and Ms. Pamela J. Beal.

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3.	Physician behavior, gestures, or expressions that are seductive, sexually suggestive
disrespectful	of patient privacy, or sexually demeaning to a patient constitute sexual impropriety
and are a form	n of physician sexual misconduct. <i>Id</i> .

4. In professional settings, "obstetrician-gynecologists should strictly avoid sexual innuendo, sexually suggestive humor, and sexually provocative remarks," and even in nonclinical communication with current patients, should maintain professional boundaries. Id.

### PATIENT A

- Patient A<sup>2</sup> was a thirty-six (36) year-old female at the time of the events at issue. 5.
- 6. Patient A sought surgical repair of a damaged perineum, and Patient A's regular gynecologist referred Patient A to Respondent for consultation. Patient A presented to Respondent's medical office on November 17, 2020, for the desired consultation.
- 7. After telling Patient A to undress for a physical examination, Respondent told Patient A to keep her personal cellular phone nearby, as he would be using it to take pictures during the examination.
- 8. During the course of Patient A's examination, Respondent used Patient A's cellular phone to take approximately twelve (12) photographs of Patient A's vaginal and anal areas.
- 9. Among the photographs taken by Respondent on November 17, 2020, is a photograph of him inserting four (4) fingers in Patient A's vagina.
- Of the approximately twelve (12) photographs he took of Patient A on 10. November 17, 2020, Respondent directed her to send two (2) of the photos, which showed her vulva, to his cellular phone via text message.
- The photograph of Respondent inserting four (4) fingers into Patient A's vagina 11. was not one of the photographs he asked her to text to him.
- 12. Patient A was uncomfortable texting the pictures to Respondent's cellular phone, in part because she had no assurances that the data was being exchanged securely, how the pictures might be used, or who might have access to them once they were sent.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Patient A's true identity is not disclosed herein to protect her privacy, but is disclosed in the Patient Designation served upon Respondent along with a copy of this Complaint.

Nonetheless, Patient A did as Respondent directed and sent the two (2) photographs via text message to the phone number Respondent provided.

- 13. In his medical record of the November 17, 2020, encounter, Respondent indicated that he inserted two (2) fingers in Patient A's vagina, stating: "On sizing the introital opening with my two examining fingers, the vagina opened to a width of 7cm horizontally and vertically."
- 14. In his response to a request for information in the IC's investigation of this matter, Respondent repeated his assertion that he inserted only two (2) fingers in Patient A's vagina during the November 17, 2020, encounter, stating that he "inserted one finger into her vagina" in his evaluation of her pelvic floor muscles, and "then inserted [his] two examining fingers to check the tonicity of her pubococcygeus muscles by asking her to squeeze her vagina."
- 15. Respondent did not document in the medical record, nor inform the IC during its investigation, that during the November 17, 2020, encounter with Patient A, he inserted four (4) fingers into her vagina.
- 16. After his physical examination of Patient A, Respondent informed Patient A that during the examination, he had attempted to "fist" her, that is, insert his entire hand into her vagina, see Artemie v. State, No. A-10463, 2011 WL 5904452, at \*8 (Alaska Ct. App. Nov. 23, 2011), but had been unable to insert his entire hand, and he showed her how much of his hand he had been able to insert.
- 17. Respondent also showed Patient A the two (2) photographs that she had texted him, which he had printed following the physical examination, and used them to explain the procedures he proposed to perform on her. Respondent included the two (2) photographs in Patient A's medical record.
- 18. After her encounter with Respondent on November 17, 2020, Patient A suffered pain and tenderness in her genital area.
- 19. The other approximately ten (10) photographs Respondent took of Patient A's vaginal and rectal area, which he did not direct her to send to him, were not for purposes of medical examination or treatment.

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- Respondent's action in taking numerous pictures of Patient A's vaginal and rectal 20. areas that were not for purposes of medical examination or treatment, as well as using the nonmedical term "fisting" and informing Patient A that he had attempted to do so, humiliated and sexually demeaned Patient A.
- Respondent's action in taking numerous photographs of Patient A's vaginal and 21. rectal areas on an unsecured cellular telephone and directing Patient A to text some of those photographs to him, in the absence of any assurance of how the photographs would be protected from improper access, was disrespectful of Patient A's privacy.

### **COUNT I**

### NRS 630.301(6) – Disruptive Behavior

- 22. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 23. NRS 630.301(6) provides that disruptive behavior with patients that interferes with patient care or has an adverse impact on the quality of care rendered to a patient is grounds for initiating disciplinary action against a physician.
- Respondent's behavior in taking approximately ten (10) photographs of Patient A's 24. vaginal and rectal areas that were not for purposes of medical examination or treatment was humiliating and sexually demeaning to Patient A and thus adversely affected the quality of care rendered to her.
- By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as 25. provided in NRS 630.352.

### **COUNT II**

### NRS 630.301(6) – Disruptive Behavior

- All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by 26. reference as though fully set forth herein.
- NRS 630.301(6) provides that disruptive behavior with patients that interferes with 27. patient care or has an adverse impact on the quality of care rendered to a patient is grounds for initiating disciplinary action against a physician.

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- 28. Respondent's behavior in telling Patient A that he had attempted to "fist" her was humiliating and sexually demeaning to Patient A and thus adversely affected the quality of care rendered to her.
- 29. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

### **COUNT III**

### NRS 630.306(1)(b)(1) - Engaging in Conduct Intended to Deceive

- 30. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 31. NRS 630.306(1)(b)(1) provides that "engaging in any conduct, which is intended to deceive" constitutes grounds for initiating disciplinary action against a physician.
- 32. Respondent's statement in the medical record of his encounter with Patient A on November 17, 2020, that he measured Patient A's introital opening with "two examining fingers" and his failure to otherwise document that he had inserted four (4) fingers into Patient A's vagina during that encounter was calculated to conceal that he had inserted four (4) fingers into Patient A's vagina.
- 33. Respondent's statement in his response to the IC's investigative inquiry that he had inserted no more than two (2) fingers into Patient A's vagina during the November 17, 2020, encounter was calculated to conceal that Respondent had inserted four (4) fingers into Patient A's vagina.
- 34. By knowingly making statements designed to conceal that he had inserted four (4) fingers into Patient A's vagina during his November 17, 2020, encounter with her, Respondent engaged in conduct intended to deceive the Board or any other authority examining his record of the encounter.
- 35. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

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### **COUNT IV**

### NRS 630.3062(1)(a) – Failure to Maintain Accurate Medical Records

- 36. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 37. 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" constitute grounds for initiating discipline against a licensee.
- 38. Respondent failed to maintain accurate and complete medical records relating to the diagnosis, treatment and care of Patient A when he failed to document in the record of his November 17, 2020, encounter with her that he had inserted four (4) fingers into her vagina during the encounter.
- 39. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

### PATIENT B

- Patient B<sup>3</sup> was a thirty-five (35) year-old female at the time of the events at issue. 40.
- Patient B was a patient of Respondent for several years, and had an appointment 41. with him on October 29, 2018.
- 42. During his October 29, 2018, encounter with Patient B, Respondent explained that he would pay her or other patients one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to allow him to take, or arrange for the taking of, nude photographs of the patient(s), ostensibly to use in an advertisement for his services.
- 43. The nude photographs for which Respondent offered to pay Patient B or other patients were not for purposes of medical examination or treatment.
- Telling Patient B during a medical encounter that he would pay her or other 44. patients one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to pose for nude photographs that were not for purposes of medical examination or treatment was sexually suggestive and/or sexually demeaning to Patient B and violated the professional boundaries of a medical encounter between a doctor and a patient.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Patient B's true identity is not disclosed herein to protect her privacy, but is disclosed in the Patient Designation served upon Respondent along with a copy of this Complaint.

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### **COUNT V**

NRS 630.301(7) - Engaging in Conduct That Violates the Trust of a Patient and Exploits the Relationship With the Patient for Financial or Other Personal Gain

- 45. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 46. NRS 630.307(7) provides that "engaging in conduct that violates the trust of the patient and exploits the relationship between the physician and the patient for financial or other personal gain" constitutes grounds for initiating discipline against a physician.
- 47. In expressing to Patient B in the midst of a medical encounter that he would pay her or other patients one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to pose for nude photographs for Respondent to use for purposes other than for medical examination or treatment, Respondent violated Patient B's trust and exploited his relationship with her in order to realize financial or other personal gain for himself.
- 48. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

### PATIENT C

- Patient C<sup>4</sup> was a twenty-seven (27) year-old female at the time of the events at 49. issue.
- Patient C visited Respondent's practice in 2019 for routine gynecological care and 50. to address dysmenorrhea and pelvic pain.
- 51. At an encounter on or about October 15, 2019, Patient C mentioned to Respondent that she was struggling financially.
- After the October 15, 2019, encounter, Respondent told Patient C he was seeking 52. models to participate in a photography session in which photos would be taken of the model's vaginal area and nude body, ostensibly for inclusion in Respondent's "portfolio" of work and/or Respondent offered to pay Patient C one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to an advertisement. 111

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Patient C's true identity is not disclosed herein to protect her privacy, but is disclosed in the Patient Designation served upon Respondent along with a copy of this Complaint.

participate in such a photography session, as well as give her a thumb drive with the "boudoir" photos resulting from the session.

- 53. Patient C thought it was odd that Respondent was soliciting photographs of her vaginal area as representative of his work because he had never performed any cosmetic procedure on her genitals.
- 54. The nude photographs for which Respondent offered to pay Patient C were not for purposes of medical examination or treatment.
- 55. Offering to pay Patient C one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to pose for nude photographs that were not for purposes of medical examination or treatment was sexually suggestive and/or sexually demeaning to Patient C and violated the professional boundaries of a medical encounter between a doctor and a patient.

### **COUNT VI**

## NRS 630.301(7) – Engaging in Conduct That Violates the Trust of a Patient and Exploits the Relationship With the Patient for Financial or Other Personal Gain

- 56. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 57. NRS 630.307(7) provides that "engaging in conduct that violates the trust of the patient and exploits the relationship between the physician and the patient for financial or other personal gain" constitutes grounds for initiating discipline against a physician.
- 58. In offering to pay Patient C one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to pose for nude photographs for Respondent to use for purposes other than for appropriate medical examination or treatment, Respondent violated Patient C's trust and exploited his relationship with her in order to realize financial or other personal gain for himself.
- 59. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

### PATIENTS A, B, AND C

60. As set forth by the above-outlined facts, Respondent has demonstrated a pattern of failing to use the reasonable care, skill, or knowledge ordinarily used by obstetrician-

gynecologists in good standing by repeatedly engaging in sexual improprieties with more than one patient.

- 61. As set forth by the above-outlined facts, Respondent repeatedly exploited his relationships with patients and violated patients' trust by engaging in sexual improprieties that constitute sexual misconduct.
- 62. Respondent's repeated acts of sexual misconduct and violations of the Medical Practice Act as set forth above undermine the public's trust and respect for the medical profession and thereby bring the medical profession into disrepute.

### **COUNT VII**

### NRS 630.306(1)(g) - Continual Failure to Practice Medicine Properly

- 63. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 64. NRS 630.306(1)(g) provides that "continual failure to exercise the skill or diligence or use the methods ordinarily exercised under the same circumstances by physicians in good standing practicing in the same specialty or field" constitutes grounds for initiating discipline against a physician.
- 65. By repeatedly engaging in sexual misconduct with Patients A, B, and C, as set forth above, Respondent has continually failed to exercise the skill and diligence and use the methods ordinarily exercised under the same circumstances by physicians in good standing practicing in his field of obstetrics and gynecology.
- 66. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

### **COUNT VIII**

### NRS 630.301(9) - Disreputable Conduct

- 67. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 68. NRS 630.301(9) provides that engaging in conduct that brings the medical profession into disrepute constitutes grounds for initiating discipline against a physician.

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- As demonstrated by the above-outlined facts, by repeatedly engaging in sexual 69. misconduct and by repeatedly violating his patients' trust and exploiting his relationship with them, Respondent engaged in conduct that brings the medical profession into disrepute.
- 70. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

### WHEREFORE, the Investigative Committee prays:

- That the Board give Respondent notice of the charges herein against him and give 1. him notice that he 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;
- 2. That the Board set a time and place for a formal hearing after holding an Early Case Conference pursuant to NRS 630.339(3);
- 3. That the Board determine what sanctions to impose if it determines there has been a violation or violations of the Medical Practice Act committed by Respondent;
- 4. That the Board award fees and costs for the investigation and prosecution of this case as outlined in NRS 622.400;
- That the Board make, issue and serve on Respondent its findings of fact, 5. conclusions of law and order, in writing, that includes the sanctions imposed; and
- 6. That the Board take such other and further action as may be just and proper in these premises.

DATED this 2/5/day of September, 2022.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

Brandee Mooneyhan, H.D.

Deputy General Counsel 9600 Gateway Drive

Reno, NV 89521

Tel: (775) 688-2559

Email: mooneyhanb@medboard.nv.gov Attorney for the Investigative Committee

# OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

Examiners

Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners 9600 Gateway Drive Reno, Nevada 89521 (775) 688-2559

### **VERIFICATION**

STATE OF NEVADA	)
	: ss
COUNTY OF CLARK	)

Victor M. Muro, M.D., having been duly sworn, hereby deposes and states under penalty of perjury that he is the Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners that authorized the Complaint against the Respondent herein; that he has read the foregoing Complaint; and that based upon information discovered in the course of the investigation into a complaint against Respondent, he believes that the allegations and charges in the foregoing Complaint against Respondent are true, accurate and correct.

DATED this 21 day of September, 2022.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: // mun)

Chairman of the Investigative Committee