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

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In the Matter of Charges and Complaint Against:

CHARLES PATRICK VIRDEN, M.D.,

Respondent.

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Case No. 21-10736-1

**FILED** 

MAR 0 4 2022

**NEVADA STATE BOARD OF** MEDICAL EXAMINERS

## **SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

The Investigative Committee (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board), by and through Aaron B. Fricke, J.D., General Counsel for the Board and attorney for the IC, and Charles Patrick Virden, M.D. (Respondent), a licensed physician in Nevada, assisted by his attorney, Lyn E. Beggs, Esq., of the law firm of Law Offices of Lyn E. Beggs, PLLC, hereby enter into this Settlement Agreement (Agreement) based on the following: 1

### BACKGROUND

- 2. Respondent is a medical doctor currently licensed in active 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. His license was originally issued on May 18, 1995 (License No. 7420).
- 3. On November 5, 2021, in Case No. 21-10736-1, the IC filed a formal Complaint (Complaint) charging Respondent with violating the Medical Practice Act. Specifically, the Complaint alleges fifteen (15) violations of NRS 630.301(4), Malpractice (COUNTS I - XV). By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

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1 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.

- 5. Respondent is hereby advised of his rights regarding this administrative matter, and of his opportunity to defend against the allegations in the Complaint. Specifically, Respondent has certain rights in this administrative matter as set out by the United States Constitution, the Nevada Constitution, the Medical Practice Act, the Nevada Open Meeting Law (OML), which is contained in NRS Chapter 241, and the Nevada Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which is contained in NRS Chapter 233B. These rights include the right to a formal hearing on the allegations in the Complaint, the right to representation by counsel, at his own expense, in the preparation and presentation of his defense, the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses and evidence against him, the right to written findings of fact, conclusions of law and order reflecting the final decision of the Board, and the right to judicial review of the Board's order, if the decision is adverse to him.
- 6. Respondent understands that, under the Board's charge to protect the public by regulating the practice of medicine, the Board may take disciplinary action against Respondent's license, including license probation, license suspension, license revocation and imposition of administrative fines, as well as any other reasonable requirement or limitation, if the Board concludes that Respondent violated one or more provisions of the Medical Practice Act.
- 7. Respondent understands and agrees that this Agreement, by and between Respondent and the IC, is not with the Board, and that the IC will present this Agreement to the Board for consideration in open session at a duly noticed and scheduled meeting. Respondent understands that the IC shall advocate for the Board's approval of this Agreement, but that the Board has the right to decide in its own discretion whether or not to approve this Agreement. Respondent further understands and agrees that if the Board approves this Agreement, then the terms and conditions enumerated below shall be binding and enforceable upon him and the Board.

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### B. **TERMS & CONDITIONS**

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

- 1. Jurisdiction. Respondent is, and at all times relevant to the Complaint has been, a physician licensed to practice medicine in Nevada subject to the jurisdiction of the Board as set forth in the Medical Practice Act.
- 2. Representation by Counsel/Knowing, Willing and Intelligent Agreement. Respondent acknowledges he is represented by counsel, and wishes to resolve the matters addressed herein with said counsel. Respondent agrees that if representation by counsel in this matter materially changes prior to entering into this Agreement and for the duration of this Agreement, that counsel for the IC will be timely notified of the material change. Respondent agrees that he knowingly, willingly and intelligently enters into this Agreement after deciding to have a full consultation with and upon the advice of legal counsel.
- 3. Waiver of Rights. In connection with this Agreement, and the associated terms and conditions, Respondent knowingly, willingly and intelligently waives all rights in connection with this administrative matter. Respondent hereby knowingly, willingly and intelligently waives all rights arising under the United States Constitution, the Nevada Constitution, the Medical Practice Act, the OML, the APA, and any other legal rights that may be available to him or that may apply to him in connection with the administrative proceedings resulting from the Complaint filed in this matter, including defense of the Complaint, adjudication of the allegations set forth in the Complaint, and imposition of any disciplinary actions or sanctions ordered by the Board. Respondent agrees to settle and resolve the allegations of the Complaint as set out by this Agreement, without a hearing or any further proceedings and without the right to judicial review.
- 4. Acknowledgement of Reasonable Basis to Proceed. As of the time of entering into this Settlement Agreement, the allegations of the Complaint remain unproven. Respondent acknowledges that the IC believes it has a reasonable basis to allege that Respondent engaged in conduct that is grounds for discipline pursuant to the Medical Practice Act. The IC acknowledges

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

- 5. Consent to Entry of Order. In order to resolve the Complaint pending against Respondent, Respondent hereby agrees that the Board may issue an order finding that Respondent engaged in conduct that is grounds for discipline pursuant to the Medical Practice Act. Accordingly, the following terms and conditions are hereby agreed upon:
- Respondent admits to all counts in the Complaint, COUNTS I XV, violations of NRS 630.301(4), Malpractice, specifically, for the injection of liquid silicone into the human body for purposes other than the treatment of retinal detachment, as alleged in the Complaint.
- b. Respondent's license to practice medicine shall be placed on probation for a period of forty-eight (48) months from the date of the Board's acceptance, adoption and approval of this Agreement (the "Probation Period"). During the Probation Period, should Respondent commit any new violations of the Medical Practice Act or fail to comply with any term or condition of this Agreement, the IC shall be authorized to immediately suspend Respondent's license to practice medicine in Nevada pending an Order to Show Cause Hearing maintaining the suspension pending final adjudication by the Board of the alleged violation. Specifically, during the Probation Period, the Respondent shall comply with the following terms and conditions, which hereby constitute specific orders of the Board:
- i. Respondent shall not inject liquid silicone into any human body for purposes other than the treatment of retinal detachment.
- ii. Respondent shall not for any reason or purpose purchase, possess or in any way acquire liquid silicone.

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- iii. Respondent shall immediately turn over and forfeit any liquid silicon now in his possession to the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy, and shall not sell or dispose of this by any other means; this order shall be complied within five (5) business days.
- iv. Respondent shall pay a fine in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) within ninety (90) days of the Board's acceptance, adoption, and approval of this Agreement.
- Respondent shall pay the costs and expenses incurred in the v. investigation and prosecution of the above-referenced matter within sixty (60) days of the Board's acceptance, adoption and approval of this Agreement, in the amount of four thousand two hundred fifty-nine dollars and thirty cents (\$4,259.30).
- Respondent shall complete twenty-two (22) hours of continuing vi. medical education (CME) regarding medical ethics and professionalism within six (6) months of the date of the Board's acceptance, adoption and approval of this Agreement. The aforementioned hours of CME shall be in addition to any CME requirements that are regularly imposed upon Respondent as a condition of licensure in the State of Nevada, and shall be approved by the Board to meet this requirement prior to their completion, and proof of completion shall be provided to the Board.
- vii. The Respondent shall submit and pass an Ethics and Boundaries Assessment Services (EBAS) examination within ninety (90) days of Board approval of this agreement, which examination shall be paid for at the expense of the Respondent.
- This Agreement shall be reported to the appropriate entities and parties as c. required by law, including, but not limited to, the National Practitioner Data Bank.
  - d. Respondent shall receive a Public Letter of Reprimand.
- e. The remaining counts of the Complaint, if any, and any other claims arising from the Board's corresponding investigative case file(s), shall be dismissed with prejudice.
- 6. Release From Liability. In execution of this Agreement, Respondent understands and agrees that the State of Nevada, the Board, and each of its members, staff, counsel, investigators, experts, peer reviewers, committees, panels, hearing officers, consultants and agents

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

7. Procedure for Adoption of Agreement The IC and counsel for the IC shall recommend approval and adoption of the terms and conditions of this Agreement by the Board in resolution of the Complaint at an upcoming Board meeting at the Board's earliest convenience, and Respondent hereby waives notice of the same, whether under the United States Constitution, the Nevada Constitution, the Medical Practice Act, the OML, the APA, or otherwise. In the course of seeking Board acceptance, approval and adoption of this Agreement, counsel for the IC may communicate directly with the Board staff and the adjudicating members of the Board.

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

8. Effect of Acceptance of Agreement by Board. In the event the Board accepts, approves and adopts this Agreement, the Board shall issue a final order, making this Agreement an order of the Board, and, pending full compliance with the terms herein, the case shall be closed and any and all remaining claims arising out of the Complaint shall be dismissed with prejudice.

- 10. <u>Binding Effect</u>. If approved by the Board, Respondent understands that this Agreement is a binding and enforceable contract upon Respondent and the Board.
- 11. <u>Forum Selection Clause</u>. The parties agree that in the event either party is required to seek enforcement of this Agreement in district court, the parties consent to such jurisdiction and agree that jurisdiction shall be in the Second Judicial District Court, State of Nevada, Washoe County.
- 12. <u>Attorneys' Fees and Costs</u>. The parties agree that in the event an action is commenced in district court to enforce any provision of this Agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.
- or condition of this Agreement once the Agreement has been accepted, approved and adopted by the Board, the IC shall be authorized to immediately suspend Respondent's license to practice medicine in Nevada pending an Order To Show Cause Hearing, which will be duly noticed. Failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement, including failure to pay any fines, costs, expenses or fees owed to the Board, is a failure to comply with an order of the Board, which may result in additional disciplinary action being taken against Respondent. NRS 630.3065(2)(a). 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 any civil and administrative collection efforts available.

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1 DATED this 9th day of FEBRUARY, 2022. DATED this 2 LAW OFFICES OF LYN E. BEGGS, PLLC 3 INVESTIGATIVE COMMUTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL ŀ **EXAMINERS** 5 By: 6 By: AARON B. FRICKE, J.D. 316 California Ave. General Counsel Reno, NV 89509 9600 Gateway Drive 8 Tel: (775) 432-1918 Reno, NV 89521 Email: lyna lbeggslaw.com Tel: (702) 786-3813 0 Attorney for Respondent Email: africked medboard ny gov }() Attorney for the Investigative Committee 11 12 DATED this day of aukasy . 2022. 1.3 By: CHARLES PATRICK VIRDES M.D., 15 Nevada License No. 7420 Respondent 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 34 25

# OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners 9600 Gateway Drive Reno, Nevada 895521 (775) 688-2559

# **ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, the foregoing Settlement Agreement (Case No. 21-10736-1) was approved and accepted by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners on the 4th day of March, 2022.

DATED this 4th day of March, 2022.

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: VICTOR M. MURO, M.D.

Board President