BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

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In the Matter of Charges and Complaint

| Against:

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SHELDON W. PAUL, M.D.,

Respondent.

Case No. 23-11328-1

FILED

NOV 03 2023

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS By:

COMPLAINT

The Investigative Committee¹ (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board), by and through Ian J. Cumings, Deputy General Counsel and attorney for the IC, having a reasonable basis to believe that Sheldon W. Paul, 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:

- 1. Respondent was at all times relative to this Complaint a medical doctor holding an active license to practice medicine in the State of Nevada (License No. 9007). Respondent was originally licensed by the Board on July 1, 1999. Respondent's specialty is listed as obstetrics and gynecology on the Board's website.
 - 2. Patient A^2 was a thirty-nine (39) year-old female at the time of the events at issue.
- 3. Patient A's relevant medical history at the time of the events at issue included a history of miscarriages and a diagnosis of thyroid cancer. Patient A delayed cancer treatment to avoid a further delay in conception.

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¹ 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 Aury Nagy, M.D., Nick M. Spirtos, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., and Ms. Maggie Arias-Petrel.

² 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.

| OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners | 9600 Gateway Drive | Reno, Nevada 89521 | (775) 688-2559 | |
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| 4. | Patient | A became | pregnant in | sometime i | n August | with | a last | menstrual | period | 0 |
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| August 5, | 2021. | | | | | | | | | |

- On September 15, 2021, Patient A presented to Respondent's practice for prenatal 5. care at which time Patient A underwent an initial ultrasound and laboratory testing. Patient A's lab work showed a quantitative human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) level of 28549 which is consistent with five (5) weeks of pregnancy.
- On September 19, 2021, Patient A was prescribed Doxycycline to treat a suspected 6. infection, which is contraindicated during pregnancy, by an APRN at Respondent's practice.
- On September 22, 2021, Patient A returned to Respondent's practice for a repeat 7. ultrasound. The ultrasound was interpreted by a nurse who informed Patient A that the fetus had not grown and was not viable. Patient A was scheduled for a dilation and curettage to terminate the pregnancy.
- On September 29, 2021, Patient A presented to Respondent for a dilation and 8. curettage to terminate her pregnancy. Following the procedure, Respondent sent a blood sample from Patient A during the procedure for laboratory testing. Testing revealed no fetal parts in the blood sampled.
- On October 6, 2021, Patient A presented to Respondent for a follow-up 9. appointment after the dilation and curettage, which the Respondent had deemed as failed. An ultrasound was performed which Respondent documented as showing an irregular gestational sac with no fetal pole or yolk sac. Respondent maintained the diagnosis that the fetus was nonviable and prescribed Patient A the medication Cytotec to induce an abortion, which is also contraindicated during pregnancy.
- On October 6, 2021, Patient A presented to the emergency department at a local 10. hospital immediately following her appointment with Respondent. Ultrasound testing at the hospital revealed a viable intrauterine pregnancy with an estimated gestational age of eight (8) weeks and one (1) day.
 - Patient A subsequently continued on to deliver her pregnancy on April 24, 2021. 11.

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COUNT I

NRS 630.301(4) - Malpractice

- All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by 12. reference as though fully set forth herein.
- NRS 630.301(4) provides that malpractice of a physician is grounds for initiating 13. disciplinary action against a licensee.
- NAC 630.040 defines malpractice as "the failure of a physician, in treating a 14. patient, to use the reasonable care, skill, or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances."
- As demonstrated by, but not limited to, the above-outlined facts, Respondent failed 15. to use the reasonable care, skill or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances when rendering medical services to Patient A by failing adequately interpret Patient A's ultrasound images and normal laboratory test results demonstrating a viable pregnancy, and erroneously informed Patient A that she was carrying a non-viable fetus. Respondent further committed malpractice by performing a dilation and curettage to terminate Patient A's desired pregnancy.
- By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as 16. provided in NRS 630.352.

COUNT II

NRS 630.301(4) - Malpractice

- All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by 17. reference as though fully set forth herein.
- NRS 630.301(4) provides that malpractice of a physician is grounds for initiating 18. disciplinary action against a licensee.
- NAC 630.040 defines malpractice as "the failure of a physician, in treating a 19. patient, to use the reasonable care, skill, or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances."
- As demonstrated by, but not limited to, the above-outlined facts, Respondent failed 20. to use the reasonable care, skill or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances when

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rendering medical services to Patient A by failing to adequately supervise medical staff who prescribed Doxycycline to Patient A during pregnancy which is contraindicated. Respondent further committed malpractice by prescribing Patient A the medication Cytotec to induce termination of her desired pregnancy on October 6, 2021, which is contraindicated during pregnancy.

By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as 21. provided in NRS 630.352.

COUNT III

NRS 630.306(1)(g) - Continual Failure to Exercise Skill or Diligence

- All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by 22. reference as though fully set forth herein.
- Continual failure by the Respondent to exercise the skill or diligence or use the 23. methods ordinarily exercised under the same circumstances by physicians in good standing practicing in the same specialty or field is grounds for disciplinary action against a licensee pursuant to NRS 630.306(1)(g).
- Respondent continually failed to exercise skill or diligence as demonstrated by his 24. repeated reliance on his staff's interpretations of ultrasound testing, repeated failure to appreciate laboratory results demonstrating the viability of Patient A's pregnancy, and prescription of contraindicated drugs to Patient A.
- By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as 25. provided in NRS 630.352.

COUNT IV

NRS 630.306(1)(b)(2) - Failure to Adequately Supervise a Medical Assistant

- All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by 26. reference as though fully set forth herein.
- Violation of a standard of practice adopted by the Board is grounds for disciplinary 27. action pursuant to NRS 630.306(1)(b)(2).

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| | 28. | Pursuant | to | NAC | 630.23 | 0(1)(g-i) | it | is | prohibi | ted 1 | orofessiona | l c | onduct | for | a |
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| APRì | ٧. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

- 29. Respondent failed to provide adequate supervision of medical staff by reliance on incorrect ultrasound interpretations and the delivery of prescriptions for contraindicated drugs by medical staff during Patient A's care.
- 30. 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 Board give Respondent notice of the charges herein against him and give 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;
- 5. That the Board make, issue and serve on Respondent its findings of fact, conclusions of law and order, in writing, that includes the sanctions imposed; and

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6. That the Board take such other and further action as may be just and proper in these premises.

DATED this 3 day of November, 2023.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

IAN J. CUMINGS
Deputy General Counsel
9600 Gateway Drive
Reno, NV 89521

Tel: (775) 688-2559

Email: <u>icumings@medboard.nv.gov</u>
Attorney for the Investigative Committee

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

VERIFICATION

| STATE OF NEVADA |) |
|-----------------|-------|
| | : SS. |
| COUNTY OF CLARK |) |

Aury Nagy, 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 day of November, 2023.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

AURY NAGY, M.D.,

Chairman of the Investigative Committee