1	<b>BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS</b>		
2	OF THE STATE OF NEVADA		
3	* * * *		
4			
5	In the Matter of Charges and Complaint	Case No. 22-22461-1	
6	Against:	FILED	
7	MATTHEW OBIM OKEKE, M.D.,	MAR 0 3 2023	
8	Respondent.	NEVADA STATE BOARD OF	
9		MEDICAL EXAMINERS By:	
10	SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT		
11	The Investigative Committee (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners		
12	(Board), by and through Sarah A. Bradley, J.D., MBA, Deputy Executive Director for the Board		
13	and attorney for the IC, and Matthew Obim Okeke, M.D. (Respondent), a licensed physician in		
14	Nevada, assisted by his attorney, Liborius Agwara, Esq., of the Law Offices of Libo Agwara, Ltd.,		
15	hereby enter into this Settlement Agreement (Agreement) based on the following:1		
16	A. BACKGROUND		
17	1. Respondent is a medical doctor currently licensed in active-probation status by the		
18	Board pursuant to Chapter 630 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Chapter 630 of the		
19	Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) (collectively, the Medical Practice Act) to practice medicine		
20	in Nevada. His license was originally issued on September 6, 2013 (License No. 14957).		
21	2. On September 13, 2022, in Case No. 22-22461-1, the IC filed a formal Complaint		
22	(Complaint) charging Respondent with violating the Medical Practice Act. Specifically, the		
23	Complaint alleges one (1) violation of NRS 630.306(1)(1) Failure to Report Criminal Action. By		
24	reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in		
25	NRS 630.352.		
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27	<sup>1</sup> 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,		
28	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.		

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

Respondent is hereby advised of his rights regarding this administrative matter, and 4. 4 of his opportunity to defend against the allegations in the Complaint. Specifically, Respondent has 5 certain rights in this administrative matter as set out by the United States Constitution, the Nevada 6 Constitution, the Medical Practice Act, the Nevada Open Meeting Law (OML), which is 7 contained in NRS Chapter 241, and the Nevada Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which is 8 contained in NRS Chapter 233B and 622A. These rights include the right to a formal hearing on 9 the allegations in the Complaint, the right to representation by counsel, at his own expense, in the 10 preparation and presentation of his defense, the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses 11 and evidence against him, the right to written findings of fact, conclusions of law and order 12 reflecting the final decision of the Board, and the right to judicial review of the Board's order, if 13 the decision is adverse to him. 14

Respondent understands that, under the Board's charge to protect the public by 5. 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

Respondent understands and agrees that this Agreement, by and between 6. 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 27 111

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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:

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.

8 2. <u>Representation by Counsel/Knowing, Willing and Intelligent Agreement</u>. 9 Respondent acknowledges he is represented by counsel, and wishes to resolve the matters 10 addressed herein with said counsel. Respondent agrees that if representation by counsel in this 11 matter materially changes prior to entering into this Agreement and for the duration of this 12 Agreement, that counsel for the IC will be timely notified of the material change. Respondent 13 agrees that he knowingly, willingly and intelligently enters into this Agreement after deciding to 14 have a full consultation with and upon the advice of legal counsel.

Waiver of Rights. In connection with this Agreement, and the associated terms 3. 15 and conditions, Respondent knowingly, willingly and intelligently waives all rights in connection 16 with this administrative matter. Respondent hereby knowingly, willingly and intelligently waives 17 all rights arising under the United States Constitution, the Nevada Constitution, the Medical 18 Practice Act, the OML, the APA, and any other legal rights that may be available to him or that 19 may apply to him in connection with the administrative proceedings resulting from the Complaint 20 filed in this matter, including defense of the Complaint, adjudication of the allegations set forth in 21 the Complaint, and imposition of any disciplinary actions or sanctions ordered by the Board. 22 Respondent agrees to settle and resolve the allegations of the Complaint as set out by this 23 Agreement, without a hearing or any further proceedings and without the right to judicial review. 24

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4. <u>Acknowledgement of Reasonable Basis to Proceed</u>. 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

Respondent is not admitting that the IC's claims/counts as alleged in the Complaint have merit 1 and Respondent is agreeing to resolve this matter to avoid the costs of hearing and potential 2 subsequent litigation. Respondent asserts if this matter were to proceed to hearing, he has 3 evidence, witnesses, expert witness(es) and defenses to the counts/claims alleged in the 4 Complaint, but for the purposes of resolving the matter and for no other purpose, Respondent 5 waives the presentation of evidence, witnesses, expert witnesses, and defenses in order to 6 7 effectuate this Agreement.

Consent to Entry of Order. In order to resolve this Complaint pending against 5. 8 Respondent, Respondent hereby agrees that the Board may issue an order finding that Respondent 9 engaged in conduct that is grounds for discipline pursuant to the Medical Practice Act. 10 Accordingly, the following terms and conditions are hereby agreed upon: 11

Respondent admits to Count I, one (1) violation of NRS 630.306(1)(l), 12 a. Failure to Report Criminal Action. 13

Respondent will pay the costs and expenses incurred in the investigation b. 14 and prosecution of the above-referenced matter within sixty (60) days of the Board's acceptance, 15 adoption and approval of this Agreement, in the amount of one thousand three hundred three 16 dollars and ninety-two cents (\$1,303.92).

This Agreement shall be reported to the appropriate entities and parties as c. 18 required by law, including, but not limited to, the National Practitioner Data Bank. 19

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Respondent shall receive a Public Letter of Reprimand. d.

The remaining counts of the Complaint, and any other claims arising from e. 21 the Board's corresponding investigative case file(s), shall be dismissed with prejudice. 22

**Release from Liability.** In execution of this Agreement, Respondent understands 23 6. and agrees that the State of Nevada, the Board, and each of its members, staff, counsel, 24 investigators, experts, peer reviewers, committees, panels, hearing officers, consultants and agents 25 are immune from civil liability for any decision or action taken in good faith in response to 26 information acquired by the Board. NRS 630.364(2)(a). Respondent agrees to release the State of 27 Nevada, the Board, and each of its members, staff, counsel, investigators, experts, peer reviewers, 28

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 7. <u>Procedure for Adoption of Agreement</u>. The IC and counsel for the IC shall 8 recommend approval and adoption of the terms and conditions of this Agreement by the Board in 9 resolution of this Complaint. In the course of seeking Board acceptance, approval and adoption of 10 this Agreement, counsel for the IC may communicate directly with the Board staff and the 11 adjudicating members of the Board.

Respondent acknowledges that such contacts and communications may be made or 12 conducted ex-parté, without notice or opportunity to be heard on his part until the public Board 13 meeting where this Agreement is discussed, and that such contacts and communications may 14 include, but may not be limited to, matters concerning this Agreement, the Complaint and any and 15 all information of every nature whatsoever related to this matter. The IC and its counsel agree that 16 Respondent and/or Counsel for the Respondent may appear at the Board meeting where this 17 Agreement is discussed and, if requested, respond to any questions that may be addressed to the 18 19 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 all remaining claims arising out of the Complaint shall be dismissed with prejudice.

9. <u>Effect of Rejection of Agreement by Board</u>. In the event the Board does not accept, approve and adopt this Agreement, this Agreement shall be null, void and of no force and effect <u>except</u> as to the following agreement regarding adjudications: (1) Respondent agrees that, notwithstanding rejection of this Agreement by the Board, nothing contained in this Agreement and nothing that occurs pursuant to efforts of the IC to seek the Board's acceptance of this Agreement shall disqualify any member of the adjudicating panel of the Board from considering
 this Complaint and from participating in disciplinary proceedings against Respondent, including
 adjudication of this case; and (2) Respondent further agrees that he shall not seek to disqualify any
 such member absent evidence of bad faith.

510.**Binding Effect**. If approved by the Board, Respondent understands that this6Agreement 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
8 required to seek enforcement of this Agreement in district court, the party's consent to such
9 jurisdiction and agree that exclusive jurisdiction shall be in the Second Judicial District Court,
10 State of Nevada, Washoe County.

11 12. <u>Attorneys' Fees and Costs</u>. 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 15 or condition of this Agreement once the Agreement has been accepted, approved and adopted by 16 the 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 1 as a condition of this Agreement may subject Respondent to civil collection efforts. 2 3 DATED this 30 day of Tanuery, DATED this 315 day of January 2023. 2023. 4 LAW OFFICES OF LIBO AGWARA, LTD. 5 INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL 6 **EXAMINERS** 7 118 8 By: By: SARAH A. BRADLEY, J.D., MBA LIBORIUS AGWARA, ESQ. 9 Deputy Executive Director 2785 E. Desert Inn Rd, Ste. 280 9600 Gateway Drive Las Vegas, NV 89121 10 Reno, NV 89521 Tel: (702) 385-4800 Tel: (775) 688-2559 Email: libolaw@yahoo.com 11 Email: bradleys@medboard.nv.gov Attorney for Respondent 12 Attorney for the Investigative Committee 13 DATED this  $29^{\mu}$  day of  $\overline{Jan}$ , 2023. 14 15 16 By: MATTHEW OBIM OKEKE, M.D., 17 Nevada License No. 14957 Respondent 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 7 of 7

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Vevada State Board of Medical Examinets

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	1	ORDER
	2	<b>IT IS HEREBY ORDERED</b> that, the foregoing Settlement Agreement (Case No. 22-22461-1)
	3	was approved and accepted by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners on the 3rd day of
	4	March, 2023.
	5	DATED this 3rd day of March, 2023.
	6	NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL
	7	EXAMINERS
	8	By:
	9	AURY NAGY, M.D. Board President
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