# OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners 9600 Gateway Drive 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

Case No. 19-11531-1

STEPHEN WINSLOW GORDON, M.D.,

FILED

Respondent.

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FEB 2 8 2019

**COMPLAINT** 

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMPLES.

By:

The Investigative Committee<sup>1</sup> (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board) hereby issues this formal Complaint (Complaint) against Stephen Winslow Gordon, M.D. (Respondent), a physician licensed in Nevada. After investigating this matter, the IC has a reasonable basis to believe that Respondent has violated provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 630 and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 630 (collectively, the Medical Practice Act). The IC alleges the following facts:

1. Respondent is, and was at all times relevant to this case, a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Nevada (License No. 7986). His license was originally issued by the Board on September 23, 1996.

## A. Respondent's Treatment of Patient A

- 2. Patient A was a healthy, well-developed 38-year-old female when she presented to Respondent for liposuction, liposculpture, fat grafting, and panniculectomy procedures on or about January 3, 2014 (the Operation).
- 3. Respondent performed the Operation on January 3, 2014, and caused multiple extraneous injuries to Patient A.
- 4. During the Operation, Patient A went into respiratory distress, was transported to the nearest hospital emergency department, and died shortly thereafter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Investigative Committee (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board), at the time this formal Complaint was authorized for filing, was composed of Board members Theodore B. Berndt, M.D., Chairman, Michael J. Fischer, M.D., and Ms. Valerie J. Clark.

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5. Patient A died of exsanguination, caused by perforation/puncture of various internal organs, which injuries were caused by Respondent, or were caused by others acting at his direction, the safety and performance of such tasks Respondent is professionally responsible for pursuant to NAC 630.830.

## **COUNT I**

## NRS 630.301(4) (Malpractice)

- 6. All of the allegations in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated as if fully set forth herein.
- 7. Malpractice is grounds for disciplinary action against a licensee pursuant to NRS 630.301(4).
- 8. NAC 630.040 defines malpractice as a practitioner's failure to use the reasonable care, skill, or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances when treating a patient.
- 9. As demonstrated by, but not limited to, the above-outlined facts, Respondent committed malpractice with respect to his treatment of Patient A.
- 10. 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 and give notice that an answer to the Complaint herein may be filed 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 make, issue and serve on Respondent its findings of fact, conclusions of law and order, in writing, that includes the sanctions imposed; and
- 5. That the Board take such other and further action as may be just and proper in these premises.

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

DATED this  $28^{\circ}$  day of February, 2019.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

Aaron Bart Fricke, Esq., Deputy General Counsel Attorney for the Investigative Committee

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

## 

## VERIFICATION

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

Wayne Hardwick, 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 Atlay of February, 2019.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Wayne Hardwick, M.D., Chairman

# OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners 9600 Gateway Drive Reno, Nevada 89521

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

\* \* \* \* \*

In the Matter of Charges and

Complaint Against

STEPHEN WINSLOW GORDON, M.D.,

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Case No. 19-11531-1

FILED

JUN 1 0 2019

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS BV:

### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

The Investigative Committee (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board), by and through Aaron Bart Fricke, Esq., Deputy General Counsel for the Board and attorney for the IC, and Stephen Winslow Gordon, M.D. (Respondent), a licensed physician in Nevada, assisted by his attorney, John H. Cotton, Esq., of the law firm of John H. Cotton & Associates Ltd., hereby enter into this Settlement Agreement (Agreement) based on the following:

### A. Background

- 1. Respondent is a medical doctor currently licensed 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. His license was originally issued on September 23, 1996 (License No. 7986).
- 2. On February 28, 2019, in Case No. 19-11531-1, the IC filed a formal Complaint (Complaint) charging Respondent with violating the Medical Practice Act. Specifically, the Complaint alleges one (1) violation of NRS 630.301(4), Malpractice (Count I).
  - 3. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as

<sup>&</sup>lt;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, 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.

provided in NRS 630.352.

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

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. 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 and Respondent

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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 this 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:
  - a. Respondent admits to Count I, Malpractice.
- Respondent has voluntarily ceased and is hereby ordered to continue to refrain b. from performing liposuction, liposculpture, fat grafting, and panniculectomy until further order of the Board.
- c. Respondent will pay the costs and expenses incurred in the investigation and prosecution of the above-referenced matter within sixty (60) days of the Board's acceptance, adoption and approval of this Agreement, the current amount being \$5,167.46, not including any costs that may be necessary to finalize this Agreement.
- d. Respondent shall pay a fine of \$2,500.00 within sixty (60) days of the Board's acceptance, adoption and approval of this Agreement.
- e. This Agreement shall be reported to the appropriate entities and parties as required by law, including, but not limited to, the National Practitioner Data Bank.
  - f. Respondent shall receive a Public Letter of Reprimand.
- Any other claims arising from Board Investigation No. 14-14992 shall be g. 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 are immune from civil liability for any decision or action taken in good faith in response to

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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 this Complaint. 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 this matter. 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 all remaining claims arising out of the Complaint shall be dismissed with prejudice.
- 9. Effect of Rejection of Agreement by Board. 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 except as to the following agreement regarding adjudications: (1) Respondent agrees that,

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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.

- 10. Binding Effect. If approved by the Board, Respondent understands that this Agreement is a binding and enforceable contract upon Respondent and the Board.
- 11. Forum Selection Clause. 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 exclusive jurisdiction shall be in the Second Judicial District Court, State of Nevada, Washoe County.
- 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 be entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.
- 13. Failure to Comply With Terms. Should Respondent fail to comply with any term 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 civil collection efforts.

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

| Dated this 6 day of 0000, 2019.   |
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| INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE<br>NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS                     |
| By:  Aaron Bart Fricke, Esq., Deputy General Counsel Attorney for the Investigative Committee |
| Dated this 5th day of June, 2019.   |
| John H. Cotton & Associates  By: 4 10216  |
| John Cotton, Esq. Attorneys for Respondent  |
| Dated this 5 day of Jnne, 2019.   |
| Stell W. Sudan MP   |
| Stephen Winslow Gordon, M.D., Respondent  |

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the foregoing Settlement Agreement (19-11531-1) is approved and accepted by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners on the 7th day of June, 2019, with the final total amount of costs due of \$5,167.46

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

## OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners 9600 Gatewa, Drive Reno, Nevada 89521

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

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In the Matter of Charges and

**Complaint Against** 

STEPHEN WINSLOW GORDON, M.D.,

Respondent.

Case No. 19-11531-1

FILED

JUN 1 2 2020

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS By:

## STIPULATION AND ORDER AMENDING TERMS OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Stephen Winslow Gordon, M.D., License No. 7986 (Licensee, or Dr. Gordon), through his counsel of record, Kathleen Janssen, Esq., of Cook & Kelesis, Ltd., appeared via a Zoom audio meeting before the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board) at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 5, 2020, requesting modification of the terms and conditions set forth in Section 5(b) of that Settlement Agreement entered into between Licensee and the Investigative Committee of the Board (IC), which was made an Order of the Board in this matter on June 7, 2019. After considering Licensee's request, and based on an accord reached with Licensee at the meeting, and good cause appearing, the Board enters the following Order:

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IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Section 5(b) of the Settlement Agreement be amended in it entirety and restated as follows:

b. Respondent has voluntarily ceased performing liposuction, liposculpture. fat grafting, and panniculectomy cosmetic procedures ("The Cosmetic Procedures") and, in fact, as a full-time burn and wound care plastic surgeon with The Burn and Reconstructive Centers of America (BRCA) at the Sunrise Burn and Wound Care Center he does not perform any such cosmetic procedures, and further, the terms of his employment with BRCA prohibit him from maintaining a private cosmetic surgery practice of any type. In the event Respondent's full-time employment with BRCA at the Sunrise Burn and Wound Care Center should change such that he would be asked or would desire to perform The Cosmetic Procedures, or should such employment cease either voluntarily or involuntarily. Respondent agrees to immediately notify the Board in writing within forty-eight (48) hours of such change of circumstances so that the Board may consider the information, and if it then deems necessary, move to impose a restriction on Respondent's medical license that orders him to refrain from performing The Cosmetic Procedures until further order of the Board.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that all other terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement shall remain in effect. Should Licensee fail to comply with any term or condition recited in the Settlement Agreement or this Order, the IC shall be authorized to immediately suspend Dr. Gordon's license to practice medicine in the State of Nevada pending an order to show cause hearing, which will be duly noticed and scheduled. Further, the IC may then have grounds, after notice and a hearing, to take disciplinary action against Dr. Gordon, including, but not limited to, potential revocation of Dr. Gordon's license to practice medicine in the State of

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| Nevada and/or any other discipline authorized by Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 630. and |
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| Nevada Administrative Code Chapter 630.   |
| Dated this 12th day of June . 2020.   |
| NEVADOSTATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS  Directly fachalised                               |
| Rachakonda D. Prabhu, M.D., President Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners             |
| THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY STIPULATES:  |
| Dated this // to day of June, 2020.   |
| Cook & Kelesis, Ltd.  |
| By: Kathleen Janssen. Esq. Attorneys for Licensee   |
| Dated this day of, 2020.  |

Stephen Winslow Gordon, M.D., Licensee