

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE

MIDDLESEX, SS

Adjudicatory Case
No. 2017-038
(RM-17-935)

In the Matter of)
)
)
Debra Little, M.D.)
_____)

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

This matter came before the Board for disposition on the basis of the Administrative Magistrate's Recommended Decision, incorporating a Stipulation, dated September 1, 2021, which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference. Complaint Counsel filed a Memorandum on Disposition. After full consideration of the Recommended Decision, and Complaint Counsel's Memorandum on Disposition, the Board ADOPTS the Recommended Decision, and adds the following:

Sanction

When there is substandard care and there have been multiple instances of negligence when treating one patient, the Board has often imposed a reprimand. *See In the Matter of Osei-Tutu, M.D.*, Board of Registration in Medicine, Adjudicatory Case No. 2007-004 (RM-07-064) (Final Decision and Order, February 25, 2009); *In the Matter of John Clapp, M.D.*, Board of Registration in Medicine, Adjudicatory Case No. 2006-14 (Consent Order, April 12, 2006).

The Respondent made multiple false statements to the Board and made false characterizations of a patient's allegations made in a complaint. Providing false information to the Board often arises in the context of false answers in a physician's license application or renewal application. In situations when a physician falsely answers one or more application questions, a reprimand and fine are often imposed. *In the Matter*

of William E. O'Connor, M.D., Board of Registration in Medicine, Adjudicatory Case No. 2015-020 (Final Decision and Order, January 21, 2016); *In the Matter of Franklin B. Waddell, M.D.*, Board of Registration in Medicine, Adjudicatory Case No. 2015-032 (Consent Order, November 19, 2015).

The Respondent was also charged with engaging in conduct that undermines the public confidence in the integrity of the medical profession pursuant to *Levy v. Board of Registration in Medicine*, 378 Mass. 519 (1979) and *Raymond v. Board of Registration in Medicine*, 387 Mass. 708 (1982). Depending on the facts in each case, discipline for this violation encompassing the element of good moral character, has ranged generally from a reprimand to a revocation. In the present matter, the infractions that gave rise to the charges against the Respondent are consistent with discipline imposing a reprimand, or reprimand and fine.

The Board hereby REPRIMANDS the Respondent's license to practice.

The Respondent shall provide a complete copy of this Final Decision and Order, with all exhibits and attachments within ten (10) days by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by hand delivery to the following designated entities: any in- or out-of-state hospital, nursing home, clinic, other licensed facility, or municipal, state, or federal facility at which she practices medicine; any in- or out-of-state health maintenance organization with whom she has privileges or any other kind of association; any state agency, in- or out-of-state, with which she has a provider contract; any in- or out-of-state medical employer, whether or not she practices medicine there; the state licensing boards of all states in which she has any kind of license to practice medicine; the Drug Enforcement Administration -- Boston Diversion Group; and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Drug Control Program. The Respondent shall also provide this notification to any such designated entities with which she becomes associated in the year following the date of imposition of this reprimand. The Respondent is further directed to certify to the Board within ten (10) days that she has complied with this directive. The Board expressly reserves the authority to independently notify, at any time, any of the entities designated above, or any other affected entity, of any action it has taken. The Respondent has the right to appeal this Final Decision and Order within thirty (30) days, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §§14 and 15, and G.L. c. 112, § 64.

Date: December 2, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julian Robinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Julian Robinson, M.D.
Chair
Board of Registration in Medicine