

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, ss.

Board of Registration in Medicine

Adjudicatory Case No. 2017-044

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In the Matter of )  
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 )  
BRIAN COOLBAUGH, M.D. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS**

The Board of Registration in Medicine (Board) has determined that good cause exists to believe the following acts occurred and constitute a violation for which a licensee may be sanctioned by the Board. The Board therefore alleges that Brian Coolbaugh, M.D. (Respondent) has practiced medicine in violation of law, regulation, and/or good and accepted medical practice, as set forth herein. The investigative docket number associated with this order to show cause is Docket No. 15-127.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The Respondent was born on January 7, 1956. He is certified by the American Board of Radiology. He has been licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts since 1987 under certificate number 57375. He was previously affiliated with Milford Regional Medical Center (MRMC).
2. In mid-December 2014, the Respondent's wife was diagnosed with end-stage liver disease based on her use of alcohol. While his wife was in the hospital for eight weeks, the Respondent self-medicated with alcohol.
3. On January 9, 2015, the Respondent ceased using alcohol.
4. On February 10, 2015, the Respondent's wife died. She was 43-years-old.
5. In April 2015, the Respondent began drinking alcohol again due to his overwhelming grief surrounding his wife's birthday.

6. During April and May 2015, the Respondent drank alcohol every evening.

7. In May 2015, the Respondent showed “Lady Godiva-like photos” of his wife to two MRMC staff members.

8. After the photograph incident, MRMC began an investigation and asked the Respondent to take a leave of absence from the hospital until the investigation concluded.

9. MRMC referred the Respondent to Physician Health Services (PHS).

#### Legal Basis for Proposed Relief

A. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, §5, ninth par. (c) and 243 C.M.R. 1.03(5)(a) 3, the Board may discipline a physician upon proof satisfactory to a majority of the Board that said physician engaged in conduct which calls into question his competence to practice medicine.

B. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, §5(d) and 243 C.M.R. 1.03(5)(a)(4), the Board may discipline a physician upon proof satisfactory to a majority of the Board that said physician practiced medicine while his ability to do so was impaired by alcohol.

C. Pursuant to Levy v. Board of Registration in Medicine, 378 Mass. 519 (1979); Raymond v. Board of Registration in Medicine, 387 Mass. 708 (1982), and Sugarman v. Board of Registration in Medicine, 422 Mass. 338 (1996), the Board may discipline a physician upon proof satisfactory to a majority of the Board that said physician lacks good moral character and has engaged in conduct that undermines the public confidence in the integrity of the medical profession.

The Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 112, §§ 5, 61, and 62. This adjudicatory proceeding will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 30A and 801 CMR 1.01.

#### Nature of Relief Sought

The Board is authorized and empowered to order appropriate disciplinary action, which may include revocation or suspension of the Respondent's license to practice medicine. The Board may also

order, in addition to or instead of revocation or suspension, one or more of the following: admonishment, censure, reprimand, fine, the performance of uncompensated public service, a course of education or training, or other restrictions upon the Respondent's practice of medicine.

Order

Wherefore, it is hereby **ORDERED** that the Respondent show cause why the Board should not discipline the Respondent for the conduct described herein.

By the Board of Registration in Medicine,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathleen Sullivan Meyer", is written over a horizontal line.

Kathleen Sullivan Meyer  
Vice Chair

Date: November 22, 2017