

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, ss.

Board of Registration in Medicine

Adjudicatory Case No. 2020-054

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 In the Matter of )  
 )  
 FIFIELD P. WORKUM, M.D. )  
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**STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS**

The Board of Registration in Medicine (the “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 Fifield P. Workum, M.D. (the “Respondent”) has practiced medicine in violation of law, regulations, or good and accepted medical practice as set forth herein. The investigative docket number associated with this order to show cause is Investigative Docket No. 19-149.

Findings of Fact

1. The Respondent was born on June 26, 1937. He graduated from the Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons in 1969. He has been licensed to practice medicine in Massachusetts under certificate number 37939 since 1975 and specializes in internal medicine and pulmonary disease.

2. On February 28, 2019, the Respondent, while working at Lemuel Shattuck Hospital (“LSH”), engaged Staff Member A in a hallway to discuss an earlier request for her assistance in completing an online credentialing form that she had declined.

3. Upon engaging Staff Member A in the hallway as described in the preceding paragraph, the Respondent, using inappropriate language, conveyed his frustration to her about her refusal to assist him with the aforementioned online credentialing form.

4. During the encounter described in paragraph 3, the Respondent repeatedly made unwanted, physical contact with multiple parts of Staff Member A's body, including but not limited to the area of her neck and shoulders.

5. Shortly after his encounter with Staff Member A, Respondent went to see her in her office and apologized to her for his language and behavior.

6. LSH, a state-run hospital, abides by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Policy of Zero Tolerance for Workplace Violence as established in Executive Order 442.

7. LSH Administration subsequently determined that the Respondent's physical contact with Staff Member A, as described in ¶ 4, above, violated the aforementioned policy.

8. On March 4, 2019, the Respondent was informed by the Chief Executive Officer of LSH that his (the Respondent's) employment relationship with LSH was then terminated with immediate effect.

#### Legal Basis for Proposed Relief

A. 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), the Board may discipline a physician upon proof satisfactory to a majority of the Board that said physician 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,



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George M. Abraham, M.D.  
Board Chair

Date: December 17, 2020