

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE MEDICAL BOARD
IN THE MATTER OF: DEAN B. PRIEST, JR., M.D.**

EMERGENCY ORDER OF SUSPENSION AND NOTICE OF HEARING

On this 20th day of June, 2022, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-201 of the Arkansas Administrative Procedures Act, and Ark. Code Ann. § 17-95-410 of the Medical Practices Act, the Arkansas State Medical Board issues the following Emergency Order of Suspension and Notice of Hearing charging Dean B. Priest, Jr., M.D., with an alleged violations of the Medical Practices Act and Board Regulations, more specifically:

1. Board Regulation 1(2)(B), that is, the Board has received information indicating the public health, safety, and welfare requires emergency action.

The allegation upon which the above charge is based is as follows:

I.

Dean B. Priest, Jr., M.D., is a licensed physician in the State of Arkansas under the provisions of the Medical Practices Act.

II.

On June 15, 2022, the staff of the Arkansas State Medical Board received an email from a friend of Dean B. Priest, Jr., M.D., who reported concerns about the mental state of Dr. Priest and concerns about his fitness to practice medicine in his current mental condition.

III.

One June 15, 2022, the staff of the Arkansas State Medical Board received an email from Detective Sergeant Chris Collins of the Lowell, Arkansas Police Department. Detective Sergeant Collins reported that in response to a phone call on June 6, 2022, he had attempted to

conduct a welfare check of Dr. Priest at his residence, he but was unable to make contact with Dr. Priest. Detective Sergeant Collins also reported that Diana Priest, the estranged wife of Dr. Priest, had come to the Lowell Police Department to express her concerns about Dr. Priest directly to an officer. Ms. Priest provided screenshots of recent public social media posts made by Dr. Priest that raised serious concerns about his mental state.

IV.

Pursuant to the Arkansas Administrative Procedures Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-211(c), upon an affirmative vote of the majority of the Arkansas State Medical Board, the Board finds that the acts of Dean B. Priest, Jr., M.D., as described above, exhibit an ongoing danger to the public in his continued practice of medicine. Therefore, the license to practice medicine in the State of Arkansas of Dean B. Priest, Jr., M.D., is suspended on an emergency basis, pending a disciplinary hearing in this matter, or further orders of this Board.

WHEREFORE, IT IS CONSIDERED, ORDERED, AND ADJUDGED by the Arkansas State Medical Board that a hearing should be conducted to determine whether Dean B. Priest, Jr., M.D., has violated the Medical Practices Act as alleged above; and, if it is found that he has, in fact, violated the Medical Practices Act, then the Board should determine whether the license of Dean B. Priest, Jr., M.D., to practice medicine in the State of Arkansas, should be revoked or suspended, or whether other sanctions should be given as punishment pursuant to the authority granted the Board pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 17-95-410.


Said hearing will be conducted at 9:00 o'clock a.m., on the 5th day of August 2022, at the meeting of the Arkansas State Medical Board, 1401 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 340, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201.

Dean B. Priest, Jr., M.D., is hereby advised that he may be represented by counsel at the hearing, and that he will be given the opportunity to examine all of the evidence offered to the Board, to cross-examine witnesses, and to offer evidence and witnesses on his own behalf.

Dean B. Priest, Jr., M.D., is further advised that any additional records and/or exhibits that he as a Respondent wishes to present to the Board at his hearing MUST be provided to the Board no later than 20 days prior to the hearing date. Failure to do so may result in the Board's refusal to allow the information or documentation to be presented by the Respondent.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

ARKANSAS STATE MEDICAL BOARD



Sylvia D. Simon, M.D., Chairman

Date: 6/20/2022

Prepared by:
/s/Juliane Chavis
Juliane Chavis
Assistant Attorney General
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