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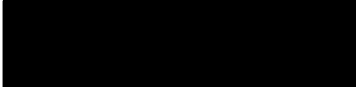
ELAINE HUGUNIN
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ARIZONA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

1651 East Morten, Suite 210 • Phoenix, Arizona 85020 • Telephone (602) 255-3751 • FAX (602) 255-1848

Certified Mail/Return Receipt Requested

Steven Dingle, M.D.



Re: **LETTER OF REPRIMAND**
Maricopa Faculty Association vs. Steven Dingle, M.D.
(Investigation No. 9412)

Dear Dr. Dingle:

You have agreed in the Consent Agreement attached to this letter that the Arizona Board of Medical Examiners shall resolve the complaint listed above by issuing a Letter of Reprimand to you.

A Letter of Reprimand is defined in A.R.S. §32-1401(15) as "a disciplinary letter issued by the Board that informs the physician that the physician's conduct violates state or federal law but does not require the Board to restrict the license or monitor the physician because the physician's conduct did not harm a patient or the public."

In voting to issue the Letter of Reprimand, the Board adopted the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order:

Findings of Fact

1. The Board of Medical Examiners of the State of Arizona is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of the practice of medicine in the State of Arizona.
2. Steven Dingle, M.D. is the holder of License No. 17697 for the practice of medicine in the State of Arizona.
3. Prior to October 1995, Dr. Dingle was director of the psychiatry residency training program at a Phoenix hospital.

4. In late 1994, while riding in a car with a female resident ("Resident No. 1"), Dr. Dingle reached over and grabbed the resident's thigh. According to the resident, Dr. Dingle kept his hand on her thigh until she pushed his hand away. Dr. Dingle's action frightened the resident. Several weeks before that incident, Dr. Dingle touched the resident's breast as he passed her in the hallway.

5. According to the resident, because of Dr. Dingle's conduct, she chose not to continue on as chief resident the following year.

6. According to Resident No. 2, when she was pregnant during her residency, Dr. Dingle required her to stand up so he could see if she was showing her pregnancy and to rub her belly. He commented that her clothing was tight and she was getting fat. He also stroked her hair periodically.

7. In mid-1995, while standing at the nurse's station, Dr. Dingle told Resident No. 3 that he had had a dream about her the previous night. He said that in the dream, they were talking about having an affair. Dr. Dingle told the resident he was worried they needed to be tested for HIV before they could actually have the affair. He said, in reality, that he had an obsessive/compulsive disorder, was taking medication for it, and that fear of HIV had been one of his obsessions. Dr. Dingle knew that Resident No. 3 was married to another physician at the hospital.

8. A few days later, Dr. Dingle called Resident No. 3 into his office. When she stayed in the hallway and inquired what this was about, he replied, "Oh, nevermind, I was just being my normal hypersexual self." On another occasion, prior to ground rounds lecture, Dr. Dingle went into the office of Resident No. 3 and began rubbing her shoulders before she had time to turn around. The resident pulled away so that he could not continue.

9. Resident No. 3 avoided Dr. Dingle as much as possible. On another occasion Dr. Dingle assigned Resident No. 3 to go to another facility to evaluate a patient and report directly back to him. After the resident evaluated the patient and gave the report to Dr. Dingle, he informed her that they would go back to the facility together to see the patient. When she said she would meet him there, he insisted that they go together. When Dr. Dingle went to the resident's office to get her, she said she had other work to do. Dr. Dingle accused the resident of avoiding him. When she asked why that would be, Dr. Dingle replied, "Because you don't like me." The resident, fearful for her job, said "Don't do this to me."

10. At the residents' graduation dinner, Dr. Dingle "roasted" the residents. Regarding Resident No. 3, Dr. Dingle said he had finally figured out how the marriage worked between the psychiatrist and her husband, the surgeon. He said the resident was a "dominatrix wielding a whip in the family."

11. It had been customary in the psychiatric residency training program for the psychiatry department secretary to give the chief resident a mug as a gift. For male residents, the mug was in the shape of a breast. For female residents, the mug was in the shape of a penis. When Resident No. 3 was chief resident, she told Dr. Dingle and the secretary that she did not want to receive the mug. According to the secretary, Dr. Dingle told her that presentation of the mug may have to be discontinued and that he would "get back to her." When Dr. Dingle said nothing more, the secretary believed the presentation was okayed. At the last meeting of the residents, the secretary presented Resident No. 3 with a ceramic statue of a penis that was decorated as a hooded monk.

12. When Resident No. 3 finished her residency training program, she sought a position at the hospital where she had trained. According to the resident, Dr. Dingle adamantly opposed her being hired for a reason which he said he was not free to divulge. She was hired over his objection. As an attending physician, she reported Dr. Dingle's previous conduct to hospital officials. In October 1995, Dr. Dingle resigned from the faculty.

13. Dr. Dingle signed the hospital's written policy titled "Conduct of Attending Staff Towards Resident Physicians." The policy stated the following behaviors, among others, are considered unacceptable:

- Statements which are considered to be degrading or overtly humiliating.
- Sexual harassment, which includes but is not limited to sexual innuendoes or provocations, lewd jokes, dating or attempts to date residents.
- Questions about a house officer's personal life which falls outside the "need to know" spectrum of psychiatric supervision.

Conclusions of Law


1. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. §32-1401(25)(ii) (lack of or inappropriate direction, collaboration or direct supervision of a licensed, certified or registered health care provider employed by, supervised by or assigned to the physician).

Order

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby ordered that Steven Dingle, M.D. be issued a Letter of Reprimand.

DATED this 8th day of May, 1997.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

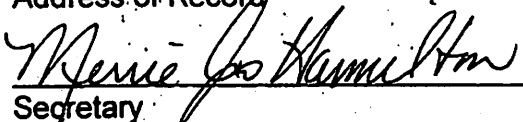


Mark R. Speicher
Executive Director
Elaine Hugunin
Deputy Director

MRS/jm
Attachment

COPY of the foregoing signed
Consent Agreement to Letter of Reprimand
and Letter of Reprimand with **CORRECT DATE**
mailed this **13th** day of **May 1997** to:

Steven F. Dingle, M.D.
Address of Record


Secretary

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of)	
)	
STEVEN DINGLE, M.D.)	
)	
Holder of License No. 17697)	CONSENT AGREEMENT
For the Practice of Medicine)	TO LETTER OF REPRIMAND
In the State of Arizona.)	
)	
Re: Maricopa Faculty Association vs.)	
Steven Dingle, M.D. (Inv. #9412))	
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STEVEN DINGLE, M.D., holder of License No. 17697 for the practice of medicine in the State of Arizona, and the Arizona Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") hereby agree as follows:

1. Pursuant to A.R.S. §32-1451(F)(5), Dr. DINGLE agrees that the Board shall adopt the Letter of Reprimand, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order attached to this Consent Agreement and incorporated by this reference. The Letter of Reprimand shall be effective on the date written on the letter. Dr. DINGLE agrees that the Board has substantial evidence in support of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law. He agrees not to contest the accuracy of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

2. By entering into this Consent Agreement, Dr. DINGLE freely and voluntarily relinquishes all right to an Informal Interview before the Board, a hearing before a hearing officer and before the Board, and relinquishes all right of rehearing, review, reconsideration, appeal, judicial review or any other judicial action concerning the matters set forth herein. Dr. DINGLE affirmatively agrees that the Letter of Reprimand shall be irrevocable.

3. Dr. DINGLE has read and understands the Consent Agreement, Letter of Reprimand, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order, and voluntarily enters into this Consent Agreement. Dr. DINGLE understands that he may consult legal counsel regarding this matter and agrees that he has done so or affirmatively declines to do so.

4. The Consent Agreement, Letter of Reprimand, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order, if adopted by the Board, constitute a resolution of the following case: Maricopa Faculty Association vs. Steven Dingle, M.D. (Investigation No. 9412). The Consent Agreement, Letter of Reprimand, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law do not constitute a dismissal or resolution of any other matters currently pending and do not constitute any waiver, express or implied, of the Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction regarding any other pending or future investigation, action, or proceeding.

5. The Consent Agreement, Letter of Reprimand, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order shall not become effective until adopted by the Board and signed by the Board's Executive Director.

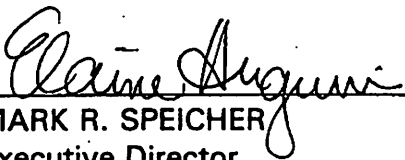
6. Dr. DINGLE understands that if the Board does not adopt the Consent Agreement, Letter of Reprimand, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order, the case listed in paragraph 4 above will be decided by the Board pursuant to the Medical Practice Act, A.R.S. § 32-1401 et seq. Dr. DINGLE agrees that he will not assert as a defense that the Board's consideration of the Consent Agreement, Letter of Reprimand, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law constitutes bias, prejudice, prejudgment or other similar defense.

7. The Consent Agreement, Letter of Reprimand, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law is a public record and shall be reported as required by law to the National Practitioner Data Bank and also to the Federation of State Medical Boards.

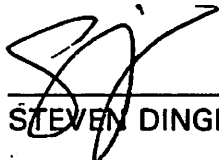
8. The Consent Agreement constitutes the entire agreement of the parties.

9. Any violation of this Consent Agreement or the Letter of Reprimand constitutes unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. §32-1401(25)(r) (Violating a formal order, probation or stipulation issued or entered into by the board or its executive director under the provisions of this chapter) and may result in disciplinary action pursuant to A.R.S. §32-1451.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA


MARK R. SPEICHER
Executive Director
ELAINE HUGUNIN
Deputy Director

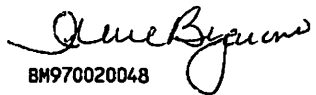
Dated: ~~4/16/97~~
5/8/97


STEVEN DINGLE, M.D.

Dated: 4/14/97

ORIGINAL of the foregoing Consent Agreement to Letter of Reprimand and Copy of Letter of Reprimand mailed by Certified Mail this 14th day of April, 1997 for signature on the Consent Agreement to:

Steven Dingle, M.D.
Address of Record


BM970020048

COPY of the foregoing signed Consent Agreement to Letter of Reprimand and Letter of Reprimand mailed this 14th day of 1997 to:

April

Steven Dingle, M.D.
Address of Record

