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BEFORE THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

In the Matter of
LAWRENCE CRONIN, M.D.
Holder of License No. 18696
For the Practice of Medicine
In the State of Arizona.

Case No. MD-14-1469A
**ORDER FOR SURRENDER
OF LICENSE AND CONSENT
TO THE SAME**

Lawrence Cronin, M.D. ("Respondent"), elects to permanently waive any right to a hearing and appeal with respect to this Order for Surrender of License; admits the jurisdiction of the Arizona Medical Board ("Board"); and consents to the entry of this Order by the Board.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.
2. Respondent is the holder of license number 18696 for the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.
3. The Board initiated case number MD-14-1469A after receiving a complaint regarding Respondent's care and treatment of a female patient ("RH") alleging that Respondent engaged in a sexual relationship with RH while Respondent was her treating psychiatrist/therapist. The complaint also alleged that Respondent overmedicated RH with hypnotic agents.
4. Respondent began to treat RH on November 17, 2008 in an outpatient clinic setting. Respondent thereafter provided outpatient psychiatric care to RH until April 29, 2014. Respondent admitted during the course of the investigation that he and RH had a sexual relationship that commenced in September of 2013 and lasted until September of 2014.

1 5. The matter was reviewed by a Medical Consultant who identified deviations
2 from the standard of care with regard to Respondent's prescription of hypnotic agents to
3 RH. The MC also found that Respondent failed to appropriately document an assessment
4 for substance abuse or dependence for RH. Respondent denies that he breached the
5 standard of care with regard to prescribing medications to RH and affirmatively asserts
6 that his documentation was adequate

7 6. Based on a review of the available evidence, and in consultation with the
8 Board's medical consultant, who agreed that an evaluation was necessary, the Executive
9 Director issued a Confidential Interim Order for a Psychosexual Evaluation pursuant to
10 A.R.S. § 32-1451(C) and A.A.C. R4-16-501 on December 22, 2014. The Interim Order
11 required Respondent to both obtain an appropriate evaluation as well as complete any
12 treatment recommendations made by the evaluating facility. Additionally on that same
13 date, Respondent entered into a non-confidential Interim Order for Practice Restriction that
14 prohibited Respondent from practicing medicine in the State of Arizona until he applied to
15 the Board and received permission to do so.

16 7. On January 6 through 8, 2015, Respondent successfully completed a
17 comprehensive psychosexual evaluation at a Board approved facility. At the conclusion of
18 the evaluation, Respondent was deemed unsafe to practice to a reasonable degree of
19 medical probability. It was recommended that prior to resuming the active practice of
20 medicine, Respondent undergo a 90-day intensive, residential treatment program to
21 address professional sexual boundary violations and maladaptive personality traits
22 identified during the course of the evaluation as well as adhere to any discharge
23 recommendations made by the treatment facility.

24 8. Respondent presented for inpatient treatment on January 23, 2015. He was
25 administratively discharged on April 7, 2015 due in part to violations of program guidelines.

1 As a result, the facility determined that Respondent reached the maximum treatment
2 benefit for the program. The facility's discharge recommendation was that Respondent
3 remained unsafe to practice absent additional treatment, including that Respondent not
4 return to the practice of medicine absent at least a year of treatment supervised by a
5 physician approved by the Board and until he obtains a re-evaluation after a sustained
6 period of sobriety from compulsive behaviors or boundary violations. As of the date of this
7 consent order, Respondent asserts that he is following all of the recommendations of the
8 treatment facility for ongoing supervised treatment.

9 9. Respondent admits to the acts described above and that they constitute
10 unprofessional conduct.

11 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

12 1. The Board possesses jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof and over
13 Respondent.

14 2. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional
15 conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(q) ("[a]ny conduct or practice that is or might be
16 harmful or dangerous to the health of the patient or the public.").

17 3. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional
18 conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(r) ("[v]iolating a formal order, probation, consent
19 agreement or stipulation issued or entered into by the Board or its Executive Director
20 under this chapter.").

21 4. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional
22 conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(z) ("[e]ngaging in sexual conduct with a current
23 patient or with a former patient within six months after the last medical consultation unless
24 the patient was the licensee's spouse at the time of the contact or, immediately preceding
25 the physician-patient relationship, was in a dating or engagement relationship with the

1 licensee. For the purposes of this subdivision, "sexual conduct" includes: (i) Engaging in or
2 soliciting sexual relationships, whether consensual or nonconsensual. (ii) Making sexual
3 advances, requesting sexual favors or engaging in any other verbal conduct or physical
4 contact of a sexual nature. (iii) Intentionally viewing a completely or partially disrobed
5 patient in the course of treatment if the viewing is not related to patient diagnosis or
6 treatment under current practice standards.").

7 5. The Board possesses statutory authority to enter into a consent agreement
8 with a physician and accept the surrender of an active license from a physician who
9 admits to being unable to safely engage in the practice of medicine and having committed
10 an act of unprofessional conduct. A.R.S. § 32-1451(T)(1) and (2).

11 **ORDER**

12 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT Respondent immediately surrender License
13 Number 18696, issued to Lawrence Cronin, M.D., for the practice of allopathic medicine in
14 the State of Arizona, and return his certificate of licensure to the Board.

15 DATED and effective this 4th day of June, 2015.

16 ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

17
18 By: Patricia E. McSorley
19 Patricia E. McSorley
20 Executive Director

21 **CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER**

22 1. Respondent has read and understands this Consent Agreement and the
23 stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Order"). Respondent
24 acknowledges he has the right to consult with legal counsel regarding this matter.
25

1 2. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that this Order is entered into freely
2 and voluntarily and that no promise was made or coercion used to induce such entry.

3 3. By consenting to this Order, Respondent voluntarily relinquishes any rights
4 to a hearing or judicial review in state or federal court on the matters alleged, or to
5 challenge this Order in its entirety as issued by the Board, and waives any other cause of
6 action related thereto or arising from said Order.

7 4. The Order is not effective until approved by the Board and signed by its
8 Executive Director.

9 5. All admissions made by Respondent are solely for final disposition of this
10 matter and any subsequent related administrative proceedings or civil litigation involving
11 the Board and Respondent. Therefore, said admissions by Respondent are not intended
12 or made for any other use, such as in the context of another state or federal government
13 regulatory agency proceeding, civil or criminal court proceeding, in the State of Arizona or
14 any other state or federal court.

15 6. Upon signing this agreement, and returning this document (or a copy
16 thereof) to the Board's Executive Director, Respondent may not revoke the consent to the
17 entry of the Order. Respondent may not make any modifications to the document. Any
18 modifications to this original document are ineffective and void unless mutually approved
19 by the parties.

20 7. This Order is a public record that will be publicly disseminated as a formal
21 disciplinary action of the Board and will be reported to the National Practitioner's Data
22 Bank and on the Board's web site as a disciplinary action.

23 8. If any part of the Order is later declared void or otherwise unenforceable, the
24 remainder of the Order in its entirety shall remain in force and effect.

25

1 9. If the Board does not adopt this Order, Respondent will not assert as a
2 defense that the Board's consideration of the Order constitutes bias, prejudice,
3 prejudgment or other similar defense.

4 10. **Respondent has read and understands the terms of this agreement.**

5
6 
7 LAWRENCE CRONIN, M.D.

Dated: 5/29/15

8
9 EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing mailed by
US Mail this 4th day of June, 2015 to:

10 Peter Akmajian
11 Udall Law Firm
12 4801 East Broadway
13 Suite 400
Tucson, AZ 85711-3609
Attorney for Respondent

14 ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed this
15 4th day of June, 2015 with:

16 The Arizona Medical Board
17 9545 East Doubletree Ranch Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

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19 Amanda Schwabe
Board Staff

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