BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation)	
Against:	
)	
)	
RAJINDER SINGH RANDHAWA, M.D.)	Case No. 02-2013-232013
)	
Physician's and Surgeon's	
Certificate No. C 50081	
)	
Respondent)	
,)	

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on May 22, 2015.

IT IS SO ORDERED: April 24, 2015.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Dev Gnanadev, M.D., Chair

Panel B

1	KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California		
2	ROBERT MCKIM BELL Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
3	JOHN S. GATSCHET Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 244388 California Department of Justice		
4			
5	1300 I Street, Suite 125 P.O. Box 944255		
6	Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 Telephone: (916) 445-5230		
7	Facsimile: (916) 327-2247 Attorneys for Complainant		
8			
9	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA		
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
11			
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 02-2013-232013	
13	RAJINDER SINGH RANDHAWA, M.D.	OAH No. 2014060483	
14	7720 Tennis Court.	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND	
15	Antelope, California 95843	DISCIPLINARY ORDER	
16	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate C 50081,		
17	Respondent.		
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20	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-		
21	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:		
22	PARTIES ((C) Lin (N) in the First Colon Matin Land		
23	1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer ("Complainant") is the Executive Director of the Medical		
24	Board of California ("Board"). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is		
25	represented in this matter by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the State of California, by		
26	John S. Gatschet, Deputy Attorney General.		
27	2. Respondent Rajinder Singh Randhawa, M.D. ("Respondent") is representing himself		
28	in this proceeding and has chosen not to exercise his right to be represented by counsel.		

3. On October 3, 1997, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C 50081 to Respondent. That license expired on March 31, 2011. On April 1, 2011, Respondent's license went into delinquent status. On April 23, 2011, Respondent renewed his delinquent license. His license again expired on March 31, 2013. On April 1, 2013, Respondent's license went into delinquent status. On May 11, 2013, Respondent renewed his delinquent license. His license is currently in full force and effect and will expire on March 31, 2015, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

- 4. Accusation No. 02-2013-232013 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on April 2, 2014. Respondent timely filed a Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.
- 5. A copy of Accusation No. 02-2013-232013 is attached as Exhibit A and is incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 6. Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 02-2013-232013. Respondent has also carefully read, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

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CULPABILITY

- 9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 02-2013-232013, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.
- 10. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual basis for the charges in the Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest those charges.
- 11. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for early termination or modification of probation, or if the Board ever petitions for revocation of probation, all of the charges, and allegations contained in Accusation No. 02-2013-232013, shall be deemed true, correct, and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of that proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving respondent in the State of California.
- 12. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

RESERVATION

13. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Medical Board of California or other professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceeding.

CONTINGENCY

14. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California.

Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this

stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

- 15. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 16. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C 50081 issued to Respondent Rajinder Singh Randhawa, M.D. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for five (5) years on the following terms and conditions.

1. <u>COMMUNITY SERVICE - FREE SERVICES</u>. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for prior approval a community service plan in which Respondent shall within the first 2 years of probation, provide 100 hours of free services (e.g., medical or nonmedical) to a community or non-profit organization. If the term of probation is designated for 2 years or less, the community service hours must be completed not later than 6 months prior to the completion of probation.

Prior to engaging in any community service Respondent shall provide a true copy of the Decision(s) to the chief of staff, director, office manager, program manager, officer, or the chief executive officer at every community or non-profit organization where Respondent provides community service and shall submit proof of compliance to the Board or its designee within 15 calendar days. This condition shall also apply to any change(s) in community service.

Community service performed prior to the effective date of the Decision shall not be accepted in fulfillment of this condition.

2. PROFESSIONALISM PROGRAM ("ETHICS" COURSE). Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a professionalism program, that meets the requirements of Title 16, California Code of Regulations (C.C.R.) section 1358. Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete that program. Respondent shall provide any information and documents that the program may deem pertinent. Respondent shall successfully complete the classroom component of the program not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment, and the longitudinal component of the program not later than the time specified by the program, but no later than one (1) year after attending the classroom component. The professionalism program shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

A professionalism program taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the program would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the program been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the program or not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

3. <u>NOTIFICATION</u>. Within seven (7) days of the effective date of this Decision, the Respondent shall provide a true copy of this Decision and Accusation to the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to Respondent, at any other facility where Respondent engages in the practice of medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to Respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Board or its designee within 15 calendar days.

This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

4. <u>SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS</u>. During probation, Respondent is

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Respondent shall immediately inform the Board or its designee, in writing, of travel to any

Travel or Residence Outside California

areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than thirty (30) calendar days.

In the event Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice.

In the event Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of departure and return.

- 8. <u>INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE</u>. Respondent shall be available in person upon request for interviews either at Respondent's place of business or at the probation unit office, with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.
- 9. NON-PRACTICE WHILE ON PROBATION. Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing within 15 calendar days of any periods of non-practice lasting more than 30 calendar days and within 15 calendar days of Respondent's return to practice. Non-practice is defined as any period of time Respondent is not practicing medicine in California as defined in Business and Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052 for at least 40 hours in a calendar month in direct patient care, clinical activity or teaching, or other activity as approved by the Board. All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall not be considered non-practice. Practicing medicine in another state of the United States or Federal jurisdiction while on probation with the medical licensing authority of that state or jurisdiction shall not be considered non-practice. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice.

In the event Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation exceeds 18 calendar months, Respondent shall successfully complete a clinical training program that meets the criteria of Condition 18 of the current version of the Board's "Manual of Model Disciplinary Orders and Disciplinary Guidelines" prior to resuming the practice of medicine.

Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation shall not exceed two (2) years.

Periods of non-practice will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term.

Periods of non-practice will relieve Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws; and General Probation Requirements.

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- 10. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u>. Respondent shall comply with all financial obligations (e.g., restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate shall be fully restored.
- 11. <u>VIOLATION OF PROBATION</u>. Failure to fully comply with any term or condition of probation is a violation of probation. If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, or Petition to Revoke Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.
- 12. <u>LICENSE SURRENDER</u>. Following the effective date of this Decision, if
 Respondent ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy
 the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request to surrender his or her license.
 The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion in
 determining whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate
 and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Respondent
 shall within 15 calendar days deliver Respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its
 designee and Respondent shall no longer practice medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject
 to the terms and conditions of probation. If Respondent re-applies for a medical license, the
 application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.
- 13. PROBATION MONITORING COSTS. Respondent shall pay the costs associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Board, which may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of California and delivered to the Board or its designee no later than January 31 of each calendar year.

1	<u>ACCEPTANCE</u>		
2	I have carefully read the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I understand the		
3	stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into		
4	this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and		
5	agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.		
6	A Company of the second		
7	DATED: / and 12, 2015		
8	RAJINDER SINGH RANDHAWA, M.D. Respondent		
9			
10	ENDORSEMENT		
11	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order are hereby respectfully		
12	submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California.		
13	Dated: , / Respectfully submitted,		
14	KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California		
15	Attorncy General of California ROBERT MCKIMABELL		
16	Supervising Deputy Attorney/General		
17			
18	JOHN S. GANSCHIE Deputy Attorney General		
19	Attorneys for Complainant		
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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 02-2013-232013

1	KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California		
2	ROBERT MCKIM BELL Supervising Deputy Attorney General	FILED	
3	JOHN S. GATSCHET Deputy Attorney General	STATE OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA	
4	State Bar No. 244388 California Department of Justice	SACRAMENTO TYPILZ, 2014	
5	1300 I Street, Suite 125 P.O. Box 944255	BY ANALYST ANALYST	
6	Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 Telephone: (916) 445-5230	J	
7	Facsimile: (916) 327-2247 Attorneys for Complainant		
8			
9	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA		
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
11		N. 02 2012 222012	
13		ase No. 02-2013-232013	
14	RAJINDER SINGH RANDHAWA, M.D. 7720 Tennis Court	CCUSATION	
15	Antelope, California 95843 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate C 50081 A	CCUSATION	
16	Respondent.		
17	respondent.		
18	Complainant alleges:		
19	PARTI	<u>ES</u>	
20	1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official		
21	capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California ("Board").		
22	2. On October 3, 1997, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate number C		
23	50081 to Rajinder Singh Randhawa, M.D. ("Respondent"). That license expired on March 31,		
24	2011. On April 1, 2011, Respondent's license went into delinquent status. On April 23, 2011,		
25	the Respondent renewed his delinquent license. His license again expired on March 31, 2013.		
26	On April 1, 2013, Respondent's license went into delinquent status. On May 11, 2013, the		
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Respondent renewed his delinquent license. His license is currently in full force and effect and will expire on March 31, 2015, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code ("Code") unless otherwise indicated.
- 4. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other action taken in relation to discipline as the Board deems proper.
 - 5. Section 119 of the Code states:

"Any person who does any of the following is guilty of a misdemeanor:

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"(f) Photographs, photostats, duplicates, manufactures, or in any way reproduces any license or facsimile thereof in a manner that it could be mistaken for a valid license, or displays or has in his or her possession any such photograph, Photostat, duplicate, reproduction, or facsimile unless authorized by this code.

" . .

"As used in this section, "license" includes "certificate," "permit," "authority," and "registration" or any other indicia giving authorization to engage in a business or profession regulated by this code or referred to in Section 1000 or 3600."

6. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

"The board shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

"(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter.

"…

"(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.

7. Section 2261 of the Code states:

"Knowingly making or signing any certificate or other document directly or indirectly related to the practice of medicine or podiatry which falsely represents the existence or nonexistence of a state of facts, constitutes unprofessional conduct."

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct)

- 8. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to sections 119, subdivision (f) and 2234 of the Code, in that he reproduced an altered expired certificate ("pocket license") issued to him by the Medical Board of California in a manner that it could be mistaken for a valid license. The circumstances are as follows:
- 9. Complainant hereby realleges the facts concerning the license status of the Respondent as set forth in paragraph 2 as fully set forth at this point.
- Respondent is a psychiatrist. He is currently employed by Kern County Mental 10. Health.
- On September 22, 2012, Respondent sent Pinnacle Health Services, Inc. (PHS) a copy of his "pocket license." PHS is a business that provides duly-licensed medical professionals to work at state psychiatric facilities. Respondent contracted with PHS to be an independent service-provider. The "pocket license" had an expiration date of March 31, 2013, and was retained in Respondent's prospective employment file at PHS.
- On March 28, 2013, PHS sent an e-mail to the Napa State Hospital (NSH) medical staff coordinator stating that the Respondent wished to apply as a part time staff psychiatrist. PHS forwarded a copy of Respondent's "pocket license" with an expiration date of March 31, 2013.

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- 13. On April 30, 2013, the NSH medical staff coordinator requested additional documentation directly from the Respondent. That same day, the Respondent faxed the NSH medical staff coordinator a "pocket license" which had an expiration date of March 31, 2015.
- 14. On May 9, 2013, the NSF medical staff coordinator contacted the Medical Board to verify that the Respondent's license was valid. The NSF medical staff coordinator was informed by the Medical Board that the Respondent's license was delinquent.
- 15. On May 10, 2013, the NSF medical staff coordinator contacted the Medical Board and spoke to a regulatory analyst. The regulatory analyst again verified that the account was delinquent. The NSF medical staff coordinator informed the regulatory analyst that she had received a "pocket license" from the Respondent that had an expiration date of March 31, 2015. The regulatory analyst confirmed that the Medical Board had not issued Respondent a "pocket license" with an expiration date of March 31, 2015. The regulatory analyst concluded the expiration date had been altered.
- 16. After speaking to the Medical Board, the NSF medical staff coordinator informed her supervisor that Respondent's medical license was delinquent. The supervisor contacted the Respondent and informed him that his license was delinquent and that he could not start employment at NSH without a valid medical license.
- 17. On May 10, 2013, after being contacted by the supervisor, the Respondent renewed his medical license by making payment on-line to the Medical Board. The Medical Board sent the Respondent a valid "pocket license" with an expiration date of March 31, 2015.
- 18. On August 29, 2013, the Respondent admitted he received the valid "pocket license" from the Medical Board by mail approximately a week after May 10, 2013.
- 19. The Respondent is subject to disciplinary action because he sent a fraudulent "pocket license" to the Napa State Hospital in such a manner that it was mistakenly received as a valid license.

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SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Signing a false document directly related to the practice of medicine)

- 20. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2261 in that he signed a medical staff application which contained false information regarding his medical license. The circumstances are as follows:
- 21. Complainant realleges paragraphs 9 through 18, those paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.
- 22. On March 28, 2013, PHS sent Respondent an e-mail containing a blank copy of the NSH medical staff application.
- 23. On April 30, 2013, the Respondent faxed the completed NSH medical staff application to the NSH medical staff coordinator at NSH. On page three of Respondent's NSH medical staff application, under the section titled MEDICAL/PSYCHOLOGY LICENSURE/REGISTRATIONS, the Respondent's medical license number, C50081, was listed as having an expiration date of March 31, 2015.
- 24. On page five of the NSH medical staff application, under section XVI, titled ATTESTATION QUESTIONS, the following is listed under "A":

"Has your license to practice in any jurisdiction, your Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration or any applicable narcotic registration ever been denied, limited, restricted, suspended, revoked, not renewed, or subject to probationary conditions, or have you voluntarily or involuntarily relinquished any such license or registration or voluntarily accepted any such actions or conditions, or have you been fined or received a letter of reprimand or is such action pending?

Next to question "A", the answer "NO," is marked with an "x."

- 25. On page six of the NSH medical staff application, the following is listed:
- "I hereby affirm that the information in this Section XVI, Attestation Questions, and any addenda thereto is true, current, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief and is furnished in good faith. I understand that material, omissions or misrepresentations may result in denial of my reapplication or termination of my privileges, employment, or physician participation agreement."

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Respondent's name is printed in bold face print directly underneath the affirmation paragraph. The Respondent's signature is directly underneath the Respondent's printed name. On the signature line, directly next to Respondent's signature, is a typed date of April 24, 2013. On January 8, 2014, the Respondent admitted that the signature located on page six is his signature and admitted that he personally signed the document.

26. On page seven of the NSH medical staff application, the following is listed:

"I hereby affirm that the information submitted in this reapplication and addenda thereto (including my curriculum vitae if attached) is true, current, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief and is furnished in good faith. I understand that material omissions or misrepresentations may result in denial of my reapplication or termination of my privileges, employment of physician participation agreement. A photocopy of this document shall be as effective as the original, however, current dates are required on pages 5 and 6.

Respondent's name is printed in bold face print directly underneath the affirmation paragraph. The Respondent's signature is directly underneath the Respondent's printed name. On the signature line, directly next to Respondent's signature, is a typed date of April 24, 2013. On January 8, 2014, the Respondent admitted that the signature located on page seven is his signature and admitted that he personally signed the document.

27. The Respondent is subject to disciplinary action because he signed a document directly related to the practice of medicine that falsely represented that he possessed a valid medical license.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Dishonest and Corrupt Acts)

- 28. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234(e) in that he committed dishonest and corrupt acts which are substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon. The circumstances are as follows:
- 29. Complainant realleges paragraphs 9 through 27, those paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

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