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8	BEFORE	TIIF
9	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA	
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
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12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2017-031932
13	KHRISTINE ELAINE EROSHEVICH, M.D.	ACCUSATION
14	269 South Beverly Drive #861 Beverly Hills, CA 90212	
15	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate	
16	No. C 37980,	
17	Respondent.	
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19	D A DOWNER	
20	PARTIES CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTIES	
21	1. Christine J. Lally (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity	
22	as the Interim Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer	
23	Affairs (Board).	
24	2. On or about May 8, 1978, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's	
25	Certificate Number C 37980 to Khristine Elaine Eroshevich, M.D. (Respondent). This	
26	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the	
27	charges brought herein and will expire on November 30, 2021, unless renewed.	
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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 unless otherwise indicated.
 - 4. Section 2227 of the Code states:
- "(a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of the Medical Quality Hearing Panel as designated in Section 11371 of the Government Code, or whose default has been entered, and who is found guilty, or who has entered into a stipulation for disciplinary action with the board, may, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter:
 - "(1) Have his or her license revoked upon order of the board."
- "(2) Have his or her right to practice suspended for a period not to exceed one year upon order of the board.
- "(3) Be placed on probation and be required to pay the costs of probation monitoring upon order of the board.
- "(4) Be publicly reprimanded by the board. The public reprimand may include a requirement that the licensee complete relevant educational courses approved by the board.
- "(5) Have any other action taken in relation to discipline as part of an order of probation, as the board or an administrative law judge may deem proper.
- "(b) Any matter heard pursuant to subdivision (a), except for warning letters, medical review or advisory conferences, professional competency examinations, continuing education activities, and cost reimbursement associated therewith that are agreed to with the board and successfully completed by the licensee, or other matters made confidential or privileged by existing law, is deemed public, and shall be made available to the public by the board pursuant to Section 803.1."
 - 5. 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.
 - "(b) Gross negligence.
- "(c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more negligent acts or omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a separate and distinct departure from the applicable standard of care shall constitute repeated negligent acts.
- "(1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single negligent act.
- "(2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.

" "

6. Section 2266 of the Code states: "The failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes unprofessional conduct."

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 7. Respondent specializes in psychiatry. During the relevant time period, she maintained a solo private practice in Los Angeles County, California.
- 8. In 2007, Respondent began providing psychiatric services to the Patient¹ in relation to a Worker's Compensation claim.
- 9. According to Respondent, the Patient had symptoms of severe anxiety, possible Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and selective mutism.
 - 10. Respondent's services to the Patient included psychotherapy sessions.

¹ In order to ensure the protection of privacy, the patient is identified in this charging pleading as the "Patient" and witnesses are referred to by their initials. The true name of the referenced patient and all referenced witnesses are known to Respondent and will be disclosed to her upon her timely Request for Discovery.

- 11. During the course of her care and treatment of the Patient, the Patient became embroiled in a dispute with her neighbors that ultimately resulted in the filing of at least one civil lawsuit between the Patient and her neighbors in Los Angeles Superior Court.
- 12. During the course of those legal proceedings, Respondent signed and submitted numerous Declarations, under penalty of perjury, at the request of the Patient and in her support.
 - 13. In the Declarations, Respondent represents that she is the "doctor" of the Patient.
- 14. In a February 14, 2017, Declaration filed with the Los Angeles Superior Court in one of the civil lawsuits between the Patient and her neighbors, Respondent attested to the following:
 - "I was the doctor for [the Patient] during the harassment of [the Patient] by [her neighbors] back in 2007."
 - "Back in 2007, Ms. H. would go onto Ms. B.'s property and spray [the Patient] down with the hose. Ms. H. finds any opportunity to damage [the Patient] emotionally and physically."
 - "I would tend to believe that Ms. B. is not a credible person and that most of those statements appear to be made up."
 - "Ms. B. and Ms. S. are in a same sex relationship. The reason they are so hostile towards [the Patient] [sic] because they both tried to engage her in some unwanted activities."
 - "[The neighbors] listed severely bullied and terrorized [the Patient]..."
 - "[The Patient] is disabled and suffers from adult selective mutism."
 - "I treated [the Patient] for several anxiety disorders that were caused by [her neighbors]. They have and continue to gang up on her and have not stopped. Ms. H. is generating future medical bills which can be legally collected by [the Patient]."
 - "Today, those anxiety disorders have resurfaced due to harassment especially by Ms.
 H. and she will be financially responsible for treatments since she was the cause of them."

- "[The Patient] will need to be treated again and the cost of those treatments will be estimated at around \$68,000.00 (18 months of outpatient treatment, three sessions times a week)." (Emphasis in original.)
- "Ms. B. intentionally walks her dog in front of [the Patient's] house and makes remarks. Again, she is ego driven to do this because she has been able to get away with this type of allowable behavior in the past."
- "If you allow them to once again emotionally rape [the Patient] she will need treatment and be set back when she worked so hard on being in a good place emotionally and mentally."
- "I will be referring [the Patient] to a lawyer that specializes in hates [sic] crimes and harassing disabled people and make sure this does not happen to her again. The responsibility [sic] parties will be [her neighbors] since they are the main cuprite's [sic] behind all of this..."
- 15. Attached to the Declaration were bills from Respondent for services rendered to the Patient totaling \$5,000.00.
- 16. In another Declaration, also dated February 14, 2017, Respondent attests to the following:
 - "In my opinion, the [Letter] appears to [sic] from a female person who has a history of drug usage."
 - "Ms. W. created events and stories that never took place about [the Patient]..."
 - "In my opinion, Ms. W. is suffering paranoia from her drug usage."
 - "[T]he defendant's email states that [the Patient] was yelling at her and cursing at her.

 I will testify that this is not [the Patient's] behavior at all."
 - "In my opinion, Ms. W. is not credible."
- 17. On or about March 15, 2017, Respondent sent a letter in connection with a civil lawsuit between the Patient and her neighbors to counsel in the action. In the letter, Respondent states that she is the Patient's doctor with power of attorney to speak on her behalf. The letter contains legal opinions and states that Respondent "will protect [the Patient's] rights as a disabled

person."

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- "J.S. has also sexually harassed [the Patient] by constantly questioning her if her breasts were real."
- "J.S. has intentionally placed Nest audio cameras by [the Patient's] window to record her sexual activities."
- "J.S. has been illegally recording [the Patient] and then making false allegations with those illegal recordings just to try and ruin her life because [the Patient] rejected her sexual flirts."
- "I have enclosed [the Patient's] medical expenses that J.S. is liable for 2017."
- "I have enclosed [the Patient's] living expenses that J.S. is liable for 2017."
- "I have been involved with [the Patient's] medical condition from the first diagnosis, surgery and now recovery."
- 21. Respondent admits that information contained in these Declarations and to which she attested to under penalty of perjury was not within her personal knowledge. Instead, the factual accounts in her Declarations pertaining to the Patient's interactions with her neighbors are based entirely on accounts from the Patient. Respondent further admits that the Patient wrote the Declarations and that she signed them, even though she did not know if the information contained therein was true, because she thought it would help the Patient in her court cases.
- 22. Respondent admits that she and the Patient not only had a doctor-patient relationship but also a friendship during the time that she treated the Patient. In that capacity, Respondent admits that she and the Patient traveled to New York together to visit Respondent's family, dined together on more than one occasion, went shopping together and traveled to Palm Springs, California together. Respondent also admits that in addition to having the Patient stay with her, she also stayed with the Patient when the Patient was recovering from surgery.
- 23. Although it is not documented, Respondent purports to have terminated her doctorpatient relationship with the Patient sometime in 2018.
 - 24. Respondent has no medical records for the Patient.
- 25. The standard of care in the medical community requires that physicians, particularly psychiatrists, practice ethically and maintain strict boundaries with their patients. Psychiatrists

shall be ever vigilant about the impact that his or her conduct has upon the boundaries of the doctor-patient relationship, and thus upon the well-being of the patient. These requirements are important because of the private, highly personal, and sometimes intensely emotional nature of the relationship between a psychiatrist and his or her patient. The inherent inequality in the doctor-patient relationship may lead to exploitation of the patient.

- 26. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when she allowed her relationship with the Patient to cross the boundaries of the doctor-patient relationship. Specifically, Respondent departed from the standard of care when she allowed the Patient to reside with her and when she traveled with the Patient, among other acts.
- 27. The standard of care in the medical community requires that a physician shall uphold the standards of professionalism and be honest in all professional interactions. If a physician is fearful that a patient will worsen unless he or she commits unprofessional conduct, then the physician should consult with other professionals and/or refer the patient to a higher level of care, such as day treatment or hospitalization. Presenting a Patient's falsehoods as statements of fact and/or medical recommendation falls below the standard of care.
- 28. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when she submitted and signed declarations under the penalty of perjury, which contained inappropriate legal opinions and purported factual information and professional opinions about various people (the Patient's neighbors) who she had never professionally examined.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence)

- 29. Respondent Khristine Elaine Eroshevich, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2234, subdivision (b), in that she committed gross negligence in her care and treatment of the Patient. The circumstances are as follows:
- 30. Complainant refers to and, by this reference, incorporates herein Paragraphs 7 through 28, above, as though fully set forth.

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SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Repeated Negligent Acts)

- 31. Respondent Khristine Elaine Eroshevich, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2234, subdivision (c), in that she committed repeated negligent acts in her care and treatment of the Patient. The circumstances are as follows:
- 32. Complainant refers to and, by this reference, incorporates herein Paragraphs 7 through 28, above, as though fully set forth.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Inadequate Record Keeping)

- 33. Respondent Khristine Elaine Eroshevich, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivision (a), and 2266 in that she failed to maintain adequate records for the Patient. The circumstances are as follows:
- 34. Complainant refers to and, by this reference, incorporates herein Paragraphs 7 through 28, above, as though fully set forth.
 - 35. Respondent treated the Patient from 2007 until 2018.
- 36. On or about December 7, 2018, an investigator for Complainant, sent Respondent a subpoena duces tecum for the medical records of the Patient between the dates of January 1, 2014, through the "present."
- 37. On or about February 24, 2019, the investigator for Complainant received a Certification of No Records from Respondent for the Patient, indicating that Respondent has no records for the Patient for the requested time period.

DISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATIONS

38. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent Khristine Elaine Eroshevich, M.D., Complainant alleges that on or about March 2, 2012, in a prior disciplinary action titled *In the Matter of the Second Amended Accusation Against: Khristine Eroshevich, M.D.* before the Medical Board of California, in Case Number 17-2009-197998, Respondent's license was revoked for dishonest acts and the conviction of a crime. Specifically, Respondent admitted to making false statements in a psychiatric report and billing statement

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regarding a workers compensation claimant. Further, on or about October 28, 2010, Respondent was convicted by a jury in the case of People of the State of California v. Khristine Eroshevich, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BA353907 of violating Health & Safety Code section 11173, subdivision (a) - unlawfully prescribing a controlled substance, an opiate, namely hydrocodone (Vicodin) by fraud, deceit or misrepresentation or concealment of a material fact, a misdemeanor. Respondent was sentenced to one year of summary probation and ordered to pay certain fine and fees totaling \$170.00. The revocation of Respondent's license, however, was stayed and Respondent was placed on five (5) years of probation, effective March 30, 2012, with the requirements that her license be suspended for ninety (90) days, that she complete additional education courses, a prescribing practices course, the professionalism program (Ethics course), a psychiatric and medical evaluation, have her practice and billing monitored and other standard terms and conditions. That decision is now final and is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

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PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Medical Board of California issue a decision:

- Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number C 37980, issued to Khristine Elaine Eroshevich, M.D.;
- 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Khristine Elaine Eroshevich, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
- 3. Ordering Khristine Elaine Eroshevich, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the costs of probation monitoring; and
 - 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: FEB 2 6 2020

Interim Executive Director

Medical Board of California

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California Complainant