

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Abigail Mary Stanton, M.D.

Physician's & Surgeon's  
Certificate No. G 62736

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2017-038145

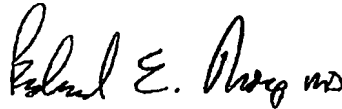
DECISION

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 April 28, 2022.

IT IS SO ORDERED: March 29, 2022.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



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Richard E. Thorp, M.D., Chair  
Panel B

1 ROB BONTA  
Attorney General of California  
2 EDWARD KIM  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 JOSHUA M. TEMPLET  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 267098  
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7 *Attorneys for Complainant*

8 **BEFORE THE**  
9 **MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**  
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2017-038145

13 **ABIGAIL MARY STANTON, M.D.**  
14 **1560 East Chevy Chase Drive, Suite 130**  
15 **Glendale, CA 91206**

OAH No. 2021030954

16 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**  
17 **No. G 62736,**

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND**  
**DISCIPLINARY ORDER FOR PUBLIC**  
**REPRIMAND**

18 Respondent.

19 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-  
20 entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

21 **PARTIES**

22 1. William Prasifka ("Complainant") is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of  
23 California ("Board"). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in  
24 this matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, via Joshua M. Templet,  
25 Deputy Attorney General.

26 2. Respondent Abigail Mary Stanton, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this  
27 proceeding by attorney Raymond J. McMahon, whose address is Doyle Schafer McMahon, LLP,  
28 5440 Trabuco Road, Irvine, CA 92620.

///





1 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

2 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent Abigail Mary Stanton, M.D., holder of  
3 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 62736, is **publicly reprimanded**, pursuant to  
4 Business and Professions Code section 2227. This Public Reprimand is issued as a result of the  
5 following conduct by Respondent as set forth in the Accusation:

6 Regarding her treatment of Patient 1 between 2016 and 2017, Respondent failed to  
7 document a tapering schedule to wean the patient from the diazepam that she had  
8 prescribed to him for over a year. Respondent also failed to document a timely  
9 follow-up visit within a month of starting the patient on an SSRI for the first time.

10 1. PRESCRIBING PRACTICES COURSE. Within 60 calendar days of the effective  
11 date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in prescribing practices approved in  
12 advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall provide the approved course provider  
13 with any information and documents that the approved course provider may deem pertinent.  
14 Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete the classroom component of the course  
15 not later than six months after Respondent's initial enrollment. Respondent shall successfully  
16 complete any other component of the course within one year of enrollment. The prescribing  
17 practices course shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing  
18 Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

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

24 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its  
25 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than  
26 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

27 Failure to enroll, participate in, or successfully complete the prescribing practices course  
28 within the designated time shall constitute unprofessional conduct and grounds for further  
disciplinary action.

1           2.    MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING COURSE. Within 60 calendar days of the effective  
2 date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in medical record keeping, approved in  
3 advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall provide the approved course provider  
4 with any information and documents that the approved course provider may deem pertinent.  
5 Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete the classroom component of the course  
6 not later than six months after Respondent's initial enrollment. Respondent shall successfully  
7 complete any other component of the course within one year of enrollment. The medical record  
8 keeping course shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the CME  
9 requirements for renewal of licensure.

10           A medical record keeping course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the  
11 Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board  
12 or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have  
13 been approved by the Board or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of  
14 this Decision.

15           Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its  
16 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than  
17 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

18           Failure to enroll, participate in, or successfully complete the medical recordkeeping course  
19 within the designated time shall constitute unprofessional conduct and grounds for further  
20 disciplinary action.

21           3.    VIOLATION OF ORDER. Any violation of the terms of this order shall constitute  
22 unprofessional conduct and grounds for further disciplinary action.

23           4.    MERGER CLAUSE. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public  
24 Reprimand is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final,  
25 and exclusive embodiment of the agreement of the parties in this matter.

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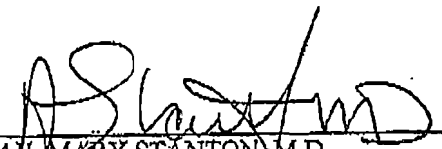
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1 ACCEPTANCE

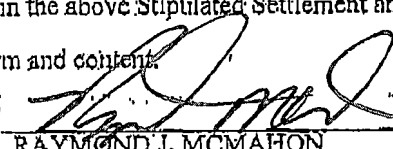
2 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public  
3 Reprimand and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Raymond J. McMahon. I understand the  
4 stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this  
5 Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reprimand voluntarily, knowingly, and  
6 intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of  
7 California.

8  
9 DATED: 11/4/21

10   
11 ABIGAIL MARY STANTON, M.D.  
12 Respondent

13 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Abigail Mary Stanton, M.D. the terms and  
14 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order  
15 for Public Reprimand. I approve its form and content.

16 DATED: November 5, 2021

17   
18 RAYMOND J. MCMAHON  
19 Attorney for Respondent

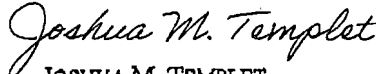
20 ENDORSEMENT

21 The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reprimand is hereby  
22 respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California.

23 DATED: November 5, 2021

24 Respectfully submitted,

25 ROB BONTA  
26 Attorney General of California  
27 EDWARD KIM  
28 Supervising Deputy Attorney General

  
JOSHUA M. TEMPLET  
Deputy Attorney General  
Attorneys for Complainant

LA2020601160  
35397538

**Exhibit A**

**Accusation No. 800-2017-038145**



1 XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
2 JUDITH T. ALVARADO  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 PEGGIE BRADFORD TARWATER  
Deputy Attorney General  
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*Attorneys for Complainant*  
8

9  
10 **BEFORE THE**  
**MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
12

13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2017-038145

14 Abigail Mary Stanton, M.D.  
15 1560 East Chevy Chase Drive, Suite 130  
Glendale, CA 91206

**A C C U S A T I O N**

16 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate  
17 No. G 62736,

Respondent.

18  
19  
20 **PARTIES**

21 1. William Prasifka (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity  
22 as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs  
23 (Board).

24 2. On or about April 25, 1988, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's  
25 Certificate Number G 62736 to Abigail Mary Stanton, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and  
26 Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought  
27 herein and will expire on October 31, 2021, unless renewed.

28 ///

1 JURISDICTION

2 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following  
3 laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise  
4 indicated.

5 4. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the  
6 Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed  
7 one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other  
8 action taken in relation to discipline as the Board deems proper.

9 5. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

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

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

15 (b) Gross negligence.

16 (c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more  
17 negligent acts or omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a  
18 separate and distinct departure from the applicable standard of care shall constitute  
19 repeated negligent acts.

20 (1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically  
21 appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single  
22 negligent act.

23 (2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or  
24 omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but  
25 not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the  
26 licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure  
27 constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.

28 . . . .

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.

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1 **DEFINITIONS**

2 7. Zoloft (sertraline) is a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) used to treat  
3 depression, panic attacks, obsessive compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, social  
4 anxiety disorder, and a severe form of premenstrual syndrome.

5 8. Valium (diazepam) is a benzodiazepine used to treat anxiety, alcohol withdrawal,  
6 and seizures. It is also used to relieve muscle spasms and to provide sedation before medical  
7 procedures.

8 9. Trazadone is a SSRI used to treat major depressive disorder and may also be used to  
9 decrease anxiety and insomnia related to depression.

10 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

11 **(Gross Negligence)**

12 10. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivision (b), in  
13 that she was grossly negligent in the care and treatment of Patient 1.<sup>1</sup> The circumstances are as  
14 follows:

15 11. Respondent is a practicing psychiatrist.

16 12. Patient 1, a 36-year-old male, first presented to Respondent on May 9, 2016 for  
17 generalized anxiety disorder and social anxiety disorder. Patient 1 had a history of passive  
18 suicidal ideation and a history of "cutting" at the age of 18. Respondent's records reflect that  
19 Patient 1 had stopped drinking.

20 13. Respondent suggested Zoloft to treat the anxiety, but Patient 1 declined the Zoloft and  
21 indicated he preferred to take Valium for "severe" anxiety on an intermittent basis.

22 14. Respondent prescribed Valium, 5 mg, 20 pills, with one refill. Respondent instructed  
23 Patient 1 to take one-half pill to start as a "test dose." She referred Patient 1 to the Anxiety and  
24 Depression Association of America and discussed cognitive behavioral therapy for anxiety  
25 disorders.

26 ///

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>1</sup> The Patient is referred to by number to protect his privacy. Respondent is aware of the  
identity of Patient 1.

1           15. Respondent saw Patient 1 in follow-up on June 21, 2016. Patient 1 reported that the  
2 Valium was working. He had been taking it three days per week. He was provided another  
3 Valium prescription at the same dose and quantity as on May 9, 2016, with two refills.

4           16. Respondent saw Patient 1 in follow-up on August 16, 2016, and November 15, 2016.  
5 Respondent remained stable on the Valium. On each occasion, Respondent prescribed Valium, 5  
6 mg, 20 pills, with three refills, to be taken as needed.

7           17. Respondent again saw Patient 1 on March 14, 2017. She increased the amount of  
8 Valium in each prescription from 20 pills to 30 pills, with three refills, to be taken as needed for  
9 "panic." She noted that Patient 1 was doing well and using Valium responsibly. Respondent's  
10 records contain no explanation for the increase in the amount of Valium.

11           18. Respondent saw Patient 1 on July 18, 2017. Respondent reported increased use of  
12 Valium from three times a week to daily as a result of "marital issues." Respondent noted she  
13 would try to decrease Valium over the next two months and reevaluate use of an SSRI. She  
14 advised Patient 1 to abstain from alcohol use. She increased the Valium prescription to 5 mg, 45  
15 pills, with one refill.

16           19. Patient 1's final visit with Respondent was on September 12, 2017. At that time,  
17 Respondent noted that she was concerned that Patient 1 was taking Valium every day. The  
18 Valium was wearing off in that the dose did not last very long. Respondent believed Patient 1 had  
19 something more than an intermittent anxiety problem, and she determined that an SSRI was  
20 needed. Respondent's records document that Patient 1 had recently separated from his wife,  
21 which caused him increased anxiety and sorrow. She documented no suicidal ideation.  
22 Respondent discontinued Valium. She did not discuss, and/or document a discussion of, possible  
23 withdrawal symptoms. She prescribed Zoloft, 25 mg, 30 pills, with instructions to take one-half  
24 pill per day to reduce side effects. She also prescribed trazodone, 50 mg, 30 pills with  
25 instructions to take one pill at bedtime as needed for insomnia. Respondent provided two refills  
26 of each prescription.

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1 30. As set forth in Paragraphs 19 and 20, Respondent failed to document a follow-up visit  
2 to address the trial of Zoloft before the three-month prescription of Zoloft would have run out.

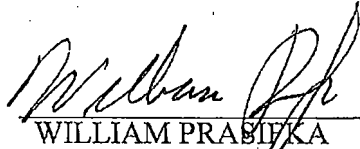
3 31. As set forth in Paragraph 19, Respondent failed to document a discussion with Patient  
4 1 about withdrawal symptoms from discontinuing Valium.

5 **PRAYER**

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

- 8 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number G 62736,  
9 issued to Respondent Abigail Mary Stanton, M.D.;
- 10 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Abigail Mary Stanton M.D.'s authority  
11 to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
- 12 3. Ordering Abigail Mary Stanton, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the  
13 costs of probation monitoring; and
- 14 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

15  
16 DATED: OCT 13 2020

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
WILLIAM PRASIFKA  
Executive Director  
Medical Board of California  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
State of California  
*Complainant*

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