

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

In Re: Emergency Restriction of the License of
Heidi Marjaana Lahteenmaa, D.O.
License No: OS 16911
Case Numbers: 2023-54547

ORDER OF EMERGENCY RESTRICTION OF LICENSE

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD, State Surgeon General, ORDERS the emergency restriction of the osteopathic physician license of Heidi Marjaana Lahteenmaa, D.O., (Dr. Lahteenmaa) in the State of Florida. Dr. Lahteenmaa is licensed as an osteopathic physician in the State of Florida, having been issued license number OS 16911 (formerly OS 12876). Dr. Lahteenmaa's address of record is 3540 South Ocean Blvd., Suite 805, Palm Beach, Florida 33480. The following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law support the emergency restriction of Dr. Lahteenmaa's license to practice osteopathic medicine in the State of Florida.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Department of Health (Department) is the state agency charged with regulating the practice of osteopathic medicine pursuant to chapters 20, 456, and 459, Florida Statutes (2024). Section 456.073(8), Florida Statutes (2023), authorizes the State Surgeon General to summarily

restrict Dr. Lahteenmaa's osteopathic physician license, in accordance with section 120.60(6), Florida Statutes (2024).

2. At all times material to this order, Dr. Lahteenmaa was licensed as an osteopathic physician, having been issued license number OS 16911.

3. At all times material to this Order, Dr. Lahteenmaa was located in Palm Beach, Florida.

4. On or about November 18, 2023, Dr. Lahteenmaa was visited by a fellow doctor with whom she developed a friendship during osteopathic medical school.

5. During the visit and afterward, Dr. Lahteenmaa exhibited delusions and paranoia about electronics and of being bugged and hacked.

6. Dr. Lahteenmaa had been practicing mostly telemedicine so this was very concerning to her friend.

7. Dr. Lahteenmaa indicated these delusions were affecting patient care because she was not able to get back to patients in a timely manner, set up follow-up visits, or fill prescriptions.

8. Dr. Lahteenmaa's colleague indicated this behavior was very different than she has exhibited in the past.

9. Dr. Lahteenmaa's friend asked her to contact the Professionals Resource Network (PRN)¹ for assistance, but she has not.

10. Dr. Lahteenmaa contacted the Department of Health and was focused on the possible bugging or hacking of her equipment by telemedicine providers.

11. On or about May 16, 2024, Dr. Lahteenmaa underwent a Department-ordered evaluation with Theodore R. Treese, M.D., (Dr. Treese) a physician specializing in addiction medicine and psychiatry.

12. During the evaluation, Dr. Lahteenmaa refused to provide information to Dr. Treese or obstructed his ability to perform a comprehensive evaluation.

13. Dr. Lahteenmaa failed to provide Dr. Treese substance abuse test specimens and information regarding her prescribed medications.

14. Dr. Treese diagnosed Dr. Lahteenmaa with unspecified psychosis not due to a known substance or psychological condition.

¹ PRN is the impaired practitioner program for the Department of Health, pursuant to section 456.076, Florida Statutes (2023). PRN monitors the evaluation, care, and treatment of impaired health care practitioners. PRN oversees random drug screens and provides for the exchange of information between treatment providers, evaluators, and the Department for the protection of the public.

15. Dr. Treese was unable to rule out other stimulant abuse or an adverse effect of amphetamines due to Dr. Lahteenmaa's refusal to disclose information.

16. Dr. Treese opined that Dr. Lahteenmaa is not able to practice as an osteopathic physician with reasonable skill and safety to patients.

17. Dr. Treese recommended that Dr. Lahteenmaa engage in a medically supervised residential assessment with a treatment center with capabilities for treatment of both psychiatric and substance abuse diagnoses for a multi-day evaluation.

18. As of July 1, 2024, Dr. Lahteenmaa has not engaged in such treatment.

19. In the course of their practice, osteopathic physicians are entrusted to assess and diagnose patients, order diagnostic testing, prescribe medications, and render treatment in a manner that is correct and safe. Physical and mental stability are essential traits that osteopathic physicians must possess in order to competently practice their profession because even the smallest error in judgment can be fatal given the broad oversight that osteopathic physicians have over the health and wellbeing of

their patients. Therefore, osteopathic physicians must be able to present to work without any mental or physical conditions that could inhibit patient care. Osteopathic physicians are placed in a position of trust; therefore, osteopathic physicians must possess good judgment and moral character.

20. Dr. Lahteenmaa's unspecified psychosis, without an explainable cause, impairs her ability to practice as an osteopathic physician with reasonable skill and safety to patients.

21. Dr. Lahteenmaa's unspecified psychosis indicates that Dr. Lahteenmaa is not capable of caring for patients in a manner that is correct and safe. Therefore, Dr. Lahteenmaa's continued unrestricted practice as an osteopathic physician presents an immediate, serious danger to the health, welfare, and safety of the public.

22. An independent medical expert has determined that Dr. Lahteenmaa is unable to practice as an osteopathic physician with reasonable skill and safety to patients. Because Dr. Lahteenmaa has not been deemed safe to practice and has not engaged in the recommended treatment and monitoring, there is a significant likelihood that Dr.

Lahteenmaa's inability to practice osteopathic medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients will continue.

23. The Department considered various restrictions on Dr. Lahteenmaa's license, including restricting Dr. Lahteenmaa's ability to practice in any position which may be deemed safety-sensitive or requiring that Dr. Lahteenmaa practice under direct supervision. However, the Department determined that these restrictions would be insufficient.

24. The nature of practicing as an osteopathic physician involves examining, evaluating, diagnosing, and treating patients; directing other medical staff; and documenting such activities within the patient medical record. Even minute errors in these duties can result in significant harm. Every aspect of the practice of osteopathic medicine directly affects the health and wellbeing of patients. The Department is unable to formulate a restriction to only non-safety-sensitive aspects of osteopathic medicine because every aspect of practicing as an osteopathic physician is inherently safety-sensitive.

25. Further, a direct supervisor would not be able to ensure that Dr. Lahteenmaa is safe to practice osteopathic medicine. While a supervising

physician may have some knowledge as to the signs and symptoms of psychosis, a direct supervisor would not be able to guarantee that Dr. Lahteenmaa is not impaired throughout the duration of each shift. A determination of whether Dr. Lahteenmaa is able to safely practice must be made by an individual with the training and education to recognize and diagnose mental health disorders, such as a PRN-approved evaluator.

26. PRN is responsible for monitoring the recovery progress and status of impaired practitioners to ensure their continued ability to safely practice. Without PRN oversight, the risk of Dr. Lahteenmaa's inability to safely practice will remain.

27. Based on the foregoing, there are no less restrictive means, other than the terms of this Order, that will adequately protect the public from Dr. Lahteenmaa's continued unrestricted practice as an osteopathic physician.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the State Surgeon General concludes as follows:

1. The State Surgeon General has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to section 20.43, Florida Statutes (2024), and chapters 456 and 459 as set forth above.

2. Section 459.015(1)(w), Florida Statutes (2023), authorizes discipline, including restriction, for being unable to practice osteopathic medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness or use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other type of material or as a result of any mental or physical condition.

3. Dr. Lahteenmaa violated section 459.015(1)(w) by being unable to practice osteopathic medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients due to her unspecified psychosis.

4. Section 120.60(6) authorizes the State Surgeon General to summarily restrict an osteopathic physician's license upon a finding that the osteopathic physician presents an immediate, serious danger to the public health, safety, or welfare.

5. Dr. Lahteenmaa's continued unrestricted practice of osteopathic medicine constitutes an immediate, serious danger to the health, safety, or

In Re: Emergency Restriction of the License of
Heidi Marjaana Lahteenmaa, D.O.
License Number: OS 16911
Case Number: 2023-54547

welfare of the citizens of the State of Florida, and this summary procedure is fair under the circumstances to adequately protect the public.

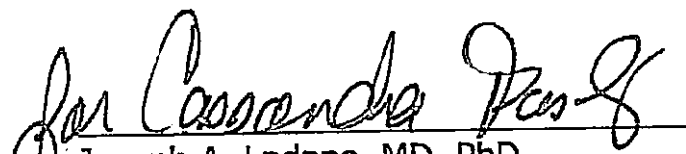
WHEREFORE, in accordance with section 120.60(6), it is **ORDERED THAT:**

1. The license of Heidi Marjaana Lahteenmaa, D.O., to practice as an osteopathic physician, license number OS 16911, is immediately restricted to prohibit Dr. Lahteenmaa from practicing osteopathic medicine until PRN or a PRN-approved evaluator notifies the Department that Dr. Lahteenmaa is safe to resume the practice of osteopathic medicine.

2. A proceeding seeking formal discipline of the license of Dr. Lahteenmaa will be promptly instituted and acted upon in compliance with sections 120.569 and 120.60(6), Florida Statutes (2024).

DONE and ORDERED this 7th day of August,

2024.



Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

In Re: Emergency Restriction of the License of
Heidi Marjaana Lahteenmaa, D.O.
License Number: OS 16911
Case Number: 2023-54547

PREPARED BY:

Michael Morris, Esq.
Assistant General Counsel
DOH Prosecution Services Unit
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-65
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3265
Florida Bar No. 0081493
(850) 558-9868
(850) 245-4684 (fax)
Michael.Morris@flhealth.gov

In Re: Emergency Restriction of the License of
Heidi Marjaana Lahteenmaa, D.O.
License Number: OS 16911
Case Number: 2023-54547

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW

Pursuant to sections 120.60(6) and 120.68, Florida Statutes (2024), the Department's findings of immediate danger, necessity, and procedural fairness shall be judicially reviewable. Review proceedings are governed by the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. Such proceedings are commenced by filing a Petition for Review, in accordance with Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.100, and accompanied by a filing fee prescribed by law with the District Court of Appeal, and providing a copy of that Petition to the Department of Health within thirty (30) days of the date this Order is filed.