

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,

PETITIONER,

v.

CASE NO. 2024-37312

STEVEN B. FRIEDENTHAL, M.D.,

RESPONDENT.

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ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

Petitioner Department of Health (Department) files this Administrative Complaint before the Board of Medicine (Board) against Respondent, Steven B. Friedenthal, M.D., and in support thereof alleges:

1. Petitioner is the state agency charged with regulating the practice of medicine pursuant to section 20.43, Florida Statutes (2024); and chapters 456 and 458, Florida Statutes (2024).

2. At all times material to this Complaint, Respondent was licensed to practice as a medical doctor within the State of Florida, having been issued license number ME 56709.

3. At all times material to this Complaint, Respondent's address of record was 1071 Guildford Drive, Boca Raton, Florida 33434.

4. On or about April 30, 2024, Respondent possessed, controlled, or intentionally viewed one or more image that Respondent knew depicted a minor engaged in sexual conduct or that that had been created, altered, adapted, or modified by electronic, mechanical, or other means, to portray an identifiable minor engaged in sexual conduct.

5. Section 456.072(1)(ss), Florida Statutes (2023), authorizes discipline for being convicted or found guilty of; entering a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication; or committing or attempting, soliciting, or conspiring to commit an act that would constitute a violation of any of the offenses listed in section 456.074(5) or a similar offense in another jurisdiction.

6. Section 456.074(5)(u), Florida Statutes (2023), includes a violation of section 827.071, relating to sexual performance by a child.

7. Section 827.071(5)(a), Florida Statutes (2023), states that it is unlawful for any person to knowingly possess, control, or intentionally view a photograph, motion picture, exhibition, show, representation, image, data, computer depiction, or other presentation which, in whole or in part, he or she knows to include child pornography.

8. Respondent committed acts that constitute violations of section 827.071(5)(a), relating to sexual performance by a child, by knowingly possessing, controlling, or intentionally viewing a photograph, motion picture, exhibition, show, representation, image, data, computer depiction, or other presentation which, in whole or in part, he or she knows to include child pornography.

9. Based on the foregoing, Respondent violated section 456.072(1)(ss), as defined in section 456.074(5)(u).

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests that the Board enter an order imposing one or more of the following penalties: permanent revocation or suspension of Respondent's license, restriction of practice, imposition of an administrative fine, issuance of a reprimand, placement of Respondent on probation, corrective action, refund of fees billed or collected, remedial education and/or any other relief that the Board deems appropriate.

SIGNED this 29th day of October, 2024.

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
Surgeon General and Secretary

Patricia Nelson

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FILED
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DEPUTY CLERK
CLERK: *Amy L. Carraway*
DATE: *OCT 31 2024*

PCP Date: October 25, 2024
PCP Members: El-Bahri and Hunter

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

Respondent has the right to request a hearing to be conducted in accordance with Section 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, to be represented by counsel or other qualified representative, to present evidence and argument, to call and cross-examine witnesses and to have subpoena and subpoena duces tecum issued on his or her behalf if a hearing is requested. A request or petition for an administrative hearing must be in writing and must be received by the Department within 21 days from the day Respondent received the Administrative Complaint, pursuant to Rule 28-106.111(2), Florida Administrative Code. If Respondent fails to request a hearing within 21 days of receipt of this Administrative Complaint, Respondent waives the right to request a hearing on the facts alleged in this Administrative Complaint pursuant to Rule 28-106.111(4), Florida Administrative Code. Any request for an administrative proceeding to challenge or contest the material facts or charges contained in the Administrative Complaint must conform to Rule 28-106.2015(5), Florida Administrative Code.

Mediation under Section 120.573, Florida Statutes, is not available to resolve this Administrative Complaint.

NOTICE REGARDING ASSESSMENT OF COSTS

Respondent is placed on notice that Petitioner has incurred costs related to the investigation and prosecution of this matter. Pursuant to Section 456.072(4), Florida Statutes, the Board shall assess costs related to the investigation and prosecution of a disciplinary matter, which may include attorney hours and costs, on the Respondent in addition any other discipline imposed.