

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

IN RE: Emergency Suspension of the License of
Steven B. Friedenthal, M.D.
License Number: ME 56709
Case Number: 2024-37312

ORDER OF EMERGENCY SUSPENSION OF LICENSE

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD, State Surgeon General, ORDERS the emergency suspension of the license of Steven B. Friedenthal, M.D., (Dr. Friedenthal) to practice medicine in the State of Florida. Dr. Friedenthal holds license number ME 56709. Dr. Friedenthal's address of record is 1071 Guildford Drive, Boca Raton, Florida 33434. The following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law support the emergency suspension of Dr. Friedenthal's license to practice 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 medicine pursuant to chapters 20, 456, and 458, Florida Statutes (2024). Section 456.073(8), Florida Statutes (2024), authorizes the State Surgeon General to summarily suspend Dr. Friedenthal's license to practice medicine in the State of Florida, in accordance with sections 120.60(6) and 456.074, Florida Statutes (2024).

2. At all times material to this Order, Dr. Friedenthal was licensed as a medical doctor in the State of Florida, pursuant to chapter 458.

3. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBCSO) received three Cybertips from the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children concerning a Google user who used his Google drive account to upload several hundred files depicting the sexual abuse of children.

4. All three Cybertips contained the same telephone number.

5. Pursuant to search warrant, both AT&T and Comcast verified that the subscriber for that telephone number was Dr. Friedenthal at 1071 Guildford Drive, Boca Raton, Florida 33434, and the telephone number on the Comcast account matched the AT&T telephone number on the reported Google account.

6. Pursuant to search warrant, Google provided over a terabyte of data content from the reported Google account.

7. PBCSO reviewed the content produced by Google and found thousands of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) image and video files.

8. On or about May 29, 2024, Dr. Friedenthal was arrested for possession of 10 or more files of child pornography, in violation of section 775.0847(2), Florida Statutes (2023)¹.

¹ Section 775.0847(2)(a) reclassifies a violation of section 827.071 from a third-degree felony to a second-degree felony when the defendant possesses 10 or more files.

9. On June 17, 2024, Dr. Friedenthal was charged² with 30 counts of violating sections 827.071(5)(a) and 775.0847(2), Florida Statutes (2023).

10. Physicians are entrusted by the public to provide treatment to patients in a manner that is safe, to act in the best interest of their patients, and to protect their patients from harm. Accordingly, physicians are required to demonstrate good judgment and moral character.

11. Dr. Friedenthal's possession of CSAM indicates that Dr. Friedenthal lacks the good judgment and moral character necessary to be a physician. Therefore, Dr. Friedenthal's continued practice as a physician presents a risk of immediate, serious danger to the health, welfare, and safety of the public.

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 458 as set forth above.

2. Section 456.072(1)(ss), Florida Statutes (2023), authorizes discipline, including suspension, for being convicted or found guilty of; entering

²Case number 2024-CF-004416MB, in the Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Palm Beach County, Florida, is pending disposition.

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.

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

4. Dr. Friedenthal committed acts that constitute violations of section 827.071(5)(a), Florida Statutes, relating to sexual performance by a child.

5. Section 456.074(5)(u), Florida Statutes (2023), states the Department *shall* issue an emergency order suspending the license of any health care practitioner who is arrested for committing or attempting, soliciting, or conspiring to commit any act that would constitute a violation of section 827.071(5)(a), Florida Statutes, relating to sexual performance by a child.

6. Dr. Friedenthal was arrested for committing an act that constitutes a violation of section 827.071(5)(a), Florida Statutes, sexual performance by a child.

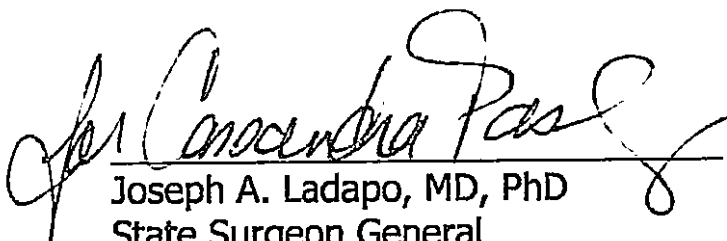
7. The Department is mandated to summarily suspend Dr. Friedenthal's license to practice as a medical doctor in accordance with section 456.074(5)(u).

WHEREFORE, in accordance with sections 120.60(6) and 456.074(5)(u), it is **ORDERED THAT**:

1. The license of Steven B. Friedenthal, M.D., to practice medicine in the State of Florida, license number ME 56709, is immediately suspended.

2. A proceeding seeking formal discipline of the license of Dr. Friedenthal to practice as a physician in the State of Florida will be promptly instituted and acted upon in compliance with sections 120.569 and 120.60(6), Florida Statutes (2024).

DONE and ORDERED this 8th day of October, 2024.


Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

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NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW

Pursuant to sections 120.60(6) and 120.68, Florida Statutes (2024), this Order is 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.