Popertment of Professional Regulation AGENCY CLERK

DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

BOARD OF MEDICINE

CLERK

DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION,

DATE 8-21-89

Petitioner/Appellee,

vs.

DPR CASE NOS.: 0070999

0030291

DOAH CASE NOS.: 87-1822

87-4157

LICENSE NO.: ME 0036079

BELTRAN PAGES, M.D.,

Respondent/Appellant.

ORDER ON REMAND

THIS CAUSE came before the Board of Medicine (Board) on August 5, 2989, in Orlando, Florida, for the purpose of considering the decision of the District Court of Appeal, Third District of Florida, and Mandate, issued in Beltran J. Pages, M.D. vs. Department of Professional Regulation, Board of Medicine, Case No. 88-2141, Petitioner was represented by Lisa S. Nelson, Attorney at Law. Respondent was present and represented by Deborah J. Miller, Attorney at Law.

Upon consideration of the Appellate Opinion (attached hereto as Exhibit A), the mandate, Petitioner's Motion for Corrected Final Order (attached hereto as Exhibit B), Respondent's Response to Motion for Corrected Final Order (attached hereto as Exhibit C), Respondent's Request to Establish Effective Date of Suspension, the other pleadings and the complete record in this

cause, and being otherwise fully advised in the premises, the Board makes the following findings and conclusions.

- 1. The Board's rulings on the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and exceptions as set forth in the Final Order filed on August 26, 1988, remain the same. The reversal by the Appellate Court was directed only to the penalty imposed by the board.
- 2. The Order from the Appellate Court directed the Board to enter a proper order. If the Board determines to increase the penalty recommended by the Hearing Officer, it must state with particularity its reasons for increasing the penalty in the order by citing to the record and justifying the action.
- Upon review of all the matters noted above, the Board accepts and adopts the penalty recommended by the Petitioner in its Motion for Corrected Final Order based on the reasons and the citations to the record which are set forth in the Petitioner's Motion for Corrected Final Order, with two exceptions. First of all, the Board agrees with the position of Respondent, as set forth in his response to Motion for Corrected Final Order that the frequency of the psychotherapy to be obtained by Respondent shall be determined by the treating psychiatrist, rather than by this Order of the Board. Furthermore, in the penalty recommended by the Department, it is suggested that Respondent's license to practice medicine shall be placed on probation for a period of five years with no petition for reinstatement to be considered for a minimum of two years. The Board determines that no petition for reinstatement shall be considered for a minimum of five years.

WHEREFORE,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND ADJUDGED,

- 1. Respondent's license to practice medicine is REPRIMANDED.
- 2. Respondent shall pay an administrative fine in the amount of \$2000.00 to the Executive Director within thirty days of the date this Final Order is filed.
- 3. Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Florida is SUSPENDED for a period of three years; during which time no petition for reinstatement will be entertained. During the period of suspension, Respondent shall not engage in any mental health counseling.
- 4. Following the period of suspension, Respondent's license to practice medicine shall be placed on probation for a period of five years; no petition for reinstatement shall be considered prior to the completion of five years of probation. As a condition of probation, Respondent shall treat no female patients until such time as he and his approved psychiatrist appear before the Board and demonstrate Respondent's ability to treat female patients with skill and safety.
- 5. During the periods of suspension and probation,
 Respondent must obtain psychotherapy from a psychiatrist licensed
 under Chapter 458 who is approved by the Board. He shall see the
 psychiatrist for evaluations and treatment as often as
 recommended by the approved psychiatrist. During the entire
 period of psychiatric treatment, Respondent's treating
 psychiatrist shall submit quarterly reports in affidavit form to
 the Board.

Upon request of Respondent, Respondent's suspension began effective August 5, 1989.

This Order takes effect upon filing with the Clerk of Department of Professional Regulation.

DONE AND ORDERED this

day of

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BOARD OF MEDICINE

FUAD S. ASHKAR, M.D.

CHAIRMAN

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Final Order has been provided by certified mail to Beltran Pages, M.D., 2200 NW Seventh Avenue, Miami, Florida 33127 and to Mark Dresnick and Deborah J. Miller, Attorneys at Law, Dunn, Dresnick, Lodish & Miller, One Biscayne Tower, Suite 2400, 2 South Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, Florida 33131; by U.S. Mail to Joyous D. Parrish, Hearing Officer, The DeSoto Building, 1230 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1550; and by interoffice delivery to Lisa S. Nelson, Attorney at Law, Department of Professional Regulation, 1940 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 3239-0792 at or before 5:00 p.m. this 21 day of Quaguat, 1989.

Martin Datielite

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION BOARD OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION,

Petitioner/Appellee,

DCA Case No. 88-2141 DOAH Case Nos. 87-1882 & 87-4157 DPR Case Nos. 0070999 & 0030291

BELTRAN PAGES, M.D.

Respondent/Appellant,

RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR CORRECTED FINAL ORDER

Respondent, Beltran Pages, M.D. (Dr. Pages), responds to DPR's Motion for a Corrected Final Order by stating the following:

- 1. Dr. Pages agrees with DPR's assertion contained within paragraph 13 of its motion which states that in considering the penalty to Dr. Pages, the Board of Medicine is bound by those reasons stated on the record during its original consideration of this case. See <u>Department of Professional Regulation v. Bernal</u>, 531 So.2d 968 (Fla. 1988).
- 2. DPR has referred in paragraph 26 of its motion to other cases involving sexual misconduct. Dr. Pages advises the Board that the facts of these cases were different or more egregious situations than his own. In <u>Department of Professional Regulation V. Lombillo</u>, 9 FALR 663 (Final Order 11/02/87) the physychiatrist's license was revoked based upon findings that he had drugged three women and then engaged in aberrant sexual behavior while these women were drugged, and in one case, comatose. In <u>Department of Professional Regulation vs. Dratler</u>, FALR 3728, 3734, the doctor was

suspended for three years based upon findings that he had masturbated and fondled several patients during the course of his gynecologic medical practice. Although the Department has also cited to <u>Lieberman v. Department of Professional Regulation</u>, Case No. 0077716; 0052807, this matter involved a finding that a gynecologist had sexually assaulted a patient while upon the examining table.

- 3. The factual findings against Dr. Pages were limited to sexual misconduct with one patient. Unlike the cases cited by DPR, the findings against Dr. Pages do not relate to the forced physical assault upon a patient, sexual misconduct as a result of a patient's drug induced stupor, or sexual intercourse with several patients.
- 4. Dr. Pages wishes to call to the Board's attention the penalty provision requested by DPR in paragraph 30(e) relating to psychotherapy. The Department suggests that Dr. Pages be required to see a psychiatrist at least weekly for evaluations and treatment during an eight year period during a three year suspension and a five year probation.

Since the Department suggests that the psychotherapy be provided by a licensed psychiatrist approved by the Board, Dr. Pages suggests that the frequency of the psychotherapy be determined by the Board's approved psychiatrist. Psychotherapy should only be required to the extent it is medically necessary. The frequency and necessity of the psychotherapy will be monitored by the Board since the psychiatrist will be approved by the Board and will submit quarterly reports in affidavit form. Therefore, Dr. Pages

respectfully suggests that if psychotherapy is ordered by the Board, that the frequency and duration of the psychotherapy should be determined by his Board approved treating psychiatrist.

Respectfully submitted,

DUNN, DRESNICK, LODISH & MILLER One Biscayne Tower, Suite 2400 Two South Biscayne Boulevard Miami, Florida 33131 (305) 381-8050

MARK A DRESNICK

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been hand delivered to the office of Lisa S. Nelson, Esq., Appellate Attorney, and to Mrs. Dorothy Faircloth, Executive Director, Board of Medicine, Department of Professional Regulation, Northwood Centre, 1940 North Monroe Street, Suite 60, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0792 on July , 1989.

MARY A DEECHTON

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION BOARD OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION, Petitioner/Appellee,

DCA Case No. 88-2141

DOAH Case Nos. 87-1882 & 87-4157 0070999 & 0030291 DPR Case Nos.

ν.

BELTRAN PAGES, M.D., Respondent/Appellant,

MOTION FOR CORRECTED FINAL ORDER

The Petitioner, Department of Professional Regulation, by and through the undersigned counsel, moves the Board of Medicine for the entry of a Corrected Final Order in the above-referenced As grounds therefore, the Petitioner states that:

- On August 6, 1988, the Board of Medicine considered the recommended order of the hearing officer in the above referenced case, and the exceptions filed by Respondent and motion to increase penalty filed by Petitioner.
- On August 26, 1988, the Board entered a final order suspending Respondent's license for a period of three years, followed by an indefinite period of probation.
- Respondent appealed the final order of the Board and on September 14, 1989 the Third District Court of Appeal granted a stay of the final order, subject to conditions that essentially provide that he restrict his practice so that he not treat female patients.
 - On May 2, 1989, the Third District Court of Appeal

issued an opinion reversing the final order of the Board of Medicine and remanding the cause to the Board for entry of a proper order in compliance with section 120.57(1)(b)(10), Florida Statutes. The Court also indicated that the Board should reconsider or be prepared to justify its imposition of indefinite probation. The mandate was issued May 18, 1989.

5. Accordingly, the Department requests that this Board enter a corrected final order addressing the Respondent's exceptions, the hearing officer's findings of fact, conclusions of law, and the imposition of penalty. The Department requests that the Board make the following findings.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 6. The Board previously made the following findings:
 - 1. The findings of fact set forth in the Recommended Order are approved and adopted and incorporated herein with the exception that the term "often" in paragraph 17 of the Findings of Fact is replaced with the phrase "a couple different occasions."
 - 2. There is competent substantial evidence to support the findings of fact.
- 7. The Department requests that these findings be reaffirmed and that the Board so indicate in its corrected final order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 8. The Board previously made the following findings:
 - 1. The Board has jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to Section 120.57(1), Florida Statutes, and Chapter 458, Florida Statutes.

- 2. The conclusions of law set forth in the Recommended Order are approved and adopted and incorporated herein.
- 3. There is competent substantial evidence to support the conclusions of law.
- g. The Department requests that these findings be reaffirmed and that the Board so indicate in its corrected final order.
- 10. The Board previously made the following ruling on exceptions.

RULINGS ON EXCEPTIONS

- 1. Exception 1 is rejected except that the term "often" should be replaced with the phrase "a couple different occasions" in order to accurately reflect the record. (T 166). Otherwise, the findings of fact of the Hearing Officer are supported by competent substantial evidence.
- 2. Exception 2 is rejected on the basis that the conclusions of law are supported by the findings of fact.
- 11. The Department requests that these findings be affirmed and that the Board so indicate in its corrected final order.

PENALTY

12. The hearing officer recommended that Respondent's license be suspended for a period of six months, followed by two years probation and a \$5,000 fine. The Board increased the penalty to a three year suspension, followed by an indefinite period of probation of not less than two years, with certain conditions specified by the Board.

- District Court of Appeal, the Department asserts that the Board is bound by those reasons stated on the record at its original consideration of this case. See <u>Department of Professional Regulation v. Bernal</u>, 531 So.2d 968 (Fla. 1988). Therefore, the Department requests that the Board adopt as their reasons for increasing the penalty the following reasons and so indicate in its corrected final order:
- 14. Rule 21M-20.001(1), Florida Administrative Code, entitled Disciplinary Guidelines, states:

The range of penalties provided below are based upon a single count violation of each provision listed; multiple counts of the violated provisions or a combination of the violations may result in a higher penalty than that for a single isolated violation. (emphasis added)

- 15. The Disciplinary Guidelines set forth a range for a violation of a single count of Section 458.331(1)(j), from one year suspension to revocation or denial, and an administrative fine from \$250.00 to \$5,000.00.
- 16. The Disciplinary Guidelines set forth a range for a violation of a single count of Section 458.331(1)(t), from two (2) years probation to revocation or denial and an administrative fine from \$250.00 to \$5,000.00.
- 17. Although the Disciplinary Guidelines were promulgated subsequent to the conduct which gives rise to the violations found by the Hearing Officer, the Guidelines reflect the policy

of the Board with respect to the appropriate discipline to be imposed for these violations.

- 18. The Hearing Officer's proposed recommended penalty for violating both Section 458.331(1)(j), and Section 458.331(1)(t), Florida Statutes, is less than the range set forth in the Disciplinary Guidelines corresponding to a violation of a single count of Section 458.331(1)(j).
- 19. Based upon consideration of aggravating and mitigating factors present in an individual case, the Board may deviate from the penalties recommended, Rule 21M-20.003, which states:
 - (3) Aggravating and Mitigating Circumstances; Based upon consideration of aggravating and mitigating facts present in an individual case, the Board may deviate from the penalties recommended above. The Board shall consider as aggravating or mitigating factors the following:
 - (a) Exposure of patient or public to injury or potential injury, physical or otherwise: none, slight, severe or death;
 - (b) Legal status at the time of the offense: no restraints, or legal constraints;
 - (c) The number of counts or separate offenses established;
 - (d) The number of times the same offense or offenses have previously been committed by the licensee or applicant;
 - (e) The disciplinary history of the applicant or licensee in any jurisdiction and the length of practice;
 - (f) Pecuniary benefit or self-gain inuring
 to the applicant or licensee;

- (g) Any other relevant mitigating factors.
- 20. In reaching his recommendation of penalty, the Hearing Officer relied upon the fact that the Respondent had left private practice. "...[a]nd since Respondent has left private practice, it would appear that the proposed penalty would be sufficient to protect public interests," (R.O. at pg. 10). However, the Respondent is not currently practicing medicine/psychiatry at the HRS South Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center. There is nothing to indicate that upon reinstatement of his license he would return to a restricted practice setting such as the one he previously enjoyed. Accordingly, the hearing officer's stated reason for mitigation of penalty should be rejected.
- 21. The patient, Lease to the Respondent with a history of depression, (R.O. at pg. 6; Transcript at 72-73, 109). The Department asserts that the fiduciary relationship between this psychiatrist and the patient in this case was clearly established. The relationship was violated when the Respondent engaged in sexual intercourse with the patient. In his findings of fact the Hearing Officer found that "[t]he Respondent engaged in sexual intercourse with Lease during the time she was being treated as his patient, (R.O. at pg. 6).
- patient in treatment would be contrary to good psychiatric practice, (R.O. at pg. 10; T-91). The Hearing Officer stated, "[s]uch conduct is contrary to acceptable standards for

psychiatrists," (R.O. at pg. 7).

- 23. The Respondent in this case is a psychiatrist. (T-23.) The purpose of the statutory prohibition banning sex between doctor and patient is to preclude the doctor from taking advantage of one who must trust the physician to obtain maximum benefit from the prescribed treatment. This is especially true of a psychiatrist-patient relationship.
- 24. For the Respondent to have initiated sexual intercourse with the mentally ill patient with a long history of psychiatric treatment under the guise of medical treatment in this case is especially egregious. Therefore, it is the violation of this sacred trust which contributes to the gravamen of the offense in this case and which merits the most severe penalties.
- 25. The patient has had to seek additional therapy subsequent to this sexual encounter with the Respondent. (Petitioner's Exhibit 4, page 2, 7, 9 Depo of Jean Bayard). As the Hearing Officer stated in the Recommended Order, "In December, 1984, I went to see a clinical psychologist in Santa Clara, California, named Jean Bayard. Mrs. To complained of a despair in her life and an uneasy feeling regarding her marriage," (R.O. at pg. 7).
- 26. Based on similar cases, the Department's position has been to seek a much more severe penalty for psychiatrists who abuse the physician-patient relationship for personal sexual activity. See Department of Professional Regulation v. Lombillo,

- 9 FALR 663, (Final Order 11/02/87) (violation of 458.331(1)(t), (q), (1), (k), license revoked), <u>Department of Professional Regulation v. Dratler</u>, 8 FALR 3728, 3734, (Final Order 2/06/86), (violation of 458.331(1)(j); suspended license for 3 years); See also <u>Lieberman v. Department of Professional Regulation</u>, Case No. 0077716 and 0052807 (final order June 15, 1989), (violation of 458.331(1)(j), and (t); OB/GYN license revoked).
- 27. The Respondent prescribed controlled substances to the patient L.T. during his treatment of her. (Petitioner's Exhibit 1, pages 41-44 (deposition of L.T.))
- 28. The patient who was victimized in this case presented for treatment as an extremely vulnerable woman with a lengthy history of psychiatric treatment. (T-72-73; Petitioner's Exhibit 1) (see Board transcripts, pages 26-27).
- 29. At the time of the offense, the maximum allowable administrative fine for a violation of each count or separate offense was \$1,000, Section 458.331(2), Florida Statutes (1983), states:
 - (2) When the Board finds any person guilty of any of the grounds set forth in subsection (1), it may enter an order imposing one or more of the following penalties;
 - (d) Imposition of an administrative fine not to exceed \$1,000 for each count or separate offense.

Inasmuch as Respondent was found guilty of two counts, the highest statutorily authorized fine to be imposed is \$2,000.00.

ACTUAL PENALTY

- 30. Based on the reasons given in paragraphs 14-28 of this motion, the Department requests that the following penalty be imposed:
 - a. That Respondent's license be reprimanded.
- b. That Respondent shall pay an administrative fine of \$2,000.00 to the Executive Director of the Board of Medicine within 30 days of the date of the filing of the final order.
- c. That Respondent's license to practice medicine in the state of Florida be SUSPENDED for a period of three years; during which time no petition for reinstatement would be entertained. During the period of suspension, Respondent shall not engage in any mental health counseling.
- d. Following the period of suspension, Respondent's license to practice medicine shall be placed on probation for a period of five years, with no petition for reinstatement to be considered for a minimum of two years. As a condition of probation, Respondent shall treat no female patient until such time as he and his approved psychiatrist appear before the board and demonstrate Respondent's ability to treat female patients with skill and safety.
- e. During the periods of suspension and probation, Respondent must obtain psychotherapy from a psychiatrist licensed under Chapter 458, who is approved by the Board. He shall see the psychiatrist at least weekly for evaluations and treatment.

During the entire period of psychiatric treatment, Respondent's treating psychiatrist shall submit quarterly reports in affidavit form.

f. After a minimum of two years probation, Respondent may petition the Board for reinstatement of his license, upon proof that Respondent is capable of practicing with reasonable skill and safety without the safeguards of probation.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa S. Nelson, Esq.
Appellate Attorney
Florida Bar No. 370657
Department of Professional
Regulation
Northwood Centre
1940 North Monroe Street,
Suite 60
Tallahassee, Florida
32399-0792
(904) 488-0062

LSN/pt

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by U.S. mail this Model day of July, 1989 to Mark A. Dresnick, Dunn Dresnick Lodish & Miller, One Biscayne Tower, Suite 200, Two South Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, Florida 33131.

Lisa S. Nerson

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION,

Petitioner,

VS.

BELTRAN K. PAGES, M.D.,

Department of Professional Regulation AGENCY CLERK

CLERK Mchoch & Wagner

DATE 8-26 -88

DPR CASE NOS. 0070999, 0030291 DOAH CASE NOS. 87-1882, 87-4157 LICENSE NO. ME 0036079

Respondent.

FINAL ORDER

This cause came before the Board of Medicine (Board)
pursuant to Section 120.57(1)(b)9., Florida Statutes, on August
6, 1988, in Palm Beach, Florida, for the purpose of considering
the Hearing Officer's Recommended Order (a copy of which is
attached hereto as Exhibit A) and the Petitioner's Motion to
Increase Penalty (a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit
B) in the above-styled cause. Petitioner, Department of
Professional Regulation, was represented by Jonathan King,
Attorney at Law. Respondent was present and represented by Harry
D. Dennis, Jr., Attorney at Law.

Upon review of the Recommended Order, the argument of the parties, and after a review of the complete record in this case, the Board makes the following findings and conclusions.

Exhibit A

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The findings of fact set forth in the Recommended Order are approved and adopted and incorporated herein with the exception that the term "often" in paragraph 17 of the Findings of Fact is replaced with the phrase "a couple different occasions."
- 2. There is competent substantial evidence to support the findings of fact.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The Board has jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to section 120.57(1), Florida Statutes, and Chapter 458, Florida Statutes.
- 2. The conclusions of law set forth in the Recommended Order are approved and adopted and incorporated herein.
- 3. There is competent substantial evidence to support the conclusions of law.

RULINGS ON EXCEPTIONS

- 1. Exception 1 is rejected except that the term "often" should be replaced with the phrase "a couple different occasions" in order to accurately reflect the record. (T 166) Otherwise, the findings of fact of the Hearing Officer are supported by competent substantial evidence.
- 2. Exception 2 is rejected on the basis that the conclusions of law are supported by the findings of fact.

PENALTY

Upon a complete review of the record in this case, the Board determines that the penalty recommended by the Hearing Officer be REJECTED as too lenient under the circumstances. The reason that the Hearing Officer's recommendation is insufficient is that the offenses Respondent committed constitute a serious violation of the physician-patient relationship. The Respondent has been in practice such a short time that the fact that he has committed such serious offenses indicates that the conduct is not remediable. Respondent has either no ethics or no self-control; the penalty herein is necessary to protect the public.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that

. .

- 1. Respondent shall pay an administrative fine in the amount of \$2000.00 to the Executive Director within 30 days of the date this Final Order is filed.
- 2. Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Florida is SUSPENDED for a period of 3 years. No petition for early reinstatement shall be entertained. During the period of suspension, Respondent shall not engage in any mental health counseling.
- 3. Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Fiorida is placed on PROBATION for an indefinite period of not less than 2 years. During the probationary period, Respondent shall treat no female patients until such time as he and his

approved psychiatrist appear before the Board and demonstrate Respondent's ability to treat female patients with skill and safety.

4. During the periods of suspension and probation,
Respondent must obtain psychotherapy from a psychiatrist licensed
under Chapter 458, who is approved by the Board. He shall see
the psychiatrist at least weekly for evaluations and treatment.
During the entire period of psychiatric treatment, Respondent's
treating psychiatrist shall submit quarterly reports in affidavit
form.

This order takes effect upon filing with the Clerk of the Department of Professional Regulation.

DONE AND ORDERED this / 9 taley of angum, 1988.

BOARD OF MEDICINE

EMILIO D. ECHEVARRIA, M.D.
CHAIRMAN

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW
A PARTY WHO IS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THIS FINAL ORDER IS ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW PURSUANT TO SECTION 120.68, FLORIDA STATUTES. REVIEW PROCEEDINGS ARE GOVERNED BY THE FLORIDA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE. SUCH PROCEEDINGS ARE COMMENCED BY FILING ONE COPY OF A NOTICE OF APPEAL WITH THE AGENCY CLERK OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION AND A SECOND COPY, ACCOMPANIED BY FILING FEES PRESCRIBED BY LAW, WITH THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL, FIRST DISTRICT, OR WITH THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL IN THE APPELLATE DISTRICT WHERE THE PARTY RESIDES. THE NOTICE OF APPEAL MUST BE FILED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RENDITION OF THE ORDER TO BE REVIEWED.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing FINAL ORDER has been provided by certified mail to Beltran J. Pages, M.D., The South Florida Evaluation Center & Treatment Center, 2200 N.W. 7th Avenue, Miami, Florida 32127-4291 and Harry D. Dennis, Jr., Attorney at Law, 1401 East Atlantic Boulevard, Pompano Beach, Florida 33060; by U. S. Mail to Joyous D. Parrish, Hearing Officer, Division of Administrative Hearings, 2009 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, Florida 32302; and by interoffice delivery to Peter S. Fleitman, Attorney at Law, Department of Professional Regulation, 130 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0750 at or before 5:00 p.m., this Ale day of August, 1988.

Mart Daire

STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL, REGULATION, BOARD OF MEDICINE,

Petitioner,

VS.

CASE NO. 87-1882 87-4157

BELTRAN J. PAGES, M.D.,

Respondent.

RECOMMENDED ORDER

Pursuant to notice, a final hearing in the above-styled matter was held on January 26 and 27, 1988, in Miami, Florida, before Joyous Parrish, a duly designated Hearing Officer of the Division of Administrative Hearings. The parties were represented at the hearing as follows:

APPEARANCES

For Petitioner: William O'Neil, Esquire

Jon King, Esquire

Department of Professional

Regulation

130 North Monroe Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0750

For Respondent: Harry D. Dennis, Jr., Esquire

1401 East Atlantic Boulevard Pompano Beach, Florida 33060

BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

On April 1, 1987, the Department of Professional Regulation (Department) filed an Administrative Complaint (#70999) against Beltran J. Pages, M. D., and alleged two counts of improper conduct. Count One, claimed the Respondent had violated Section 458.331 (1)(k), Florida Statutes, by exercising influence for

purpose of engaging a patient in sexual activity. - Count Two alleged Respondent had violated Section 458.331(1)(t), by gross or repeated malpractice or the failure to practice medicine with that level of care, skill and treatment which is recognized by reasonably prudent similar physician as being acceptable under similar conditions and circumstances. The Election of Rights filed by Respondent on April 17, 1987, denied the allegations of fact contained in the Administrative Complaint and requested a formal hearing pursuant to Section 120.57(1), Florida Statutes.

A second Administrative Complaint (#30291) filed by the . Department on August 24, 1987, charged the Respondent with three counts of improper conduct. Count One claimed the Respondent had violated Section 458.331(1)(j) Florida Statutes, by exercising influence within a patient-physician relationship for purpose of engaging a patient in sexual activity. Count Two claimed Respondent had violated Section 458.331(1)(k), Florida Statutes, by making deceptive, untrue, or fraudulent representations in the practice of medicine or employing a trick or scheme in the practice of medicine. Count Three maintained Respondent had violated Section 458.331(1)(t), Florida Statutes, by gross and repeated malpractice or the failure to practice medicine with that level of care, skill, and treatment which is recognized by reasonably prudent similar physician as acceptable under similar conditions and circumstances. The Election of Rights filed by Respondent relating to the second Administrative Complaint, disputed the allegations of fact and requested a formal hearing pursuant to Section 120.57(1), Florida Statutes.

The cases were forwarded to the Division of Administrative Hearings for formal proceedings, and on October 15, 1987, an order was entered consolidating the cases for hearing purposes.

At the final hearing, the Department presented the testimony of Beltran Pages, Major H. J. Siegel, Jolene Stratton, Hans-Ueli Steiner, Pat Harrington, Christie Dietert and L. Desarge.

Petitioner's exhibits 1-4 were admitted into evidence. The Respondent testified on his own behalf and offered the testimony of Lesley Zajac. Respondent's exhibit 1 was admitted into evidence.

During the course of the hearing, the undersigned reserved ruling on several motions. Such motions have been fully addressed in Orders issued concurrent with this Recommended Order.

After the hearing, the parties were granted ten days from the filing of the transcript within which to file their proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law together with any argument or brief. For reasons unknown to the undersigned, portions of the transcript were filed on April 14, 1988. On April 26, 1988, an Order was entered requiring the parties to submit their proposed recommended orders together with brief in support thereof no later than 5:00 p.m., May 16, 1988. Due to an error in the Clerk's office, the entire transcript was not furnished to the undersigned until the week of May 6, 1988. The Department submitted a proposed recommended order which included proposed findings of fact. Specific rulings on the proposal are included in the attached Appendix. Respondent filed a proposed

order which did not include proposed findings of fact.

Accordingly, no rulings are included in the Appendix. However,

both of the proposals submitted have been carefully considered in

the preparation of this Recommended Order.

ISSUE

The central issue in these cases is whether Respondent is guilty of the violations alleged in the Administrative Complaints; and, if so, what penalty should be imposed.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Based upon the testimony of the witnesses and the documentary evidence received at the hearing, I make the following findings of fact:

- 1. Petitioner, Department of Professional Regulation, Board of Medicine, is the state agency charged with regulating the practice of medicine in Florida.
- 2. Respondent, Beltran Pages, M. D., was, at all times material hereto, a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Florida having been issued license number ME0036079.
- 3. Respondent is a board certified psychiatrist who has practiced in the Palm Beach County area since July, 1981. Respondent left private practice in September, 1985, and is currently employed at the South Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center, an HRS facility for the criminally insane.
- 4. During the period February, 1982 through September, 1982, Respondent treated Land Hamman (now Land Dawn) at his Boca Raton office which was located in the Weir Plaza Building. This office space was shared with a Dr. Cohn.

- 5. The Boca Raton office consisted of a waiting area, a hallway with bathroom, and two physician offices. The walls in this facility were not sound proof and noises could be heard, if not distinguished, between the rooms.
- 6. Mrs. He had a regular Tuesday appointment at 10:00 a.m. During these weekly visits Mrs. He discussed her marital difficulties with Respondent. One of the problems was an affair Mrs. He was having which she did not want to abandon.
- 7. Mrs. Handle did not find her husband sexually attractive and, while she hoped the sessions with Respondent would enable her to rehabilitate her marriage, the Hermann eventually divorced.
- 8. During the latter months of the marriage, Po Hambers became aware of his wife's infidelity. Mr. Hambers felt that Respondent had misrepresented progress being made to save the Hambers marriage. Mr. Hambers amended his petition for dissolution of marriage to claim Mrs. Hambers was an unfit mother.
- 9. In a sworn statement taken October 27, 1982, Mrs. Harmonia claimed she and Respondent had had sexual relations during the course of her treatment. This sworn statement was given in connection with a settlement of the dissolution issues. The statement was not to be used in court since the parties had resolved all their differences regarding the children.
- 10. Later, Mr. Harman sued Respondent in a civil suit for damages in connection with the claimed sexual conduct. This suit was later dismissed by the court.

- Respondent had many frank, open conversations of a sexual nature with her. These conversations included discussions of Mrs.

 Hamber affair and her fantasies. During this time the Respondent did not engage in sexual intercourse with Landau Hamber affair and her fantasies.
- 12. Mrs. He testimony that she and Respondent had engaged in sexual intercourse was not credible. Mrs. He was unable to describe with any detail any incident or time during which such conduct occurred.
- 13. During the period June, 1983 through November, 1984, Respondent treated Learn at his Delray Beach office on Linton Boulevard. The walls in Respondent's Delray Beach office were sound proof.
- depression. In addition to prescribing medications for her, Respondent saw Mrs. The on a weekly basis. During these sessions Respondent and Mrs. The engaged in frank, open discussions of a sexual nature.
- 15. These discussions led to further activities which ultimately resulted in Respondent and Mrs. These engaging in sexual intercourse.
- 16. The Respondent engaged in sexual intercourse with I
- 17. Following the sessions with Respondent, Land Mould often emerge to the outer office in a rumpled, upset condition. This condition was observed by Respondent's receptionist/secretary, Jolene Stratton.

- 18. When Mrs. The determined she could not continue as both a patient and a lover, she elected to cancel appointments in an effort to continue seeing Respondent.
- 19. During the course of her treatment with Respondent, Mrs. The was married and living with her husband, Mrs. When was transferred to California, Mrs. The moved there also but continued written or telephone communications with Respondent.
- 20. In December, 1984, I went to see a clinical psychologist in Santa Clara, California, named Jean Bayard. Mrs. The complained of a despair in her life and an uneasy feeling regarding her marriage. During the course of her discussions with Dr. Bayard, Mrs. The disclosed her past sexual relationship with Respondent.
- 21. On one occasion Respondent "made a pass" at and kissed Ms. State. This incident occurred when they were viewing pictures in a magazine featuring nude females.
- 22. Respondent's denial of the sexual relationship with Lamb was not credible.
- 23. It is improper for a physician to engage in sexual intercourse with a patient during that patient's treatment. Such conduct is contrary to acceptable standards for psychiatrists.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The Division of Administrative Hearings has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of these proceedings.
- 2. The correct standard for the revocation of a license, as in the case at issue, is that the evidence must be clear and

convincing. Ferris v. Turlington, 510 So.2d 292 (Fla. 1987).

The Ferris court agreed with the district court in Reid v.

Florida Real Estate Commission, 188 So.2d 846, (Fla. 2d DCA 1955), that:

The power to revoke a license should be exercised with no less careful circumspection than the original granting of it. And the penal sanctions should be directed only toward those who by their conduct have forfeited their right to the privilege, and then only upon clear and convincing proof of substantial causes justifying the forfeiture.

This elevated standard is necessary to protect the rights and interests of the accused where the proceedings implicate the loss of livelihood. Ferris at 295. This standard has been applied in the case at issue.

- 3. Section 458.331(1)(k), Florida Statutes, provides:
 - (1) The following acts shall constitute grounds which the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (2) may be taken:
 - (k) Making deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representations in the practice of medicine or employing a trick or scheme in the practice of medicine.
- 4. Section 458.331(1)(j), Florida Statutes, provides:
 - (1) The following acts shall constitute grounds which the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (2) may be taken:
 - (j) Exercising influence within a patient-physician relationship for purpose of engaging a patient in

be presumed to be incapable of giving free, full, and informed consent to sexual activity with his physician.

5. Section 458.331(1)(t), Florida Statutes, provides: .

(1) The following acts shall constitute grounds which the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (2) may be taken:

(t) Gross or repeated malpractice or the failure to practice medicine with that level of care, skill, and treatment which is recognized by a reasonably prudent similar physician as being acceptable under similar conditions circumstances. The board shall give great weight to the provisions of Section 768.45 when enforcing this paragraph. this paragraph. As used in this paragraph, "repeated malpractice" includes, but is not limited to. three or more claims for medical malpractice within the previous 5year period resulting indemnities being paid in excess of \$10,000 each to the claimant in a judgment or settlement and which incidents involved negligent conduct by the physician. As used in the paragraph, "gross malpractice" or "the failure to practice medicine with that level of care, skill, and treatment which recognized by a reasonably prudent similar physician as being acceptable under similar conditions and circumstances," shall not be construed so as to require more than one instance, event, or act.

6. The above-noted provisions have been in effect, in substance, at all times material to the allegations in the Administrative Complaints.

- 7. With regard to the Administrative Complaint (#30291), Respondent is hereby found not guilty of Counts One, Two, and Three. The alleged victim, In Herman, was not credible. She had a bona fide self-interest in pursuing her claims against Respondent. The charges relating to this complaint have not been proven by clear and convincing evidence.
- 8. With regard to the Administrative Complaint (#70999), Respondent is found guilty of Counts One and Two. The testimony of Law Table was corroborated by Jolene Stratton and Dr. Jean Bayard. Respondent's testimony, in contrast, was defensive and evasive. The recollection of detail, in addition to the consistency of her story, made Law Table a more credible source. Accordingly, the Department has proven these violations by clear and convincing evidence.
- 9. In formulating the recommendation found herein, consideration has been given to Respondent's present work. Since Respondent admitted that sexual intercourse with a patient in treatment would be contrary to good psychiatric practice, and since Respondent has left private practice, it would appear that the proposed penalty would be sufficient to protect public interests. Further, the Department did not offer testimony regarding an appropriate penalty in this case.
- 10. Rule 21M-20.001(2), <u>Florida Administrative Code</u>, entitled Disciplinary Guidelines provides, in pertinent part:

VIOLATION

RECOMMENDED RANGE OF PENALTY

- (j) Exercising influence to engage patient in
- (j) From one (1) year suspension to revocation or

sex.

denial, and an administrative fine from \$250.00 to \$5,000.00

* *

(k) Deceptive, untrue, or fraudulent representations in the practice of medicine.

(k) From probation to revocation or denial, and an . and administrative fine from \$250.00 to \$5,000.00.

(t) Malpractice

(t) From two (2) years probation to revocation or denial, and an administrative fine from \$250.00 to \$5,000.00.

11. Rule 21M-20.001(3), <u>Florida Administrative Code</u>, entitled <u>Aggravating and Mitigating Circumstances provides</u>:

- (3) [Based upon consideration of aggravating and mitigating factors present in an individual case, the Board may deviate from the penalties recommended above. The Board shall consider as aggravating or mitigating factors the following:
- (a) Exposure of patient or public to injury or potential injury, physical or otherwise: none, slight, severe, or death;
- (b) Legal status at the time of the offense: no restraints, or legal constraints;
- (c) The number of counts or separate offenses established;
- (d) The number of times the same offense or offenses have previously been committed by the licensee or applicant;
- (e) The disciplinary history of the applicant or licensee in any jurisdiction and the length of practice;
- (f) Pecuniary benefit or self-gain inuring to the applicant or licensee;
- (g) Any other relevant mitigating
 factors.]

11

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law, it is

RECOMMENDED:

That the Department of Professional Regulations, Board of Medicine enter a Final Order dismissing Administrative Complaint (#30291), Case No. 87-4157. It is further recommended that a final order be entered finding Respondent guilty of the violations alleged in the Administrative Complaint (#70999), Case No. 87-1882, imposing an administrative fine in the amount of \$5000, suspending Respondent's license for six months, and placing Respondent on probation for a period of two years with appropriate supervision and restriction, and requiring such continuing education programs as the Board may deem appropriate.

DONE and RECOMMENDED this ______ day of May, 1988, in Tallahassee, Florida.

JOYOUS D. PARRISH
Hearing Officer
Division of Administrative
Hearings
The Oakland Building
2009 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(904) 488-9675

Filed with the Clerk of the Division of Administrative Hearings this 3/4 day of May, 1988.

Copies furnished: see next page

William O'Neil, Esquire Jon King, Esquire Department of Professional Regulation 130 North Monroe Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0750

Harry D. Dennis, Jr., Esquire 1401 East Atlantic Boulevard Pompano Beach, Florida 33060

Dorothy Faircloth, Executive Director Department of Professional Regulation 130 North Monroe Street Tallaahssee, Florida 32399-0750

APPENDIX

Rulings on Petitioner's Proposed Findings of Fact:

- 1. Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 are accepted.
- 2. Paragraph 4(a) is rejected as argumentative.
- 3. Paragraph 4(b) is rejected as argumentative.
- 4. To the extent paragraph 5 finds Respondent and Bernal engaged in sexual intercourse during the time she was in treatment such paragraph is accepted. Otherwise, the paragraph is rejected as unsupported by the record ("wide variety of sexual activity") or argumentative.
- 5. Paragraph 6 is rejected as contrary to the weight of the evidence.
- 6. Paragraph 7 is rejected as contrary to the weight of the evidence.
- 7. With regard to paragraph 8, only to the extent that Respondent and Lamb the engaged in sexual intercourse during the time she underwent treatment is the paragraph accepted. As a matter of law, there would be a presumption she was not consenting. Otherwise, paragraph 8 is rejected as contrary to the evidenc.

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION BOARD OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION.

Petitioner.

vs.

CASE NUMBER: 0070999

BELTRAN J. PAGES, H.D.,

Respondent.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

COMES NOW, the Petitioner, Department of Professional Regulation, hereinafter referred to as "Petitioner," and files this Administrative Complaint before the Board of Medicine against BELTRAN J. PACES, M.D., hereinafter referred to as "Respondent", and allegos:

- 1. Petitioner is the state agency charged with regulating the practice of medicine pursuant to Section 20.30, Florida Statutes; Chapter 455, Florida Statutes; and Chapter 458, Florida Statutes.
- 2. Respondent is and has been at all times material hereto a licensed physician in the State of Florida, having been issued license number ME 0036079. Respondent's last known address is 5075 S.W. 63rd Avenue, Miami, Florida 33155
- 3. Between on or about June 21, 1983 and on or about November 5, 1984, Respondent was the treating psychiatrist for patient L.T.
- 4. Respondent's treatment of patient L.T. included psychological therapy.
- 5. On various dates unknown to Petitioner, during Respondent's treatment of patient L.T., Respondent made inappropriate sexual comments, removed his pants in the presence of the patient, kissed the patient, and made inappropriate sexual contact.
- 6. On or about January 5, 1984, Respondent removed all of his clothing in the presence of patient L.T. in Respondent's

- office. Respondent went to the patient's home later that same day and kissed his patient.
- 7. Between on or about May 1, 1984 and on or about May 31, 1984, Respondent went to the home of patient L.T. and engaged in sexual activity with the patient.
- 8. On or about June 8, 1984, Respondent engaged in sexual activity with patient L.T.
- 9. On or about July 18, 1984, Respondent engaged in sexual activity with patient L.T.
- 10. On or about October 22, 1984, Respondent engaged in sexual activity with patient L.T.

COUNT ONE

- 11. Petitioner realleges paragraphs one through ten above as if fully set forth herein this Count One.
- 12. Based on the foregoing, Respondent has violated Section 458.331(1)(k), Florida Statutes, now Section 458.331(1Xj), Chapter 86-245, Laws of Florida, by exercising influence for purposes of engaging a patient in sexual activity. A patient shall be presumed to be incapable of giving free, full, and informed consent to sexual activity with his physician.

COUNT TWO

- 13. Petitioner realleges paragraphs one through ten above as if fully set forth herein this Count Two.
- 14. Based on the foregoing, Respondent has violated Section 458.331(1)(t), Florida Statutes, by gross or repeated malpractice or the failure to practice medicine with that level of care, skill and treatment which is recognized by a reasonably prudent similar physician as being acceptable under similar conditions and circumstances.

WHEREFORE, the Petitioner respectfully requests the Board of Medicine to enter an order imposing one or more of the following penalties: revocation or suspension of the Respondent's license, restriction of the Respondent's practice, imposition of an administrative fine, issuance of a reprimand,

placement of the Respondent on probation, and/or any other relief that the Board deems appropriate.

SIGNED this 30 day of

1987.

Secretary

COUNSEL FOR DEPARTMENT:

Leslie Brookmeyer Senior Attorney Department of Professional Regulation 130 North Monroe Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0750 (904) 488-0062

L8/JA/11 A-20-87

PCP: 03/19/87

O'Bryan/Santelices/Cooper

DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

CLERK (D. 4-4-)

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION BOARD OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION,

Petitioner

CASE NO. 0030291

vs.

BELTRAN J. PAGES, M.D.

Respondent.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

COMES NOW the Petitioner, Department of Professional Regulation, hereinafter referred to as "Petitioner", and files this Administrative Complaint before the Board of Medicine against Beltran J. Pages, M.D., hereinafter referred to as "Respondent", and alleges:

- 1. Petitioner is the state agency charged with regulating the practice of medicine pursuant to Section 20.30, Florida Statutes; Chapter 455, Florida Statutes; and Chapter 458, Florida Statutes.
- 2. Respondent is and has been at all times material hereto a licensed physician in the State of Florida, having been issued license number ME 0036079. Respondent's last known address is 2200 NW 7th Ave., Miami, Florida 33127-4291.

COUNT ONE

- 3. Respondent was the treating psychiatrist for patient L.H. from February of 1982 until September 13, 1982.
- 4. Between approximately May and July of 1982 the Respondent used hypnosis therapy on patient L.H. During one instance of hypnosis therapy the Respondent placed his hand inside the patient's blouse.
- 5. In May of 1982 the Respondent began to encourage patient L.H. to touch him as a form of "touch therapy."
- 6. In approximately June of 1982 the Respondent encouraged patient L.H. to play a game of "strip tac toe." During this game both the Respondent and the patient undressed and then the

Respondent held the patient in his arms and patted her on her back and buttocks.

- 7. Beginning in either June or July of 1982 the Respondent began to engage patient L.H. in sexual intercourse. During the course of treatment Respondent engaged patient L.H. in sexual intercourse approximately six times at his office and one time at the home of patient L.H.
- 8. Based on the foregoing Respondent violated Section 458.331(1)(j), Florida Statutes, (1986 Supp.), by exercising influence within a patient-physician relationship for purposes of engaging a patient in sexual activity.

COUNT TWO

- 9. Petitioner realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs one through seven.
- 10. Based on the foregoing Respondent violated Section 458.331(1)(k), Florida Statutes, (1986 Supp.), by making deceptive, untrue, or fraudulent representations in the practice of medicine or employing a trick or scheme in the practice of medicine.

COUNT THREE

- 11. Petitioner realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraph one through seven as set forth above.
- 12. Based on the foregoing, Respondent violated Section 458.331(1)(t), Florida Statutes, by gross or repeated malpractice or the failure to practice medicine with that level of care, skill, and treatment which is recognized by a reasonably prudent similar physician as acceptable under similar conditions and circumstances.

WHEREFORE, the Petitioner respectfully requests the Board of Medicine to enter an Order imposing one or more of the following penalties: revocation or suspension of the Respondent's license, restriction of the Respondent's practice, imposition of an administrative fine, issuance of a reprimand, placement of the Respondent on probation, and/or any other relief that the Board deems appropriate.

SIGNED this 2/5+ day of , 1987.

Van B. Poole

Secretary

Bruce D. Lamb Chief Medical Attorney

COUNSEL FOR DEPARTMENT:

Julie Gallagher Senior Attorney Department of Professional Regulation 130 N. Monroe St. Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-0750

JG/ts/tet 7/22/87

Department of Professional Regulation AGENCY CLERK

FILED

DEPUTY CLERK
CLERK Deva Combo

NE DATE 10/21

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, PETITIONER

v.

AHCA CASE NO.: 0070999, 0030291 LICENSE NO.: ME 0036079

Beltran Pages, M.D., RESPONDENT

ORDER OF TERMINATION

Upon review of the terms and conditions of the Final Order of the Board of Medicine rendered 8/21/89, the documentation offered on behalf of Respondent, and being otherwise fully advised in the premises, it is hereby

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED:

that Respondent completed his/her period of probation on 10/20/97 and has complied with all terms of the Final Order rendered 8/21/89.

DONE AND ORDERED

this 27 day of Jeplember, 1997.

Edward A. Dauer, M.D., Chairperson

Board of Medicine

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Vichi R. Ellison