

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF IOWA**

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**IN THE MATTER OF THE STATE OF CHARGES AGAINST**

**PAUL L. LOEFFELHOLZ, M.D., RESPONDENT**

**Nos. 02-93-326, 02-93-397, 02-94-147, 02-96-215**

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**AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER**

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COMES NOW the Iowa State Board of Medical Examiners ( the Board), and Paul L. Loeffelholz, M.D. (the Respondent), pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.10 and 272C.3(4) (1999), and enter into the following Agreement and Final Order to resolve the contested case currently on file.

1. Respondent was issued license number 16361 to practice medicine and surgery in Iowa on July 18, 1961.
2. Respondent's Iowa medical license is valid and will next expire on February 1, 2002.
3. A Statement of Charges was filed against Respondent on May 27, 1999, and is awaiting hearing.
4. Dr. Loeffelholz filed an Answer to the Statement of Charges on June 9, 1999 denying the Statement of Charges.
5. The Board has jurisdiction of the parties and the subject matter.
6. Dr. Loeffelholz has advised the Department of Corrections that he will retire effective June 30, 2000.
7. Respondent will retire from the active practice of psychiatric medicine on June 30, 2000, and Respondent will not provide psychiatric care to patients after June 30, 2000. In the event Respondent provides psychiatric care to patients after June 30, 2000,

the Board may take action as authorized in Iowa Code Chapters 143.6(2)(I) and 272C.3(2)(a) and 653 IAC 12.4(16).

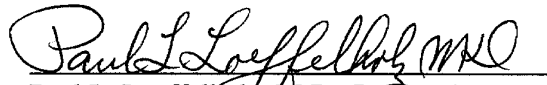
8. The Board makes no findings with respect to the Statement of Charges.

9. This Agreement and Final Order resolves all issues in this matter and, therefore, both parties waive any right to hearing on the allegations contained in the Statement of Charges and waive any objections to the terms of this Agreement and Order.

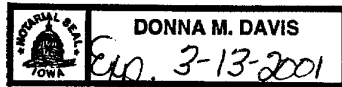
10. This Agreement and Final Order are voluntarily submitted by Dr. Loeffelholz and the Board for consideration.

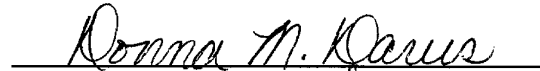
11. This Agreement and Final Order is subject to approval of the Board. If the Board fails to approve this Agreement and Final Order it shall be of no force or effect to either party.

12. The Board's approval of this Agreement shall constitute a Final Order of the Board.

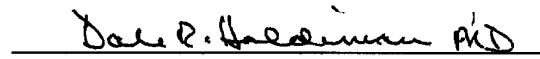
  
Paul L. Loeffelholz, M.D., Respondent

Subscribed and sworn to before me on May 19, 2000.



  
Notary Public, State of Iowa

The Statement of Charges and Informal Settlement is approved by the Board on June 1, 2000.

  
Dale R. Holdiman, M.D., Chairperson  
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**Nos. 02-93-326, 02-93-397, 02-94-147, 02-96-215**

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**STATEMENT OF CHARGES**

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**COMES NOW** the Iowa State Board of Medical Examiners (the Board), on May 27, 1999, and files this Statement of Charges against Paul Loeffelholz, M.D., (Respondent), a physician licensed pursuant to Chapter 147 of the Code of Iowa and alleges:

1. Respondent was issued license number 16361 to practice medicine and surgery in Iowa on July 18, 1961.
2. Respondent's Iowa medical license will next expire on February 1, 2000.
3. The Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to Iowa Code Chapters 147, 148 and 272C.

**COUNT I**

4. Respondent is charged with professional incompetency pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.55(2), 148.6(2)(g), (i), and 258A.10(2) (1991), and 653 IAC sections 12.4(2)(b), (c), and (d), by demonstrating one or more of the following:

- a) A substantial deviation from the standards of learning or skill ordinarily possessed and applied by other physicians or surgeons in the state of Iowa acting in the same or similar circumstances;
- b) A failure by a physician or surgeon to exercise in a substantial respect that degree of care which is ordinarily exercised by the average physician or surgeon in the state of Iowa acting in the same or similar circumstances; and
- c) A willful or repeated departure from, or the failure to conform to, the minimal standard of acceptable and prevailing practice of osteopathic medicine and surgery or osteopathy in the state of Iowa.

## **COUNT II**

5. Respondent is charged with being guilty of willful or gross negligence pursuant to Iowa Code sections 258A.3(2)(b), 258A.4(6) (1991) and 653 IAC section 12.4(25).

## **THE CIRCUMSTANCES**

6. A peer review committee of the Board reviewed the medical records of thirteen patients treated by the Respondent at the Iowa Medical & Classification Center between 1983 and 1996 and concluded that in at least 10 cases Respondent failed to meet the standard of care in the treatment of those patients, including but not limited to the following:

- a) Respondent exhibited a pattern of failing to provide adequate psychiatric assessment. Particularly, Respondent failed to obtain or ignored prior treatment records, diagnoses by previous health care professionals, and information from collateral sources;

- b) Respondent exhibited a pattern of arbitrarily and abruptly discontinuing the use of psychotropic and other medications with inadequate or no evaluation or exploration of their psychiatric history;
- c) Respondent exhibited a pattern of arbitrarily and abruptly discontinuing the use of psychotropic and other medications when such medications were clinically indicated;
- d) Respondent exhibited a pattern of giving little or no credence toward other professionals' previous treatment plans prior to changing or discontinuing them;
- e) Respondent exhibited a pattern of minimizing symptoms of mental illness and assuming all aberrant behavior is a result of a rational choice by a responsible individual even in the face of extreme symptoms of psychosis.
- f) Respondent exhibited a pattern of failing to provide adequate monitoring and observation following abrupt discontinuation of medications.
- g) Respondent exhibited a pattern of delaying or denying treatment of well substantiated diagnoses of major psychiatric illness, interrupting necessary continuity of care.
- h) Respondent exhibited a pattern of failing to treat mood instability that is a result of a personality disorder or other conditions that may have a character disorder as an etiology.
- i) Respondent exhibited a pattern of isolating individuals with active mental illness while not providing treatment for the illness.

**WHEREFORE**, the Complainant prays that a hearing be held in this matter and that the Board take such action as it may deem appropriate under the law.

**IOWA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**  
*Ann E. Mowery, PhD, Executive Director*

by: *Kent M. Nebel*  
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