



# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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## BEFORE THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

No. 2022-I-043

IN THE MATTER OF:

CONSENT ORDER

**RAY BONNER WORTHY, M.D.**  
(Credential No. MD.205358)  
*Respondent*

The above-captioned matter was docketed for investigation by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") upon receipt of reliable information indicating that a patient of Ray Bonner Worthy, M.D. ("Dr. Worthy"), a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana, and principally practicing in and around New Orleans, Louisiana, had died on or about December 9, 2021, from overdose after receiving prescription medication from Dr. Worthy in or around August and September 2021. In connection with the above-captioned matter, Dr. Worthy ultimately entered into an interim consent order with the Board on or around July 24, 2023, in which he agreed to the indefinite suspension of his license.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Worthy thereafter underwent an evaluation at a Board-approved facility from January 29–February 1, 2024. Dr. Worthy's evaluators determined that he was not safe to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety due to personality-based factors that contribute to, *inter alia*, "failure to attend to details and the basic standard of care and risk management expectations of the practice of general psychiatry." However, Dr. Worthy's evaluators also noted that Dr. Worthy was "currently in the early to middle stages of change" and recommended he undergo an intensive longitudinal rehabilitation treatment program.

Dr. Worthy thereafter entered a longitudinal treatment program at a Board-approved treatment facility that included an initial multi-week immersion treatment phase, two one-week follow-up phases, and a three-day wrap-up phase at the end of one year. Dr. Worthy completed the initial multi-week immersion phase from June 3-21, 2024. Dr. Worthy's treatment providers determined that he successfully completed the initial immersion treatment phase and that he clearly understood the "mental attitude, approach to standardized and risk-managed practice, and orientation of commitment to accountability, transparency, and duty that is necessary to be fit for duty as a psychiatrist."

Dr. Worthy subsequently returned for his first one-week follow-up phase from October

<sup>1</sup> See Interim Consent Order, In the Matter of Ray Bonner Worthy, M.D., No. 2022-I-043 (Jul. 24, 2023).

14-18, 2024. Dr. Worthy's treatment providers noted Dr. Worthy's "engagement and response to treatment" as well as his "acceptance of his need to proceed within a carefully defined and conservative model of general practice." Dr. Worthy's evaluators did not determine that he was unfit to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety, and instead recommended that Dr. Worthy adhere to certain recommendations and guidelines "[i]f and when the Board considers it appropriate to end [Dr. Worthy's] suspension."

Dr. Worthy has cooperated with the Board throughout the course of his suspension and has demonstrated a willingness to address his previous actions by undergoing an evaluation at a Board-approved facility and participating in the recommended longitudinal treatment program. Dr. Worthy's treatment providers also have noted his engagement and response to treatment and his understanding of the attitude and approach required to be fit for duty as a licensed psychiatrist.

As evidenced by his subscription hereto, Dr. Worthy acknowledges the substantial accuracy of the foregoing information and that the reported information would provide the Investigating Officer with sufficient cause to pursue administrative proceedings against him for violations of the Act pursuant to La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(12),<sup>2</sup> and that such information, if proven upon administrative evidentiary hearing, would establish sufficient cause to take action against his license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana. In consideration of this finding, accordingly, and on the recommendation of the Investigating Officer, the Board has concluded that its responsibility to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of this state against the unprofessional, unqualified, and unsafe practice of medicine, La. R.S. 37:1261, will be effectively served by entry of the Order set forth hereinafter by consent.<sup>3</sup>

Recognizing his right to notice and administrative adjudication of any charges that may be asserted against him in these proceedings, at which time Dr. Worthy would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses and to present evidence on his own behalf in defense or in mitigation of the charges made and to a decision thereon by the Board based upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975 *et seq.*, Dr. Worthy, nonetheless, hereby waives his right to notice and formal adjudication and, pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975(D), consents to entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. Dr. Worthy acknowledges that he hereby waives any right to which he may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:950 *et seq.*, or which may be afforded to him by any other law to contest or appeal his agreement to or the force and effect of the Board's investigation or this Consent Order in any court or other forum. By his subscription hereto, Dr. Worthy also hereby authorizes the Investigating Officer designated by the Board with respect hereto to present this Consent Order to the Board for its consideration and to fully disclose to and discuss with the Board the nature and results of the investigation and he waives any objection to such disclosures

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<sup>2</sup> La. R.S. 37:1285(A)(12) ("The board may refuse to issue, or may suspend or revoke any license or permit, or impose probationary or other restrictions on any license, permit, or certificate issued pursuant to this Part or Part I-D of this Chapter for the following causes . . . (12) An inability to practice medicine with reasonable skill or safety due to mental illness or deficiency, including but not limited to deterioration through the aging process or the loss of motor skills or excessive use or abuse of drugs, including alcohol.").

<sup>3</sup> The Board has considered the guidelines for minimum and maximum disciplinary dispositions and the aggravating and mitigating circumstances apparent from the particular facts and circumstances of this matter. *See* La. Admin. Code tit. 46, pt. XLV, §§ 9714; 9716.

under La. R.S. 49:977.2. Dr. Worthy expressly acknowledges that the disclosure of such information to the Board by the Investigating Officer shall be without prejudice to the Investigating Officer's authority to proceed with the adjudication of an administrative complaint against him or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate such complaint should the Board decline to approve this Consent Order. Accordingly, in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. R.S. 37:1285 and La. R.S. 49:975(D);

**IT IS ORDERED** that the license of Ray Bonner Worthy, M.D., to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by Certificate No. M.D. 205358, be and hereby is **REINSTATED ON PROBATION** for a period of three (3) years from the effective date of this Order, *provided however*, that Dr. Worthy's continuing exercise of rights and privileges of licensure while on probation shall be conditioned upon and subject to his acceptance of and strict compliance with the following terms, conditions, and restrictions:

- 1. Board Approved Practice.** Dr. Worthy shall not engage in the practice of medicine other than at and within the course and scope of a practice setting approved in writing by the Board or its designee. Dr. Worthy shall not practice in a "solo setting," *i.e.*, a setting in which he is the only physician within a private or institutional practice. The Board may deny approval of any setting that it determines would provide inadequate external controls on Dr. Worthy's prescribing. Until and unless otherwise modified by the Board, in its sole discretion, the restrictions contained in this provision shall remain in effect so long as Dr. Worthy shall hold any form of license or permit to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana.
- 2. Continuing Medical Education.** During the probationary period, Dr. Worthy shall attend and participate in at least ten (10) annual hours of Board-approved continuing medical education ("CME") courses focused on the current guidelines, best practices, and evidence base for the general practice of psychiatry, as defined by the American Psychiatric Association. On or before the anniversary of the effective date of this Order, Dr. Worthy shall cause to be submitted to the Board or its designee written certification of the continuing medical education program and credit completed during the preceding twelve (12) months.
- 3. Practice Monitoring.** Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order, Dr. Worthy shall enter into a contract or arrangement with a Practice Monitor, who has been pre-approved in writing by the Board or its designee, to review Dr. Worthy's medical practice during the probationary period. The Practice Monitor shall work in conjunction with the Board or its designee to develop parameters for monitoring Dr. Worthy's practice, including a review of Dr. Worthy's patient records and charts. The Practice Monitor shall review no less than twelve (12) medical records quarterly and provide quarterly written reports to the Board or its designee attesting to whether Dr. Worthy's medical practice falls within established standards of care. Any and all fees, costs or expenses incurred by Dr. Worthy in connection with this monitoring requirement shall be borne by Dr. Worthy. After the first two years of the probationary period, Dr. Worthy may petition the Board for relief from this restriction, which the Board may grant or deny in its sole discretion

4. **Fine.** Within the probationary period, Dr. Worthy shall pay to the Board a fine in the amount of Five Thousand and no/100 Dollars (\$5,000.00). Notwithstanding any other provision of this Order, Dr. Worthy may not petition the Board for relief from any of the terms, conditions, or restrictions in this Order unless and until he has satisfied the fine contained in this provision.
5. **Laws and Rules Course.** Within six (6) months of the effective date of any order restoring his license to practice medicine on probation, Dr. Worthy shall complete the free online course "Laws and Rules for Louisiana Physicians," which may be accessed through the following link, <https://www.lsbme.la.gov/content/board-orientations-online-courses>. Upon completion of the course, Dr. Worthy shall complete the verification process and obtain a certificate of completion that will be submitted to the Board or its designee by the course provider.
6. **Notification of Order and Authorization.** Dr. Worthy shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to each hospital, clinic, facility or other employer or prospective employer at which or for whom he provides services as a physician in this state, and upon request of the Board's probation officer, Dr. Worthy shall immediately execute and provide, as may be necessary, authorization to obtain any and all peer review records or other employment records pertaining to Dr. Worthy from any hospital, institution or other health care entity where Dr. Worthy has or has had privileges.
7. **Cooperation with Board's Probation and Compliance Officer.** Dr. Worthy shall immediately notify the Board's Probation and Compliance Officer of any change in his current home and professional addresses and telephone numbers, and he shall direct all matters required pursuant to this Consent Order to the attention of the Probation and Compliance Officer, with whom he shall cooperate on all matters and inquiries pertaining to his compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order.
8. **Probation Monitoring Fee.** For each year of the probationary period Dr. Worthy shall pay the Board a probation monitoring fee of Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars. Payment of the initial fee shall be due not later than sixty (60) days from the effective date of any subsequent order of reinstatement on probation. All subsequent annual payments shall be due on or before the anniversary date of the initial fee payment.
9. **Absence from the State/Practice/Effect on Probation.** Should Dr. Worthy at any time be absent from the State of Louisiana, relocate to and/or take up residency in another state or country, or discontinue practicing as a physician for a period of thirty (30) days or more, he shall so advise the Board in writing. In such instance, the probationary period and all terms, conditions and restrictions thereof shall be deemed interrupted and extended and shall not commence again until Dr. Worthy notifies the Board in writing that he has resumed the practice of medicine in Louisiana, which notification shall likewise be immediately provided in writing to the Board or its

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designee.

10. **Effect of Violation/Sanction.** By his subscription hereto, Dr. Worthy acknowledges that his receipt of written notification that the Board has received apparently reliable information which indicates his failure to comply with the requirements set forth by this Order in any respect shall, without the need for formal hearing or for providing him with any right to which he may otherwise be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:950, *et seq.*, or which otherwise may be afforded to him by law, constitute his irrevocable consent to the immediate suspension of his license to practice medicine as a physician in this state pending a hearing before the Board and the conclusion of the administrative proceedings by issuance of a final decision following administrative adjudication of such charges.


**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that any violation or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms and conditions set forth in this Order by Dr. Worthy shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for the revocation and cancellation of Dr. Worthy's license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana or for such other action as the Board may deem appropriate, as if such violations were enumerated among the causes provided in La. R.S. 37:1285.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Consent Order shall be effective as of the date it is approved and accepted by the Board as shown by the signature of the Board's representative below.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Consent Order shall be, and shall be deemed to be, a public record, and shall likewise be available on the Board's website, <https://www.lsbme.la.gov/>, under "Disciplinary Actions", and shall be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank ("NPDB").

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 16th day of December, 2024.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD  
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

DocuSigned by:  
  
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By: \_\_\_\_\_  
RODERICK V. CLARK, M.D., MBA  
President

*Acknowledgment and Consent on Following Page*

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
AND CONSENT**

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF Orleans

I, RAY BONNER WORTHY, M.D., hereby acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to seek the advice and guidance of legal counsel with respect to this Consent Order and that all of its terms and conditions have been fully explained to me and/or that I fully understand them. I further acknowledge that I approve, accept, and consent to entry of the above and foregoing Order without duress and of my own free will and accord, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024.

Ray Worthy  
RAY BONNER WORTHY, M.D.

WITNESSES:

[Signature]  
Signature

Alisa S. Jany  
Signature

Juliana Gentile  
Typed Name

Elisa N Gomez  
Typed Name

201 Canal Street Unit E  
Street Address

2333 Magazine St  
Street Address

Metairie, LA 70005  
City/State/Zip Code

New Orleans La 70130  
City/State/Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  
15<sup>th</sup> day of Nov., 2024, in the  
presence of the two stated witnesses.

[Signature]  
Notary Public (Signature)

Name: F. Sherman Boughton, Jr.  
Notary/Bar No.: 24030  
Commission expires: at my death