

BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

IN THE MATTER OF THE PHYSICIAN'S LICENSE OF

DIANE M. LITTLE, M.D.

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, the Investigative Staff of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure has conducted a comprehensive investigation into the medical practice of DIANE M. LITTLE, M.D., Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and has documented evidence indicating that Dr. Little (hereinafter referred to as "Licensee") is suffering from mental illness, excessive use of alcohol, and has committed professional sexual misconduct;

WHEREAS, Licensee voluntarily entered into an evaluation and treatment at the Professional Renewal Center (PRC), Lawrence, Kansas, under the care and direction of Richard Irons, M.D., on or about July 28, 2001, and successfully completed initial primary inpatient treatment on September 13, 2001. She returned to PRC on October 8, 2001, for additional treatment and was granted an extended leave on or about November 2, 2001, subject to certain aftercare treatment recommendations, specifically including no practice of medicine until at least January or February 2002, at which time follow-up treatment with Dr. Irons will be scheduled;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Subsection (8)(d) of Section 73-25-29, Subsections (a) and (c) of Section 73-25-53 and Section 73-25-83(a), Miss. Code Ann. (1972), the aforementioned acts constitute unprofessional and unethical conduct, for which the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure may revoke the Mississippi medical license of Licensee, suspend her right to practice for a time deemed proper by the Board, place her license on probation, the terms of which may be set by the Board, or take any other action in relation to her license as the Board may deem proper under the circumstances;

WHEREAS, Licensee is the current holder of License No. 12756 for the practice of medicine in the State of Mississippi;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of Licensee to avoid a hearing before the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure and in lieu thereof, requests that certain restrictions be placed on her license to practice medicine in the State of Mississippi;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, with consent of Licensee as signified by her joinder herein, does hereby prohibit Licensee from practicing medicine in the State of Mississippi for at least one (1) year. In consideration of Licensee's time already spent away from the practice of medicine during her treatment at PRC and during therapeutic leave time, said prohibition will be in effect for at least one (1) year beginning July 28, 2001, after which, Licensee shall have the right to appear before the Board at the next available meeting date, and petition for reinstatement. At such time, the Board reserves the right to then consider her ability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety and to impose any additional restrictions or conditions as it may deem necessary to protect the public and to maintain Licensee's recovery.

This Consent Order shall be subject to approval by the Board. If the Board fails to approve the Consent Order, in whole or in part, it shall have no force or effect on the parties. It is further understood and agreed that the purpose of this Consent Order is to avoid a hearing before the Board. In this regard, Licensee authorizes the Board to review and examine any documentary evidence or materials concerning Licensee prior to or in conjunction with its consideration of the Consent Order. Should the Consent Order not be accepted by the Board, it is agreed that presentation to and consideration of the Consent Order and other documents and matters pertaining thereto by the Board shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Board or any of its members from further participation or consideration of the resolution of the proceedings.

Licensee understands and expressly acknowledges that this Consent Order, if approved and executed by the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, shall constitute a public record of the State of Mississippi.

Recognizing her right to notice of charges specified against her, to have such charges adjudicated pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. (1972) Section 73-25-27, to be represented therein by legal counsel of her choice, and to a final decision rendered upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law, DIANE M. LITTLE, M.D., nonetheless hereby waives her right to notice and a formal adjudication of charges and authorizes the Board to enter an order accepting this Consent Order, thereby prohibiting her from the practice of medicine in the State of Mississippi for at least one (1) year, effective July 28, 2001.

EXECUTED, this the 1st day of February, 2002.

Diane M. Little, M.D.
DIANE M. LITTLE, M.D.

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED, this the 21st day of February, 2002, by the
MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE.

Freda M. Bush, M.D.
FREDA M. BUSH, M.D.
PRESIDENT