

BEFORE THE  
NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

In re:	)	
	)	
Andrew Stephen Cruz, M.D.,	)	INTERIM
	)	NON-PRACTICE AGREEMENT
Respondent.	)	

This matter is before the North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") on information regarding Andrew Stephen Cruz, M.D. ("Dr. Cruz"). Dr. Cruz makes the following admissions, and the Board makes the following findings and conclusions:

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The Board is a body duly organized under the laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this proceeding under the authority granted to it in Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the rules and regulations promulgated thereto.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Dr. Cruz was first issued a license to practice medicine by the Board on or about October 21, 2022, license number 2022-02823. Dr. Cruz was also licensed to practice medicine in multiple other states, including Arizona and Virginia.

At all times relevant, Dr. Cruz practiced psychiatry.

On March 9, 2023, Dr. Cruz entered into a Stipulated Rehabilitation Agreement ("SRA") with the Arizona Medical Board ("Arizona Board") which required him to abstain from the consumption of alcohol and comply with monitoring. In the event of a chemical dependency relapse or use of alcohol in violation of the SRA, Dr. Cruz agreed to enter into an Interim Order for Practice Restriction until he successfully completed appropriate treatment.

On July 25, 2023, the Arizona Board was notified that Dr. Cruz had consumed alcohol in violation of his monitoring requirements per the SRA. This violation led the Arizona Board to restrict Dr. Cruz's license to practice medicine.

On August 16, 2023, Dr. Cruz entered into an Interim Consent Agreement for Practice Restriction with the Arizona Board.

As a result of the Arizona Board's action against Dr. Cruz's license, the Virginia Department of Health Professions suspended Dr. Cruz's license via an Order of Mandatory Suspension, dated September 18, 2023.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Dr. Cruz's conduct, as described above, constitutes Dr. Cruz's license to practice medicine being restricted or acted against by the licensing authority of any jurisdiction within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(13), which is grounds under that section of the North Carolina General Statutes for the Board

to annul, suspend, revoke, condition, or limit Dr. Cruz's license to practice medicine or to deny any application he may make in the future.

#### PROCEDURAL STIPULATIONS

Dr. Cruz acknowledges and agrees that the Board has jurisdiction over him and over the subject matter of this case.

Dr. Cruz acknowledges that he has read and understands this Interim Non-Practice Agreement and enters into it voluntarily.

#### ORDER

Now, therefore, with Dr. Cruz's consent, it is ORDERED that:

1. Dr. Cruz agrees that he will not practice medicine until such time as he is given permission to do so by the Board President.

2. Dr. Cruz shall obey all laws. Likewise, he shall obey all rules or regulations involving the practice of medicine.

3. Dr. Cruz shall meet with the Board or members of the Board for an investigative interview at such times as requested by the Board.

4. Upon request, Dr. Cruz shall provide the Board with any information the Board deems necessary to verify compliance with the terms and conditions of this Interim Non-Practice Agreement.

5. If Dr. Cruz fails to comply with any of the terms of this Interim Non-Practice Agreement, that failure shall constitute unprofessional conduct within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6) and shall be grounds, after any required notice and

hearing, for the Board to annul, suspend, or revoke his license to practice medicine and to deny any application he might make in the future or then have pending for a license to practice medicine.

6. This Interim Non-Practice Agreement shall take effect immediately upon its execution by both Dr. Cruz and the Board, and it shall continue in effect until specifically ordered otherwise by the Board.

7. Dr. Cruz hereby waives any requirement under any law or rule that this Interim Non-Practice Agreement be served on him.

8. Upon execution by Dr. Cruz and the Board, this Interim Non-Practice shall become a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and shall be subject to public inspection and dissemination pursuant to the provisions thereof. Additionally, it will be reported to persons, entities, agencies, and clearinghouses as required and permitted by law including, but not limited to, the Federation of State Medical Boards and the National Practitioner Data Bank.

By Order of the North Carolina Medical Board this the 16th day of October, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By:

  
Michaux R. Kilpatrick, M.D., Ph.D.  
President

Consented to this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.

  
Andrew Stephen Cruz, M.D.

State of Massachusetts

County of Suffolk

I, Sofia Laveaux-Crawford, do hereby certify that Andrew Stephen Cruz, M.D. personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.

  
Notary Public

(Official Seal)

My Commission Expires:

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