

BEFORE THE  
NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

In re: )  
 )  
Kristen Lynn Sparks, M.D., ) CONSENT ORDER  
 )  
Applicant. )

This matter is before the North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") on the application of Kristen Lynn Sparks, M.D. ("Dr. Sparks") for a license to practice medicine in the state of North Carolina. Dr. Sparks 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. Sparks has applied for a license to practice medicine in North Carolina.

Dr. Sparks is licensed to practice in several other states, including Alaska and Maine.

On March 19, 2021, Dr. Sparks was charged with misdemeanor Operating While Under the Influence ("OUI") in Alaska. Dr. Sparks

was on call at the time of her arrest. Dr. Sparks was ultimately found guilty of OUI on April 21, 2022.

Dr. Sparks reported her arrest to the Alaska State Medical Board ("Alaska Board"), her employer, and her credentialing body, all of whom investigated Dr. Sparks and took no formal action. However, Dr. Sparks failed to disclose the investigations when applying for a license to practice medicine in North Carolina.

In June 2022, Dr. Sparks was evaluated and diagnosed with Alcohol Use Disorder - Severe. Subsequently, on June 29, 2022, she signed a 5-year monitoring contract with the Physician Health Committee of Alaska. Dr. Sparks submitted to residential treatment on July 18, 2022, which she successfully completed on September 16, 2022, and was deemed safe to practice.

On October 31, 2022, Dr. Sparks relocated to North Carolina and enrolled in an intensive outpatient program ("IOP") from November 2, 2022, to February 10, 2023. Dr. Sparks successfully completed the IOP.

On August 24, 2023, Dr. Sparks signed a Recovery Monitoring Contract with the North Carolina Professionals Health Program ("NCPHP") which is scheduled to end on September 16, 2027. NCPHP supports Dr. Sparks' ability to practice medicine safely.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Dr. Sparks' failure to disclose the investigations by the Alaska Board, her employer, and her credentialing body constitutes Dr. Sparks making false statements or representations to the Board in connection with an application within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(3), which is grounds under that section of the North Carolina General Statutes for the Board to annul, suspend, revoke, condition, or limit Dr. Sparks' license to practice medicine or to deny any application she may make in the future.

Dr. Sparks acknowledges that when abusing alcohol, she is unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(5), which is grounds under this section of the North Carolina General Statutes for the Board to annul, suspend, revoke, condition, or limit Dr. Sparks' license to practice as a physician or to deny any application she might make in the future.

### PROCEDURAL STIPULATIONS

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

Dr. Sparks knowingly waives her right to any hearing and to any judicial review or appeal in this case.

Dr. Sparks acknowledges that she has read and understands this Consent Order and enters into it voluntarily.

Dr. Sparks desires to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings.

The Board has determined that it is in the public interest to resolve this case as set forth below.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, with Dr. Sparks' consent, it is ORDERED that:

1. The Board shall issue Dr. Sparks a license to practice medicine.

2. Dr. Sparks is hereby REPRIMANDED.

3. This Consent Order shall take effect immediately upon its execution by both Dr. Sparks and the Board, and it shall continue in effect until specifically ordered otherwise by the Board.

4. Should Dr. Sparks request relief from this Consent Order, the Board is under no obligation to grant the request and will consider all relevant facts, including Dr. Sparks' disciplinary history with the Board. Any request for relief shall be submitted to the Board's Monitoring Coordinator at North Carolina Medical Board, P.O. Box 20007, Raleigh, NC 27619-0007 or [boardmonitoring@ncmedboard.org](mailto:boardmonitoring@ncmedboard.org).

5. Dr. Sparks hereby waives any requirement under any law or rule that this Consent Order be served on her.

6. No provision of this consent order constitutes a restriction or limitation on Dr. Sparks' license to practice medicine in North Carolina.


7. Upon execution by Dr. Sparks and the Board, this Consent Order 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 14th day of February, 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By: Christine Khandelwal, D.O.  
Christine M. Khandelwal, D.O., MHPE  
President

Consented to this the 13 day of February, 2024.

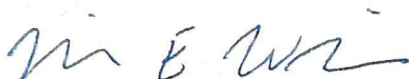
  
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Kristen Lynn Sparks, M.D.

State of Maine

County of Penobscot

I, Nichole E Whilden, do hereby certify that Kristen Lynn Sparks, 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 13th day of February, 2024.

  
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Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 03/21/2029

(Official Seal)  
NICHOLE WHILDEN  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
State of Maine  
My Commission Expires  
March 21, 2029

