

**These charges are only allegations  
which may be contested by the licensee  
in an administrative hearing.**

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

**IN THE MATTER**  
**OF**  
**JOHN MERRILL SEVERINGHAUS, M.D.**

**NOTICE OF  
REFERRAL  
PROCEEDING**

John Merrill Severinghaus, M.D.  
220 Holiday Drive, Suite A  
White River Junction, VT 05001



**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT:**

An adjudicatory proceeding will be held pursuant to the provisions of N.Y. Pub. Health Law §230(10)(p) and N.Y. State Admin. Proc. Act §§301-307 and 401. The proceeding will be conducted before a committee on professional conduct of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (Committee) on December 16, 2020, at 10:30 a.m., at the offices of the New York State Department of Health, 90 Church Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10007, or by video conference as directed by the Administrative Law Judge, and at such other adjourned dates, times and places as the committee may direct.

At the proceeding, evidence will be received concerning the allegations set forth in the Statement of Charges, which is attached. A stenographic record of the proceeding will be made and the witnesses at the proceeding will be sworn and examined.

You may appear in person at the proceeding, or by video conference if directed by the Administrative Law Judge, and may be represented by counsel who shall be an attorney admitted to practice in New York state. You may produce evidence or sworn testimony on your behalf. Such evidence or sworn testimony shall be strictly limited to evidence and testimony relating to the nature and severity of the penalty to be imposed upon the licensee. Where the charges are based on the conviction of state law crimes in other jurisdictions, evidence may be offered which would show that the conviction would not be a crime in New York State. The

Committee also may limit the number of witnesses whose testimony will be received, as well as the length of time any witness will be permitted to testify.

If you intend to present sworn testimony, the number of witnesses and an estimate of the time necessary for their direct examination must be submitted to the New York State Department of Health, Division of Legal Affairs, Bureau of Adjudication, Riverview Center, 150 Broadway - Suite 510, Albany, NY 12204-2719, ATTENTION: HON. JAMES HORAN, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF ADJUDICATION (Telephone: (518-402-0748), (henceforth "Bureau of Adjudication") as well as the Department of Health attorney indicated below, no later than twenty days prior to the scheduled date of the Referral Proceeding, as indicated above.

Pursuant to the provisions of N.Y. Pub. Health Law §230(10)(p), you shall file a written answer to each of the charges and allegations in the Statement of Charges at least ten days prior to the date of the hearing. Any charge or allegation not so answered shall be deemed admitted. You may wish to seek the advice of counsel prior to filing such answer. You may also file a written brief and affidavits with the Committee. All such documents shall be filed with the Bureau of Adjudication, at the address indicated above, and a copy shall be forwarded to the attorney for the Department of Health whose name appears below, at least ten days prior to the date of the hearing. Should the parties have objection(s) to proposed witnesses or documentary evidence, the party raising the objection(s) shall contact the Bureau of Adjudication at least three days prior to the hearing date to arrange for a pre-hearing conference with the Administrative Law Judge, prior to the hearing date.

Not later than ten days prior to the date of the hearing, you are required to file one copy of your proposed exhibits (if any) with the Bureau of Adjudication at the address indicated above, and a copy of all such documents/exhibits must be served on the same date on the Department of Health attorney indicated below. On the day of the hearing, you are also required to provide the original of such exhibits and three copies, for use by the Committee.

Pursuant to §301(5) of the State Administrative Procedure Act, the Department, upon reasonable notice, will provide at no charge a qualified interpreter of the deaf to interpret the proceedings to, and the testimony of, any deaf person. Pursuant to the terms of N.Y. State Admin. Proc. Act §401 and 10 N.Y.C.R.R. §51.8(b), the Petitioner hereby demands disclosure of the evidence that the Respondent intends to introduce at the hearing, including the names of

witnesses, a list of and copies of documentary evidence and a description of physical or other evidence which cannot be photocopied.

YOU ARE HEREBY ADVISED THAT THE ATTACHED CHARGES WILL BE MADE PUBLIC FIVE BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THEY ARE SERVED.


Department attorney: Initial here \_\_\_\_\_

The proceeding may be held whether or not you appear. Please note that requests for adjournments must be made in writing to the Bureau of Adjudication, at the address indicated above, with a copy of the request to the attorney for the Department of Health, whose name appears below, at least five days prior to the scheduled date of the proceeding. Adjournment requests are not routinely granted. Claims of court engagement will require detailed affidavits of actual engagement. Claims of illness will require medical documentation. Failure to obtain an attorney within a reasonable period of time prior to the proceeding will not be grounds for an adjournment.

The Committee will make a written report of its findings, conclusions as to guilt, and a determination. Such determination may be reviewed by the administrative review board for professional medical conduct.

THESE PROCEEDINGS MAY RESULT IN A  
DETERMINATION THAT YOUR LICENSE TO PRACTICE  
MEDICINE IN NEW YORK STATE BE REVOKED OR  
SUSPENDED, AND/OR THAT YOU BE FINED OR  
SUBJECT TO OTHER SANCTIONS SET OUT IN NEW  
YORK PUBLIC HEALTH LAW §§230-a. YOU ARE URGED  
TO OBTAIN AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU IN  
THIS MATTER.

DATED: New York, New York  
November 5, 2020

  
Henry Weintraub  
Chief Counsel  
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct



Inquiries should be addressed to:

Deborah Beth Medows  
Senior Attorney  
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct  
90 Church Street  
New York, NY 10007  
(212) 417-4389

**EXHIBIT "A"**

NEW YORK STATE                      DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

**IN THE MATTER**

**OF**

**JOHN MERRILL SEVERINGHAUS, M.D.**

**STATEMENT**

**OF**

**CHARGES**

John Merrill Severinghaus, M.D., the Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York State on or about March 17, 1975, by the issuance of license number 123413 by the New York State Education Department.

**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- A. On or about February 5, 2020, Respondent voluntarily entered into a Stipulation and Consent Order with the Vermont Board of Medical Practice. The Stipulation and Consent Order stated that Respondent's medical recordkeeping and untimely response to a patient was not in conformance with the applicable standard of care for psychiatric and substance abuse treatment and constituted unprofessional conduct. The Order relieved Respondent from a prior Temporary Voluntary Limitation of Practice Agreement dated on or about March 6, 2019. The Order temporarily conditioned Respondent's license. Respondent was Reprimanded for five years; fined an administrative penalty of \$3,000; required to obtain a practice monitor for three years; directed to temporary surrender, on his

Drug Enforcement Administration Registration, privileges to prescribe Scheduled II controlled substances to all patients for a period of no less than three years; and required to complete a comprehensive course in medical recordkeeping and a course on the topic of patient communication.

1. The conduct resulting in the Order would constitute misconduct under the laws of New York State, pursuant to the following sections of New York State Law:

- a. New York Education Law §6530(3) (Practicing the profession with negligence on more than one occasion.)
- b. New York Education Law §6530(32) (Failing to maintain a record for each patient which accurately reflects the evaluation and treatment of the patient.)

### **SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES**

### **HAVING A DISCIPLINARY ACTION TAKEN**

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(9)(d) by having his or her license to practice medicine revoked, suspended or having other disciplinary action taken, or having his or her application for a license refused, revoked or suspended or having voluntarily or otherwise surrendered his or her license after a disciplinary action was instituted by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state, where the conduct resulting in the revocation, suspension or other disciplinary action involving the license or refusal, revocation or suspension of an application for a license or the surrender of the license would, if committed in New York state, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York state, namely N.Y. Educ. Law §6530 (32) and (3), as alleged in the facts of the following:

1. The facts in Paragraphs A and its subparagraph.

DATE: November 5, 2020  
New York, New York

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Henry Weintraub  
Chief Counsel  
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct