

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION  
BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS FOR SOUTH CAROLINA**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**FRANK EUGENE FORSTHOEFEL, M.D.,**  
License No.: MMD. 5767

OIE # 2019-258

Respondent.

**AGREEMENT TO RELINQUISH  
LICENSE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE**

**WHEREAS** the State Board of Medical Examiners for South Carolina (“Board”) has received an initial complaint of misconduct with respect to **FRANK EUGENE FORSTHOEFEL** (“Respondent”), regarding allegations of professional misconduct; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has initiated an investigation through the Office of Investigations and Enforcement of the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations regarding possible violations of the Medical Practice Act (“MPA”) by the Respondent; and

**WHEREAS**, specifically, Respondent allegedly prescribed opioids or other controlled substances to a patient from a medical practice located in the home of Respondent. The patient has a history of alcohol abuse and sustained fractures after multiple falls; and

**WHEREAS**, the Respondent, without entering findings regarding the allegations, has advised that he wishes to cease the practice of medicine immediately, waive further proceedings, and give up forevermore the right to practice medicine in South Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, the MPA defines “Relinquishment” as a “means to permanently cancel or invalidate an authorization instead of disciplinary proceedings or final decision by the board. A person whose authorization to practice has been relinquished to the board is permanently ineligible for a license or other authorization of any kind from the board. Relinquishment is irrevocable, an admission of any or all of the allegations of misconduct, and reported and treated as a permanent revocation.” *See* S. C. Code Ann. §40-47-20 (45) (1976, as amended); and,

**WHEREAS**, the MPA further provides that “A licensee may relinquish an authorization to practice instead of further disciplinary proceedings, subject to acceptance by the board chairman as being in the public interest. This action must be taken in writing on a form approved by the board. This action is irrevocable by the licensee upon signature by the licensee. Relinquishment must be given the same effect as a revocation of an authorization to practice and must be considered a public action under the Freedom of Information Act.” *See* S. C. Code Ann. §40-47-120 (E) (1976, as amended); and,

**WHEREAS**, the Respondent understands that he has the right to a hearing and to be represented by counsel in this matter. The Respondent understands and agrees that by entering into this Agreement he voluntarily relinquishes any right to judicial review. The Respondent freely, knowingly, and voluntarily waives any and all such rights and further proceedings in this matter. The Respondent

understands and agrees that he will not be eligible to reapply for a license to practice medicine in this State in the future. The Respondent understands and agrees that, once signed, this Agreement is irrevocable on his part and shall not be subject to judicial review; and

**WHEREAS**, it is understood and agreed that, pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, this is a public document.

**THEREFORE**, the Respondent does hereby agree to relinquish forevermore his right to practice medicine in South Carolina, effective immediately upon acceptance by the Board or the Board's designee.

**AND IT IS SO AGREED.**

**STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS  
FOR SOUTH CAROLINA**

10/1, 2019

BY: *Jeffrey A. Welsh*  
**Jeffrey A. Welsh, M.D.**  
Chairman of the Board

9/6, 2019

*Frank Eugene Forstner*  
**Frank Eugene Forstner, M.D.**  
Respondent