

**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
ROGER STARNER JONES, JR., M.D.)	BEFORE THE TENNESSEE
)	BOARD OF MEDICAL
RESPONDENT)	EXAMINERS
)	
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE)	DOCKET NO. 17.18-234872A
TENNESSEE LICENSE NO. 49443)	

ORDER OF SUMMARY ACTION

This cause came to be heard on the 13th day of November 2024, at a public meeting, before the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners upon the application of the Division of Health-Related Boards of the Tennessee Department of Health (hereinafter “State”) to summarily suspend the medical license of the Respondent **ROGER STARNER JONES, M.D.**, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-320(c). The State argued, and presented evidence to support, that the Respondent violated various provisions of the Medical Practice Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-6-101 et seq. and that those violations were such that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively required emergency action.

JURISDICTION

The Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners (“Board”) is responsible for the regulation and supervision of the practice of medicine in the State of Tennessee, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-6-101 et seq. Tennessee Code Annotated § 63-6-214 grants the Board the duty and power to suspend, revoke, or otherwise discipline the license of a medical doctor upon proof that the individual has violated the provisions of Title 63, Chapter 6, of the Tennessee Code Annotated or

any substantive rule promulgated by the Board. Under Tenn. Code Ann § 4-5-320(c), the Board has the authority to take summary action if it finds that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively require emergency action.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent practices in addiction medicine. Respondent owns and operates Belle Meade Addiction Medicine and Psychiatry, PLLC and Recovery Now, which is located in Nashville, Tennessee and offers a private detox, rehabilitation, and addiction treatment services with concierge doctors.
2. On May 27, 2023, Respondent was admitted to Vanderbilt University Medical Center (“VUMC”) Psychiatric Hospital for two nights for treatment. Respondent was subsequently diagnosed with bipolar disorder type 1 with psychotic features and mixed episodes.
3. The State filed a Notice of Charges and Memorandum of Assessment of Civil Penalties and Costs on September 1, 2023. A contested case hearing was held before a panel of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners on July 31, 2024. This panel consisted of Dr. Melanie Blake, Dr. John McGraw and Dr. Keith Anderson. Here, Respondent testified that he completed a fitness for duty evaluation at Acumen Assessments in Lawrence, Kansas and that he was awaiting the results. Respondent testified the Acumen report would only recommend one year of TMF monitoring. The Board voted to adjourn from deliberations until Respondent was provided the results of the fitness for duty evaluation from Acumen. Respondent and the State agreed the fitness for duty evaluation would be marked as a late filed exhibit and deliberations would conclude virtually at a later date. Deliberations were initially scheduled to conclude virtually on September 20, 2024.

4. Respondent completed a fitness for duty evaluation at Acumen on July 22 – 25, 2024. Here, Respondent was assessed by licensed psychologists at the offices of Acumen Assessments. Respondent’s attorney provided the results of the Acumen evaluation to the State on September 18, 2024.
5. Acumen made the following diagnoses of Respondent: Bipolar I Disorder, Most Recent Episode Depressed, With Mood-Congruent Psychotic Features, With Mixed Features; and Prominent Narcissistic, Turbulent (action-oriented) and Histrionic Personality Traits.
6. The Acumen evaluation finally stated that Respondent should establish care with a TMF-approved psychiatrist in order to establish a mood-stabilizing medication regimen.
7. Dr. Blake was no longer a board member effective September 19, 2024. For purposes of a contested case hearing, panels are required to have three (3) members for a quorum. See Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-6-103(b). Thus, the conclusion of deliberations that was scheduled for September 20, 2024 did not occur. Dr. McGraw was no longer a board member effective September 23, 2024. Dr. Anderson recused himself from further involvement in this matter on November 6, 2024 due to *ex-parte* communication he initiated with Mr. Varnell.
8. Respondent filed a motion to reopen discovery on September 27, 2024. Here, Respondent sought to depose the Acumen doctor who conducted the assessment of Respondent. An oral argument was held on this motion before Administrative Law Judge Richard Murrell on October 24, 2024. Judge Murrell issued an Order on November 8, 2024. Here, Judge Murrell ruled that that this matter will be heard by a new panel at a special setting on December 16, 2024, and that Respondent may depose the Acumen doctor prior to the December 16, 2024 hearing.

9. During the hearing, through interviews and evidence, the panel determined that Respondent is no longer acutely psychotic and thus not a danger to self or patients.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The grounds listed above are sufficient to establish that Respondent has violated the following statutes or rules which are part of the Medical Practice Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-6-101 *et seq.*, for which disciplinary action by the Board is authorized:

10. The Respondent's acts and conduct constitute a violation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-6-214(b)(1):

Unprofessional, dishonorable or unethical conduct.

IT IS THEREOFRE, ORDERED that:

Respondent's license be placed on probation until he obtains TMF monitoring and advocacy. Respondent shall obtain TMF advocacy within six (6) months. Respondent can petition the board to lift the probation on his license once he has obtained TMF monitoring and advocacy.

SO ORDERED by the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners this 19th day of November, 2024.



Chairperson
Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of this document has been served upon Respondent at the following address:

Roger Starner Jones, M.D.
c/o Kline Preston (B.P.R. #017141)
Attorney for Respondent
Kline Preston Law Group
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by delivering same in the United States Mail, Certified Mail Number

_____, return receipt requested, and United States First Class Postage Pre-

Paid Mail, with sufficient postage thereon to reach its destination and via email at

kpreston@klineprestonlaw.com.

This the 19th day of November, 2024.

Michael Varnell

W. Michael Varnell
Associate Counsel