

**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	BEFORE THE TENNESSEE BOARD
	)	OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
RICHARD SOPER, M.D.	)	
RESPONDENT	)	DOCKET NO: 17.18-261821A
	)	
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE	)	
TENNESSEE LICENSE NO.: 13558	)	

AGREED ORDER

Come now the Division of Health-Related Boards of the Tennessee Department of Health (hereinafter the "Division"), by and through the Office of General Counsel, and Richard Soper, M.D. (hereinafter "Respondent"), who would respectfully move the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners (hereinafter the "Board") for approval of this Agreed Order affecting Respondent's medical license in the State of Tennessee.

The Board is responsible for the regulation and supervision of medical doctors licensed to practice in the State of Tennessee. *See* Tennessee Medical Practice Act, Tennessee Code Annotated Section (hereinafter "TENN. CODE ANN. §") 63-6-101, *et seq.* It is the policy of the Board to require strict compliance with the laws of this State, and to apply the laws so as to preserve the quality of medical care provided in Tennessee. It is the duty and responsibility of the Board to enforce the Tennessee Medical Practice Act in such a manner as to promote and protect the public health, safety and welfare in every practicable

way, including disciplining medical doctors who violate the provisions of TENN. CODE ANN. § 63-6-101, *et seq.* or the Rules and Regulations promulgated by the Board and recorded in the Official Compilation Rules and Regulations of the State of Tennessee (hereinafter “TENN. COMP. R. & REGS.”).

Respondent, by his signature to this Agreed Order, waives the right to a contested case hearing and any and all rights to judicial review in this matter. Respondent agrees that presentation to and consideration of this Agreed Order by the Board for ratification and all matters divulged during that process shall not constitute unfair disclosure such that the Board or any of its members shall be prejudiced to the extent that requires their disqualification from hearing this matter should this Order not be ratified. Likewise, all matters, admissions and statements disclosed or exchanged during the attempted ratification process shall not be used against Respondent in any subsequent proceeding unless independently entered into evidence or introduced as admissions.

Respondent expressly waives all further procedural steps and expressly waives all rights to seek judicial review of or to challenge or contest the validity of this Agreed Order. Respondent understands that by signing this Agreed Order, Respondent is allowing the Board to issue its order without further process. Respondent acknowledges that this is a formal disciplinary action and will be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank and/or similar agency. In the event that the Board rejects this Agreed Order for any reason, it will be of no force or effect for either party.

I.**STIPULATIONS OF FACT**

1. Respondent has been at all times pertinent hereto licensed by the Board as a medical doctor in the State of Tennessee, having been granted Tennessee medical license number 13558 by the Board on August 20, 1981, which expires on December 31, 2027.

2. Respondent owns his own clinic, the Center for Behavioral Wellness.

3. A.B. was a patient of Respondent's from approximately 2017 until 2021 receiving treatment including mental health therapy for diagnoses including PTSD, depression, and anxiety, and medication management for alcohol addiction. In approximately 2018, A.B. did some part-time administrative work for Respondent assisting with various professional articles he was writing. Respondent had a long-time connection to A.B.'s family and allowed A.B. to stay at his residence on occasion while she was a patient.

4. On or about September 26, 2020, Respondent called in a prescription for A.B. for Ativan to the CVS Pharmacy at 426 21st Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203 providing his home address as the address for A.B. The pharmacy where the prescription was called into is close to the Respondent's home.

II. GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE

The facts stipulated to in the Stipulations of Fact are sufficient to establish that grounds for discipline of Respondent's medical license exist. Specifically, Respondent has violated the following statutes or rules which are part of the Tennessee Medical Practice Act, (Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-6-101, *et seq.*) for which disciplinary action before and by the Board

is authorized:

5.The facts stipulated in paragraph three (3) could support a finding of a violation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-6-214 (b) (1), which allows for licensure discipline for Unprofessional, dishonorable or unethical conduct.

6.The facts stipulated in paragraph three (3) could support grounds for disciplinary action against Respondent’s license to practice as a medical doctor in the State of Tennessee pursuant to TENN. COMP. R. & REGS., Rule 0880-02-.14(8), which incorporates the “Code of Medical Ethics” published by the A.M.A. Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs as it may, from time to time, be amended.

7.The facts stipulated in paragraph three (3) could be found to constitute a violation of the Code of Medical Ethics of the American Medical Association, as articulated in Opinion 9.1.1, which states, in part, “In keeping with a physician’s ethical obligations to avoid inappropriate behavior, a physician who has reason to believe that nonsexual, nonclinical contact with a patient may be perceived as or may lead to romantic or sexual contact should avoid such contact.”

8.The facts stipulated in paragraph three (3), could be found to constitute a violation of the Board’s *Policy Regarding Sexual Misconduct*.

III. POLICY STATEMENT

The Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners takes this action in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the State of Tennessee and ensure that the public

confidence in the integrity of the medical profession is preserved.

IV. ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, Respondent, for the purpose of avoiding further administrative action with respect to this cause, agrees to the following:

9. The Tennessee medical license of Richard Soper, M.D., license number 13558, is hereby **REPRIMANED** effective the date of entry of this Order.

10. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent must register for the two (2) day medical course entitled “Medical Ethics, Boundaries & Professionalism” offered at The Case Western Reserve University Continuing Medical Education Program at The Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine located in Cleveland, Ohio, or in the three (3)-day course titled “Professional Boundaries-PB 24” with PBI, or an equivalent course approved in advance by the Board’s Consultant. Within thirty (30) days after successful completion of such course, Respondent shall mail or deliver proof of compliance with this course requirement to: **Disciplinary Coordinator, Office of General Counsel, Tennessee Department of Health, 665 Mainstream Drive, 2nd Floor, Nashville, Tennessee 37243.** This course should be successfully completed within one (1) year of the effective date of the order. Any continuing medical education course hours earned from attendance and completion of the course required by this paragraph shall be in addition to the hours required to maintain licensure.

11. Within six (6) months of the entry of this order Respondent must undergo a comprehensive evaluation for fitness of duty specifically related to the issue of proper professional boundaries. The need for monitoring and/or the need for treatment shall be referred and/or coordinated by the Tennessee Medical Foundation (“TMF”). Respondent shall cause the results of that evaluation and any updates or progress reports to be sent to the Board’s consultant. Respondent must comply with all recommendations from that evaluation. Respondent must also cause the facility performing said evaluation and/or TMF to submit a recommendation to the Board’s consultant regarding whether Respondent is safe to continue the practice of medicine.

12. Respondent must pay, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 63-6-214 (k) and 63-1-144(a)(4), the actual and reasonable costs of prosecuting this case to the extent allowed by law, including all costs assessed against the Board by the Division’s Bureau of Investigations in connection with the prosecution of this matter. These costs will be established by an Assessment of Costs prepared and filed by counsel for the Department. Said costs shall not exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00).

13. Any and all costs shall be paid in full within thirty (30) days after the issuance of the Assessment of Costs unless Respondent makes arrangements for an extended payment plan for the assessed costs through the Disciplinary Coordinator of the Division of Health-Related Boards. Payment must be made by *certified check, cashier’s check, or money order*, payable to the State of Tennessee, Department of Health. Any and all payments shall be forwarded to the Disciplinary Coordinator, Office of General Counsel Tennessee
Department of Health, 665 Mainstream Drive, 2nd floor, Nashville, Tennessee 37243.

Anotation shall be placed on said money order or such check that it is payable for the costs of

Richard Soper, M.D., DOCKET No. 17.18-261821A.

14. Respondent understands that this is a formal disciplinary action and will be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank (N. P.D.B.) and/or similar agency.

This **AGREED ORDER** was approved by a majority of a quorum of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners at a public meeting of the Board and signed this 22 day of JULY, 2022

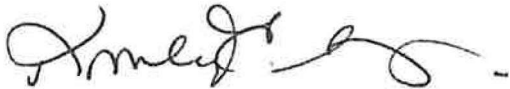


Chairperson
Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners

APPROVED FOR ENTRY:

Richard G Soper, M.D.

Richard Soper, M.D.
Respondent



Kimberly G. Silvas
Attorney for Respondent
Wiseman Ashworth
Trauger 511 Union Street,
Suite 800
Nashville, TN 37219



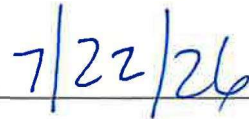
Regan Cothron, BPR# 018974
Senior Associate General Counsel
Office of General Counsel
Tennessee Department of Health
665 Mainstream Drive,
2nd Floor Nashville, Tennessee 37243
(615) 314-0775

25-Jun-2026

DATE

June 26, 2026

DATE



DATE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of this document has been served upon Respondent, Richard Soper, through his attorney, Kimberly Silvus, at the following address:

Richard Soper, M.D.
c/o Kimberly Silvus, Esq.
Wiseman Ashworth
Trauger 511 Union Street,
Suite 800
Nashville, TN 37219

by delivering same in the United States Mail, Certified Number 9589 0710 5270 2723 6160 84
 , return receipt requested, and United States First Class Postage Pre-Paid Mail, with sufficient postage thereon to reach its destination and via email at kimberly@watlawgroup.com

This 23rd day of July, 2026.



Regan Cothron
Senior Associate General Counsel