

LICENSE NO. P-2109

IN THE MATTER OF  
THE LICENSE OF  
ALISA CROSS, M.D.

BEFORE THE  
TEXAS MEDICAL BOARD

AGREED ORDER

On the 12 day of June, 2015, came on to be heard before the Texas Medical Board (the Board), duly in session, the matter of the license of Alisa Cross, M.D. (Respondent).

On February 17, 2015, Respondent appeared in person, with counsel Nicole Goldstein and John Rivas, at an Informal Show Compliance Proceeding and Settlement Conference in response to a letter of invitation from the staff of the Board. The Board's representatives were Frank Denton, a member of the Board, and Melissa Tonn, M.D., a member of a District Review Committee (Panel). Nikki Karr represented Board staff.

BOARD CHARGES

Board Staff charged that Respondent inappropriately prescribed controlled substances and other medications to a person with whom she had a close personal relationship without the benefit of an examination.

BOARD HISTORY

Respondent has not previously received a disciplinary order from the Board.

Upon the recommendation of the Board's representatives and with the consent of Respondent, the Board makes the following Findings and Conclusions of Law and enters this Agreed Order.

FINDINGS

The Board finds the following:

1. General Findings:

- a. Respondent received all notice required by law. All jurisdictional requirements have been satisfied. Respondent waives any defect in notice and any further right to notice or hearing under the Medical Practice Act, Title 3, Subtitle B, Texas Occupations Code (the Act) or the Rules of the Board.
- b. Respondent currently holds Texas Medical License No. P-2109. Respondent was originally issued this license to practice medicine in Texas on February 10, 2012. Respondent has been licensed to practice in California since 1995.
- c. Respondent is primarily engaged in the practice of Psychiatry. Respondent is board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties.
- d. Respondent is 51 years of age.

2. Specific Panel Findings:

- a. Respondent admitted to prescribing controlled substances to a person with whom she has a close, personal relationship from 2009 until 2014. Specifically, Respondent admitted to prescribing a 30-day supply of Ambien, with refills, as well as other medications to this person, who is a resident of Oregon.
- b. Respondent obtained a Texas medical license in 2012. Between 2012 and 2014, while residing in Texas, Respondent continued to prescribe controlled substances as well as other medication to this person without a demonstrated or documented immediate need.

3. Mitigating Factor:

In determining the appropriate sanctions in this matter, the Panel considered, as mitigating, that Respondent has cooperated in the investigation of the allegations related to this Agreed Order. Respondent neither admits nor denies the information given above. To avoid further investigation, hearings, and the expense and inconvenience of litigation, Respondent agrees to the entry of this Agreed Order and to comply with its terms and conditions.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the above Findings, the Board concludes that:

1. The Board has jurisdiction over the subject matter and Respondent pursuant to the Act.

2. Section 164.051(a)(3) of the Act authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against Respondent based on Respondent's violation of a Board rule, specifically Board Rule 165.1, which requires the maintenance of adequate medical records.

3. Section 164.051(a)(6) of the Act authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against Respondent based on Respondent's failure to practice medicine in an acceptable professional manner consistent with public health and welfare, as further defined by Board Rules: 190.8(1)(A), failure to treat a patient according to the generally accepted standard of care; 190.8(1)(B), negligence in performing medical services; 190.8(1)(C), failure to use proper diligence in one's professional practice; 190.8(1)(D), failure to safeguard against potential complications; 190.8(1)(G), failure to disclose reasonably foreseeable side effects of a procedure or treatment; 190.8(1)(H), failure to disclose reasonable alternative treatments to a proposed procedure or treatment; 190.8(1)(L), prescription of any dangerous drug or controlled substance without first establishing a proper professional relationship with the patient; and 190.8(1)(M), inappropriate prescription of dangerous drugs or controlled substances to oneself, family members, or others in which there is a close personal relationship.

4. Section 164.052(a)(5) of the Act authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against Respondent based upon Respondent's unprofessional or dishonorable conduct that is likely to deceive or defraud the public or injure the public, as provided by Section 164.053.

5. Section 164.053(a)(5) of the Act authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against Respondent based on Respondent prescribing or administering a drug or treatment that is nontherapeutic in nature or nontherapeutic in the manner the drug or treatment is administered or prescribed.

6. Section 164.053(a)(6) of the Act authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against Respondent based on Respondent prescribing, administering, or dispensing in a manner inconsistent with public health and welfare, dangerous drugs as defined by Chapter 483, Health and Safety Code; or controlled substances scheduled in Chapter 481 Health and Safety Code; or

controlled substances scheduled in the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, (21 U.S.C. § 801 et seq.).

7. Section 164.001 of the Act authorizes the Board to impose a range of disciplinary actions against a person for violation of the Act or a Board rule.

8. Section 164.002(a) of the Act authorizes the Board to resolve and make a disposition of this matter through an Agreed Order.

9. Section 164.002(d) of the Act provides that this Agreed Order is a settlement agreement under the Texas Rules of Evidence for purposes of civil litigation.

#### ORDER

Based on the above Findings and Conclusions of Law, the Board ORDERS that Respondent shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. This Agreed Order shall constitute a PUBLIC REPRIMAND of Respondent, and Respondent is hereby reprimanded.

2. Respondent shall not treat or otherwise serve as a physician for Respondent's immediate family, and Respondent shall not prescribe, dispense, administer or authorize any medications, including but not limited to controlled substances or dangerous drugs with addictive potential or potential for abuse, to Respondent or Respondent's immediate family.

3. Within one year following the date of the entry of this Order, Respondent shall take and pass with a score of 75 or above the Medical Jurisprudence Examination (JP Exam) given by the Texas Medical Board. Respondent is allowed three attempts to successfully pass this examination.

Respondent's failure to take and pass the JP Exam within three attempts within one year following the date of the entry of this Order shall constitute a violation of this Agreed Order. After a committee of the Board or a panel of Board representatives (Board Representatives), has considered the information related to Respondent's violation of this provision and has determined that Respondent has not fulfilled the requirements of this provision, Respondent's medical license shall be **IMMEDIATELY SUSPENDED** pursuant to correspondence to Respondent from the Executive Director or Secretary-Treasurer of the Board indicating that Board Representatives have considered the information related to Respondent's violation of this

provision and have determined that Respondent has not fulfilled the requirements of this provision. Although Respondent shall be invited to provide information or testimony to the Board Representatives, Respondent specifically waives any administrative due process under the Medical Practice Act, or the Administrative Procedure Act, for the Board Representatives to consider this information. **THIS SUSPENSION SHALL BE EFFECTIVE WITHOUT THE NEED FOR A HEARING AT THE STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS OR OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE DUE PROCESS UNDER THE MEDICAL PRACTICE ACT OR THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT, AND RESPONDENT SPECIFICALLY WAIVES ANY SUCH HEARING OR DUE PROCESS AND ALL RIGHTS OF APPEAL.** Respondent shall be notified of any suspension by certified mail, return receipt requested to Respondent's last known address on file with the Board. If Respondent's license is suspended on such a basis, the suspension shall remain in effect until such time as Respondent takes and passes the JP Exam and subsequently appears before the Board in person and provides sufficient evidence which, in the discretion of the Board, is adequate to show that Respondent possesses the skills and knowledge to safely practice in Texas and is otherwise physically and mentally competent to resume the practice in this state.

4. Within 180 days from date of the entry of this Order, Respondent shall enroll in and successfully complete the Physician Prescribing course offered by the University of California San Diego Physician Assessment and Clinical Education (PACE) program, or an equivalent course approved in advance by the Executive Director. To obtain approval for a course other than the PACE course, Respondent shall submit in writing to the Compliance Division of the Board information on the course, to include at least a reasonably detailed description of the course content, faculty, course location, and dates of instruction. Respondent shall submit documentation of attendance and successful completion of this requirement to the Compliance Division of the Board on or before the expiration of the time limit set forth for completion of the course.

5. Within 180 days from date of the entry of this Order, Respondent shall enroll in and successfully complete the Medical Recordkeeping course offered by the University of California San Diego Physician Assessment and Clinical Education (PACE) program, or an equivalent course approved in advance by the Executive Director. To obtain approval for a course other than the PACE course, Respondent shall submit in writing to the Compliance

Division of the Board information on the course, to include at least a reasonably detailed description of the course content, faculty, course location, and dates of instruction. Respondent shall submit documentation of attendance and successful completion of this requirement to the Compliance Division of the Board on or before the expiration of the time limit set forth for completion of the course.

6. Within one year from the date of the entry of this Order, Respondent shall enroll in and successfully complete at least 8 hours of continuing medical education (CME) approved for Category I credits by the American Medical Association, approved in writing in advance by the Executive Director or their designee, to be divided as follows: at least eight (8) hours in the topic of risk management; and at least eight (8) hours in the topic of ethics. To obtain approval for the course, Respondent shall submit in writing to the Compliance Department information on the course, to include at least a reasonably detailed description of the course content and faculty, as well as the course location and dates of instruction. Respondent shall submit documentation of attendance and successful completion of this requirement to the Compliance Department on or before the expiration of the time limit set forth for completion of the course. The CME requirements set forth in this paragraph shall be in addition to all other CME required for licensure maintenance.

7. Respondent shall pay an administrative penalty in the amount of \$3,000 within 60 days of the date of the entry of this Order. The administrative penalty shall be paid in a single payment by cashier's check or money order payable to the Texas Medical Board and shall be submitted to the Board for routing so as to be remitted to the Comptroller of Texas for deposit in the general revenue fund. Respondent's failure to pay the administrative penalty as ordered shall constitute grounds for further disciplinary action by the Board, and may result in a referral by the Executive Director of the Board for collection by the Office of the Attorney General.

8. At all times while Respondent is under the terms of this Order, Respondent shall give a copy of this Order to all hospitals, nursing homes, treatment facilities, and other health care entities where Respondent has privileges, has pending an application for privileges, applies for privileges, or otherwise practices. Within 30 days of being first contacted by the Compliance Division of the Board following entry of this Order, Respondent shall provide to the Compliance Division of the Board documentation, including proof of delivery, that the Order was delivered to all such facilities.

9. The time period of this Order shall be extended for any period of time that: (a) Respondent subsequently practices exclusively outside the State of Texas; (b) Respondent's license is subsequently cancelled for nonpayment of licensure fees; (c) this Order is stayed or enjoined by Court Order; or (d) for any period of time longer than 60 consecutive days that Respondent does not actively practice medicine. If Respondent leaves Texas to practice elsewhere or ceases active practice for more than 60 consecutive days, Respondent shall immediately notify the Board in writing. Upon Respondent's return to active practice or return to practice in Texas, Respondent shall notify the Board in writing. When the period of extension ends, Respondent shall be required to comply with the terms of this Order for the period of time remaining on the Order. Respondent shall pay all fees for reinstatement or renewal of a license covering the period of extension or tolling.

10. Respondent shall comply with all the provisions of the Act and other statutes regulating the Respondent's practice.

11. Respondent shall fully cooperate with the Board and the Board staff, including Board attorneys, investigators, compliance officers, consultants, and other employees or agents of the Board in any way involved in investigation, review, or monitoring associated with Respondent's compliance with this Order. Failure to fully cooperate shall constitute a violation of this order and a basis for disciplinary action against Respondent pursuant to the Act.

12. Respondent shall inform the Board in writing of any change of Respondent's office or mailing address within 10 days of the address change. This information shall be submitted to the Registration Department and the Compliance Department of the Board. Failure to provide such information in a timely manner shall constitute a basis for disciplinary action by the Board against Respondent pursuant to the Act. Respondent agrees that 10 days notice of a Probationer Show Compliance Proceeding to address any allegation of non-compliance of this Agreed Order is adequate and reasonable notice prior to the initiation of formal disciplinary action. Respondent waives the 30-day notice requirement provided by §164.003(b)(2) of the Medical Practice Act and agrees to 10 days notice, as provided in 22 Texas Administrative Code §187.44(4).

13. Any violation of the terms, conditions, or requirements of this Order by Respondent shall constitute unprofessional conduct likely to deceive or defraud the public, or to

injure the public, and shall constitute a basis for disciplinary action by the Board against Respondent pursuant to the Act.

14. Respondent shall be permitted to supervise and delegate prescriptive authority to physician assistants and advanced practice nurses and to supervise surgical assistants.

15. The above-referenced conditions shall continue in full force and effect without opportunity for amendment, except for clear error in drafting, for one year following the date of the entry of this Order. If, after the passage of the one-year period, Respondent wishes to seek amendment or termination of these conditions, Respondent may petition the Board in writing. The Board may inquire into the request and may, in its sole discretion, grant or deny the petition without further appeal or review. Petitions for modifying or terminating may be filed only once a year thereafter.

RESPONDENT WAIVES ANY FURTHER HEARINGS OR APPEALS TO THE BOARD OR TO ANY COURT IN REGARD TO ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS AGREED ORDER. RESPONDENT AGREES THAT THIS IS A FINAL ORDER.


THIS ORDER IS A PUBLIC RECORD.

**(SIGNATURE PAGES FOLLOW)**



I, ALISA CROSS, M.D., HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING AGREED ORDER. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING, I WAIVE CERTAIN RIGHTS. I SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY. I UNDERSTAND THIS AGREED ORDER CONTAINS THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND THERE IS NO OTHER AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND, VERBAL, WRITTEN OR OTHERWISE.

DATED: May 8, 2015.

  
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ALISA CROSS, M.D.

Respondent

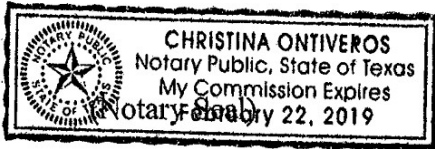
*I hereby dispute all above allege violations of the Act other than prescribing to a family member*


STATE OF Texas

COUNTY OF Travis

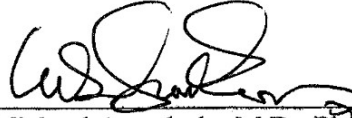
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SWORN TO AND ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary Public, on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015.



  
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Signature of Notary Public

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the presiding officer of the Texas Medical Board on this  
12 day of June, 2015.



Michael Arambula, M.D., Pharm.D., President  
Texas Medical Board