

STATE OF VERMONT
BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE

In Re: Paul Cameron, M.D.)

) Docket No. MPN 96-0996

STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER

NOW COMES, Paul Cameron, M.D., Respondent in the above captioned matter, and the State of Vermont, by and through Marie J. Salem, Special Assistant Attorney General, and agree and stipulate to the following facts, conditions and disposition in this matter:

1. Respondent holds license No. 042-0008532, issued by the Vermont Board of Medical Practice (Board), which license is subject to disciplinary action under 26 V.S.A. Chapter 23.

2. Respondent waives service of a formal specification of charges, see 26 V.S.A. §1356, and waives his right to a formal hearing before the Board of Medical Practice. See 26 V.S.A. §1357.

I.

3. Respondent, a psychiatrist, admits that he engaged in a personal, romantic and sexual relationship, which included sexual intercourse, with a patient within three (3) months of termination of therapy sessions and the doctor/patient relationship.

4. Respondent acknowledges that his having engaged in the relations set forth above constitutes unprofessional conduct in that he grossly failed to use and exercise that degree of care, skill and proficiency which is commonly exercised by the ordinary skillful, careful and prudent

physician engaged in a similar practice under the same or similar conditions. See 26 V.S.A. §1354(22).

5. Respondent has never before been subject to disciplinary action in Vermont.

II.

A.

6. The parties to this Stipulation and Consent Order agree that appropriate disciplinary action against Respondent shall consist of the following:

7. Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Vermont shall be suspended for a period of one (1) year from the date of the Board's Order effectuating the terms of this agreement.

8. During the suspension period and before returning to practice, Respondent must comply with the following conditions:

A. Respondent, at his own expense, shall be evaluated by a professional entity, and/or residential program, designated by the Board. The evaluation will include, at a minimum, (1) a full history of Respondent's actions leading up to the complaint before the Board, (2) projective testing which shall address the likelihood of Respondent's engaging in such conduct in the future, (3) specific recommendations, if any, regarding Respondent's need for further counseling, treatment, or evaluation, and (4) certification that the Respondent can safely resume the

practice of medicine with reasonable care, skill, and safety, and that to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, he does not pose a risk to the public health, safety, and welfare. Respondent shall execute such releases as may be necessary for the Board to have a copy of the written evaluation, supporting materials, and full communication with the evaluator(s). The Board will promptly make arrangements for the evaluation to be conducted and will forward relevant documents to the evaluator(s). Respondent agrees and understands that the written evaluation and any supporting materials are to be sent directly to the Board by the designated organization.

B. If the evaluator determines that Respondent needs further evaluation, the Respondent must comply with said requirement(s) at his own expense. Any such further evaluation will be conducted by a professional(s) approved by the Board. Respondent shall execute such releases as may be necessary for the Board to have a copy of the written evaluation, supporting materials, and full communication with the evaluator(s). Respondent agrees and understands that the written evaluation and any supporting materials are to be sent directly to the Board by the designated professional.

C. If the evaluator determines that Respondent needs further counseling, therapy and/or treatment, the Respondent must comply with said requirement(s). Such further counseling and/or therapy shall be conducted by a professional approved by the Board. The counselor and/or therapist shall

provide, on or about the first of each month, reports to the Board regarding Respondent's progress. Such monthly reports shall be in a manner and form to be determined by the Board. The Respondent understands that it is his responsibility to ensure that such monthly reports are timely filed and provided to the Board.

D. The parties acknowledge that the findings of the evaluation may serve as a basis for modification(s) of the conditions detailed in this agreement. Based on the evaluation, the Board may modify the conditions of suspension and/or probation as set forth in this agreement.

E. Respondent must document, in a manner and form to be determined by the Board, that during this period of suspension, he has continued therapy with his personal psychiatrist. Further, the Board must be notified in writing by Respondent's therapist if he/she feels that Respondent no longer needs to be in therapy. In the event this occurs, the therapist shall confirm in writing that Respondent can resume the practice of medicine with reasonable care, skill and safety and that to a reasonable degree of medical certainty Respondent does not pose a risk to the public health, safety or welfare.

F. Six (6) months after commencement of Respondent's suspension period, Respondent shall submit to the Board a written plan, to be approved by the Board, detailing how Respondent's practice will be supervised upon his return.

Respondent's supervision plan shall include a review of Respondent's practice by a professional approved by the Board. Respondent's supervision plan shall also include the submission of monthly reports to the Board documenting the nature and progress of the supervision. Such monthly report(s) shall be in a manner and form to be determined by the Board.

9. The reports referred to above and any information supplied to the Board pursuant to this Stipulation shall be confidential and not subject to public disclosure.

10. It is understood that Respondent sought, but did not follow, the advice of professionals and experts in the field regarding the circumstances presented with Patient A. Further, Respondent sought treatment with a personal psychiatrist, and supervision of his practice by a supervising psychiatrist, in connection with this matter.

11. As a prerequisite to Respondent's return to practice, Respondent's evaluator(s), counselor(s), and/or therapist(s), must state in writing to the Board that they are of the professional opinion that Respondent can resume the practice of medicine with reasonable care, skill and safety and that to a reasonable degree of medical certainty Respondent does not pose a risk to the public health, safety or welfare.

B.

12. Respondent shall remain on probation with the Board

for a period of four (4) years after he has completed his active period of suspension and the conditions enumerated above.

13. During the probationary period Respondent must comply with the following conditions:

A. Within six (6) months of his return to active practice, Respondent will satisfactorily complete, at his own expense, a remedial education course approved by the Board. Such course shall contain components dealing with the concepts of transference and counter-transference, as well as boundary violations. An evaluation of Respondent's participation in, and completion of, said course shall be in a manner and form to be determined by the Board. Respondent agrees and understands that it is his responsibility to ensure that such report is promptly forwarded to the Board. In any event, such report shall not be submitted to the Board more than sixty (60) days after completion of said course.

B. The Respondent is responsible for ensuring that on or about the first of each month the following reports are provided to the Board during his probationary period. These reports are to be in a manner, form and content, to be determined by the Board, and shall include monthly certification that the Respondent can safely practice medicine with reasonable care, skill, and safety, and that to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, he does not pose a risk to the public health, safety, and welfare. The following

reports are required: (1) a report from any counselor or therapist [which the initial assessment determined to be necessary, if any,] documenting Respondent's continued participation and progress in therapy, See ¶8C, (2) a report from Respondent's personal psychiatrist documenting Respondent's continued participation and progress in therapy, See 8E, (3) a report of the professional, approved by the Board, supervising Respondent's practice, See ¶8F.

III.

14. The parties agree that any failure to abide by any of the conditions enumerated above shall be considered a violation of Respondent's probation. The Respondent agrees and understands that such failure shall constitute a violation of the terms and conditions of Respondent's probation as detailed in this agreement. In the event the Board determines there has been a failure to abide by the conditions, Respondent's license may be immediately suspended.

15. During Respondent's probation period, he shall not engage in unprofessional conduct. The Respondent agrees and understands that engaging in unprofessional conduct shall constitute a violation of the terms and conditions of Respondent's probation as detailed in this agreement. In the event the Board determines Respondent has engaged in unprofessional conduct, Respondent's license may be immediately suspended.

16. Any failure to comply with any of the terms of this

Stipulation and Consent Order shall also constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to 26 V.S.A. §1354(25) and shall subject Respondent to further disciplinary action at the discretion of the Board.

17. The parties understand that this Stipulation and Consent Order are a matter of public record, will become a part of Respondent's licensing file, and may be reported to other authorities.

18. This Stipulation and Consent Order is conditioned on acceptance by the Board. If the Board rejects any part of this Stipulation and Consent Order, the entire agreement shall be considered void.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this ___ day of October, 1997.

Paul Cameron, M.D. 10/24/97
PAUL CAMERON, M.D.

Peter Joslin, Esq. 10/24/97
PETER JOSLIN, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 29th day of October, 1997.

Marie J. Salem
MARIE J. SALEM
Special Assistant Attorney General

APPROVED AND ORDERED:

Carl Nason, M.D.
[Signature]
Orlyya Rader

Office of the
ATTORNEY
GENERAL
Montpelier,
Vermont 05609

John A. Breyer
Clarence M. ...
Robert J. ...
H. J. ...
Etal ...

DATED: November 5, 1997

ENTERED AND EFFECTIVE: November 6, 1997

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