



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Olympia, Washington 98504

RE: Mejah Soong, MD
Master Case No.: M2012-1217
Document: Notice of Decision with Stipulation to Practice
Conditions

Regarding your request for information about the above-named practitioner; attached is a true and correct copy of the document on file with the State of Washington, Department of Health, Adjudicative Clerk Office. These records are considered Certified by the Department of Health.

Certain information may have been withheld pursuant to Washington state laws. While those laws require that most records be disclosed on request, they also state that certain information should not be disclosed.

The following information has been withheld:

Information regarding an individual's health care, including where they received health care services, their medical condition, care provided, etc., pursuant to RCW 42.56.050 (Public Records Disclosure) and RCW 70.02.020 (Medical Records – Health Care Information Access and Disclosure)

Respondent's residential address, including street, city, and zip code pursuant to RCW 42.56.050, RCW 42.56.350(2)

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the information that was withheld, please contact:

Customer Service Center
P.O. Box 47865
Olympia, WA 98504-7865
Phone: (360) 236-4700
Fax: (360) 586-2171

You may appeal the decision to withhold any information by writing to the Privacy Officer, Department of Health, P.O. Box 47890, Olympia, WA 98504-7890.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
MEDICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION
PO Box 47866, Olympia, WA 98504-7866

Notice of Decision on Application

November 26, 2012

Mejah Soong, MD
[REDACTED]

Re: Application of Mejah Soong, MD; M2012-1217

Dear Dr. Soong:

Thank you for your application for a license to practice as a physician assistant in the state of Washington. Following review of your application file, the Medical Quality Assurance Commission (Commission) has decided to deny your application.

Basis for this Decision. The Commission based its decision on the following facts.

On November 20, 2007, the Connecticut Medical Examining Board issued a Memorandum of Decision revoking your license to practice as a physician and surgeon in the state of Connecticut. The basis for the revocation was your failure to undergo a mental examination to evaluate your present mental and emotional state and your ability to practice as a physician and surgeon.

On February 16, 2011, the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine issued a Final Decision and Order suspending your inchoate right to renew your license to practice medicine in Massachusetts. The basis for the suspension was the revocation of your Connecticut license, your refusal to inform the Massachusetts Board of your medical condition, and your refusal to undergo a psychiatric evaluation.

Under RCW 18.130.055, the Commission has the authority to deny an application if the applicant has committed unprofessional conduct.

18.130.055 Authority of disciplining authority—denial of applications.

(1) The disciplining authority may deny an application for licensure or grant a license with conditions if the applicant:

....

(b) Has committed any act defined as unprofessional conduct for a license holder under RCW 18.130.180;

You have committed unprofessional conduct under RCW 18.130.180(5).

Notice of Decision on Application

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RCW 18.130.180 Unprofessional Conduct

The following conduct, acts, or conditions constitute unprofessional conduct for any license holder under the jurisdiction of this chapter:

(5) Suspension, revocation, or restriction of the individual's license to practice any health care profession by competent authority in any state, federal, or foreign jurisdiction, a certified copy of the order, stipulation, or agreement being conclusive evidence of the revocation suspension, or restriction.

Your Right to a Hearing. If you disagree with this decision, you may request a hearing by completing the enclosed Request for Hearing form and sending it to the Department of Health, Adjudicative Clerk Office, at the following address:

Adjudicative Clerk Office
Department Of Health
PO Box 47879
Olympia, WA 98504-7879

Your request must be in writing, state your basis for contesting the decision, and include a copy of this Notice of Decision on Application.

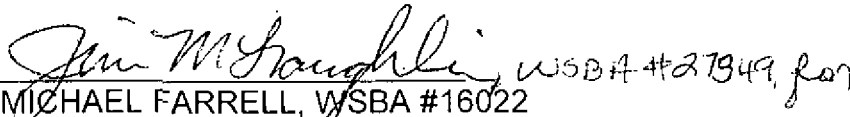
The Adjudicative Clerk Office must receive your completed Request for Hearing by December 24, 2012 or your Request for Hearing will not be considered and you will not be entitled to a hearing.

What Happens at a Hearing? If you decide to present your application to a hearing panel, you will have the burden of proving, more probably than not, that you are qualified for licensure under the Uniform Disciplinary Act (RCW 18.130), Chapter 18.71 RCW, and the rules adopted by the Commission.

Your Right to an Interpreter at Hearing. You may request an interpreter to translate at the hearing if English is not your primary language or the primary language of any witness who will testify at hearing. You may also request interpretive assistance if you or any witness has a hearing or speech impairment.

Questions? Please call me at (509) 329-2186 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


MICHAEL FARRELL, WSBA #16022
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH STAFF ATTORNEY

Enclosure

DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY MAIL

I declare that today, November 26, 2012, at Tumwater, Washington, I served a copy of this document by mailing a copy properly addressed with postage prepaid to the applicant at the following address:

Meja Soong, MD



Dated: November 26, 2012

Signature: Debbie Sloan
Debbie Sloan, Paralegal

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
MEDICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application to
Practice as a Physician and Surgeon of

MEJAH SOONG, MD
License No. MD00048978

Applicant

No. M2012-1217

**STIPULATION TO PRACTICE
UNDER CONDITIONS**

1. STIPULATION

Pursuant to RCW 18.130.055, the parties to this matter stipulate as follows:

1.1 On April 19, 2012, the Medical Quality Assurance Commission (Commission) received Applicant's application to practice as a physician and surgeon.

1.2 The Commission has issued and served on the Applicant a Notice of Decision on Application (Decision) denying the application.

1.3 The Commission based its Decision on the following:

1.3.1 On November 20, 2007, the Connecticut Medical Examining Board issued a Memorandum of Decision revoking Applicant's license to practice as a physician and surgeon in the state of Connecticut. The basis for the revocation was Applicant's failure to undergo a mental examination to evaluate her present mental and emotional state and her ability to practice as a physician and surgeon.

1.3.2 On February 16, 2011, the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine issued a Final Decision and Order suspending Applicant's inchoate right to renew her license to practice medicine in Massachusetts. The basis for the suspension was the revocation of Applicant's Connecticut license, Applicant's refusal to inform the Massachusetts Board of her medical condition, and Applicant's refusal to undergo a psychiatric evaluation.

1.4 Since the Commission issued the Decision, Applicant underwent a psychiatric evaluation by Russell Vandebelt, MD, in Bellevue, Washington. Dr. Vandebelt's review determined that Applicant was hospitalized for five days in July 2004 for behavioral issues and was discharged with a diagnosis of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Dr. Vandenberg reviewed the medical records of the hospitalization, and records of subsequent treatment. Dr. Vandenberg determined that Applicant did not have a serious or persistent mental disorder at the time of the hospitalization. Dr. Vandenberg spoke to Applicant's treating psychiatrist, Elissa Arons, MD, between 2004 and 2006. Dr. Arons told Dr. Vandenberg that there was no evidence of unusual behavior, there were no complaints about Applicant's clinical care, and that Applicant was safe to practice. Dr. Arons also states more recently based on consultations with Applicant since spring 2012 that Applicant has matured since 2005 and would be a sincere, caring physician. Based on his review of the relevant records, interview with Applicant, mental status testing, psychological testing, and his interview with Dr. Arons, Dr. Vandenberg concluded that Applicant has no current or ongoing mental health condition, and that there is no current evidence that Applicant is not safe to practice medicine. Dr. Vandenberg recommended that Applicant have periodic contact with a psychiatrist to monitor her progress.

1.5 Applicant understands that there is no obligation to sign this Stipulation to Practice Under Conditions (Stipulation). Applicant understands that applicant has a right to a hearing on the issues contained in the Decision. By signing this Stipulation, Applicant affirmatively waives that right and agrees to its terms, including the practice conditions described below.

1.6 By signing this Stipulation, Applicant does not admit to any of the bases for the Decision.

1.7 Protection of the public requires practice under the conditions imposed by this Stipulation. Failure to comply with the conditions of this Stipulation may result in disciplinary action regarding Applicant's credential under RCW 18.130.180. If Applicant fails to comply with the conditions, the Commission may hold a hearing to require Applicant to show cause why the license should not be suspended or why Applicant should not be subjected to other terms and conditions under RCW 18.130.160. Alternatively, the Commission may bring charges of unprofessional conduct under RCW 18.130 RCW 18.130.180(9). In either case, the Commission will provide Applicant with notice and an opportunity for a hearing on the issue of non-compliance.

1.8 This Stipulation is not formal disciplinary action. If the Commission accepts this Stipulation, it will be reported to the Health Integrity and Protection Databank (HIPDB) (45 CFR Part 61), the Federation of State Medical Board's Physician Data Center and elsewhere as required by law. HIPDB will report this Stipulation to the National Practitioner Data Bank (45 CFR Part 60).

1.9 This Agreed Stipulation is a public document. It will be placed on the Department of Health's website, disseminated via the Commission's listserv, and disseminated according to the Uniform Disciplinary Act (Chapter 18.130 RCW). It may be disclosed to the public upon request pursuant to the Public Records Act (Chapter 42.56 RCW). It will remain part of Applicant's file according to the state's records retention law and cannot be expunged.

1.10 Applicant agrees and understands that this Stipulation constitutes the entire agreement under which the Commission will grant the application. If Applicant signs this Stipulation and submits it with any revisions to which the parties did not agree, the Commission will consider its offer to stipulate to be withdrawn and Applicant's submission to constitute a request for an adjudicative proceeding.

1.11 This Stipulation is of no force and effect and is not binding on the parties unless and until it is accepted by the Commission.

2. PRACTICE CONDITIONS

Applicant agrees to the following conditions:

2.1 **License granted.** The Commission grants Applicant a license to practice as a physician and surgeon in the state of Washington.

2.2 **Probation.** The Commission places Applicant's license on PROBATION.

2.3 **Psychiatric monitoring.** Applicant shall enter into monitoring with a psychiatrist approved by the Commission or its designee. Applicant shall see the psychiatrist at least once every two weeks for a period of six months from the effective date of this Stipulation. After the six-month period, the psychiatrist may lengthen the interval between sessions to no longer than once a month. The monitoring shall continue until the Commission terminates this Stipulation. Applicant will follow all recommendations by the psychiatrist. Applicant shall cause the psychiatrist to submit

quarterly reports to the Commission. In the quarterly reports, the psychiatrist shall inform the Commission of Applicant's progress, changes in prognosis or diagnosis, and additional recommendations, if any, to protect the public. The quarterly reports shall be submitted to the Commission on the first day of January, April, July, and October. Applicant will be permitted to change psychiatrists only with prior written approval by the Commission or its designee. The reports will be sent to

Compliance Officer
Medical Quality Assurance Commission
P.O. Box 47866
Olympia, Washington 98504.

2.4 **Compliance appearances.** Respondent will appear before the Commission after the Commission receives the second report from the psychiatrist and present proof that she is complying with this Stipulation. After the first appearance, Respondent will continue to make compliance appearances every twelve (12) months unless otherwise instructed in writing by the Commission or its representative, until the Commission releases Respondent from the terms and conditions of this Stipulation.

2.5 **Termination of Stipulation.** Applicant may petition to terminate this Stipulation no sooner than two years from the effective date of this Stipulation. When Applicant files such a petition, Applicant will appear before the Commission at a mutually agreeable date and time. The Commission will have sole discretion to grant or deny Applicant's petition.

2.6 **Obey all laws.** Applicant shall obey all federal, state and local laws and all administrative rules governing the practice of the profession in Washington.


2.7 **Responsible for costs.** Applicant is responsible for all costs of complying with this Stipulation.

2.8 **Violation of Stipulation.** If Applicant violates any provision of this Stipulation in any respect, the Commission may take further action against Applicant's license.

2.9 **Change in Address.** Applicant shall inform the Program and the Adjudicative Clerk Office, in writing, of changes in Applicant's residential and/or business address within thirty (30) days of the change.

2.10 Effective Date of Stipulation. The effective date of this Stipulation is the date the Adjudicative Clerk Office places the signed Stipulation into the U.S. mail. If required, Applicant shall not submit any fees or compliance documents until after the effective date of this Stipulation.

I, MEJAH SOONG, MD, Applicant, certify that I have read this Stipulation in its entirety; that my counsel of record, if any, has fully explained the legal significance and consequence of it; that I fully understand and agree to all of it.



MEJAH SOONG, MD
APPLICANT

4-9-13

DATE


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3. ACCEPTANCE


The Commission agrees that Applicant may be granted a license to practice as a physician and surgeon with the above conditions.

DATED: April 10, 2013.

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
MEDICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE
COMMISSION


MICHAEL CONCANNON, JD
PANEL CHAIR

PREPARED BY:


MICHAEL FARRELL, WSBA #16022
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH STAFF ATTORNEY

April 10, 2013
DATE