

IN THE MATTER OF

JEANNINE GEORGE-RICHARDSON, D.P.M.

Respondent

License Number: 01417

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BEFORE THE MARYLAND
STATE BOARD OF PODIATRIC
MEDICAL EXAMINERS
Case Number: 2010-010

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CONSENT ORDER

On the 9th of July, 2010, the Maryland State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (the "Board") charged **JEANNINE E. GEORGE-RICHARDSON, D.P.M.**, License Number 01417, Date of Birth 8/29/1972 (the "Respondent"), with violating the Maryland Podiatry Act (the "Act"), Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. ("H.O.") §§ 16-101 *et seq.* (2005 and 2009 Repl. Vol.).

Specifically, the Board charged the Respondent with violating the following provisions of the Act under H.O. § 16-311:

(a) *In general.* – Subject to the hearing provisions of § 16-313 of this subtitle, the Board, on the affirmative vote of a majority of its members then serving, may deny a license or limited license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee or holder of a limited license, impose an administrative monetary penalty not exceeding \$50,000 on any licensee or holder of a limited license, place any licensee or holder of a limited license on probation, or suspend or revoke a license or limited license if the applicant, licensee, or holder:

- (2) Fraudulently or deceptively uses a license;
- (10) Willfully makes or files a false report or record of podiatric services rendered;
- (17) Behaves fraudulently, immorally, or unprofessionally in the practice of podiatry; [and]
- (22) Violates any rules or regulations adopted by the Board.

Furthermore, the regulations that the Board charged the Respondent with violating were Code Md. Regs. tit. 10, § 40.08.02 ("COMAR"), which state:

B. Terms Defined

- (4) "Unprofessional conduct" includes but is not limited to:

(c) Conduct in the practice of podiatric medicine which evidences moral unfitness to practice the profession.

On September 16, 2010, a Case Resolution Conference was held before a committee of the Board. As a result of negotiations between the Respondent, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Board, the Respondent consents to and the Board accepts a resolution of the charges pursuant to the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board makes the following findings of fact:

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was and is licensed to practice podiatry in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was licensed to practice podiatry in the State of Maryland on or about January 28, 2005, under License Number: 01417.
2. From approximately November 2005, to April 2008, the Respondent practiced podiatry as an associate of a podiatrist ("Podiatrist A")¹ at his office located in Woodholme, Maryland.
3. On or about September 23, 2009, the Board received a complaint from Podiatrist A, alleging that the Respondent submitted false information and documents to the American Board of Podiatric Surgery ("ABPS") in support of her application for ABPS certification.

¹ The names of individuals identified herein are confidential. The Respondent may obtain the names of the individuals by contacting the administrative prosecutor.

4. Specifically, the complaint stated that the Respondent represented to the ABPS that she had performed 65 surgical cases for credentialing purposes, when in fact many of the surgical cases were performed by Podiatrist A, and the Respondent was either not involved, or merely assisted in the surgical procedures.

5. Based on the complaint, the Board initiated an investigation of the Respondent, the results of which are set forth *infra*.

6. The Respondent was employed as an associate podiatrist in Podiatrist A's podiatric medical practice located in Pikesville, Maryland for approximately two and one-half years. The Respondent left her employment with Podiatrist A in or around April 2008. After leaving her employment with Podiatrist A, the Respondent informed Podiatrist A that she would be submitting patient files to ABPS in support of her application for ABPS certification.

7. Subsequently, the Respondent submitted an application to ABPS for a certification in forefoot surgery. In order to obtain a certification, the Respondent was required to submit information with respect to 65 surgical procedures that she performed within seven years of the application deadline. For each surgical case submitted, the Respondent was required to be able to provide full documentary support, if requested. Additionally, the Respondent was not allowed to use or claim any surgical procedures in which she was listed only as a "co-surgeon" or an "assistant surgeon."

8. As a part of the ABPS credentialing process, the ABPS Director of Case Credentialing randomly selected 10 of the total 65 surgical cases submitted by the Respondent for a full case documentation review.²

² The ABPS full-case documentation review process requires the applicant podiatrist submit to the ABPS the complete patient files (clinical and surgical) for each of the ten randomly selected cases.

9. In a letter dated January 20, 2009, the ABPS confirmed receipt of the Respondent's application for credentialing and requested that she provide full documentation for 10 randomly selected surgical cases that were chosen for complete documentation review.

10. To obtain supporting documents for the documentation review process, the Respondent returned to Podiatrist A's office on at least two occasions, with his permission, to make duplicate copies of office notes, x-rays, and operative reports.

11. On one occasion, Podiatrist A's office manager noticed a laboratory report that listed the Respondent as the attending podiatrist. The office manager found it unusual because she knew from personal knowledge that Podiatrist A was the attending podiatrist for that patient. The office manager also found unusual that the Respondent requested several patient files for copying that involved Podiatrist A's patients, not the Respondent's patients. The office manager subsequently relayed her suspicion to Podiatrist A, who in turn contacted the Director of Credentialing at ABPS.

12. After discussion and verification with Podiatrist A, ABPS determined that of the 65 surgical cases listed by the Respondent in her application, 17 of the cases were surgeries performed by Podiatrist A, in which the Respondent either had no involvement with the surgical procedures, or merely assisted in them.³ Furthermore, of the 10 randomly selected cases that the Respondent was required to submit documentary support to ABPS as a part of the auditing process, it was discovered that

³ Upon further review, the Board's investigation discovered that out of 65 surgical cases listed in the Respondent's application, 18 of the cases were surgeries performed by Podiatrist A where the Respondent was either not involved, or merely assisted. Specifically, the 18 cases that the Respondent made fraudulent misrepresentations include ABPS case number 10, 12, 20, 30, 31, 32, 34, 36, 37, 41, 43, 49, 51, 50, 53, 59, 62 and 63.

she submitted falsified and altered clinical and surgical records in three cases and made material misrepresentation in one other case.

13. Specifically, in three surgical cases, the Respondent removed the name of Podiatrist A as the attending surgeon in hospital and ambulatory surgery center medical documents, operative reports, and laboratory reports, and replaced it with the her own name to give the appearance that she had performed the surgeries. In one other case, the Respondent failed to provide any clinical or surgical records, but provided only x-rays to support her performance of the surgical procedure, when in fact Podiatrist A was the surgeon who performed the procedure.

14. After being notified of the complaint, the Respondent submitted a letter to the Board on or about October 23, 2009, which stated, "At the onset, let me say that I intend to fully cooperate with the Board in this matter, and that I admit that I forwarded to the Certification Board case files that did not qualify as my cases, and that I attempted to cover up that fact."

15. On January 11, 2010, a Board investigator interviewed the Respondent with her attorney present. During the interview, the Respondent admitted to fraudulently altering some patient records and misrepresenting case files of surgeries performed by Podiatrist A as her own to ABPS for certification. More specifically, the following exchange took place between the Board investigator and the Respondent:

[INVESTIGATOR]: The Board is aware that you submitted several patient files to ABPS indicating that you were the podiatrist that performed the surgeries on the patients when, in fact, you copied the patient files of Podiatrist A, redacted his name and then fraudulently signed your name to those patient files, making it appear that you were the podiatrist who performed the surgeries. Is that essentially correct?

[RESPONDENT]: Yes. That is correct.

16. A final analysis of the Board's investigative materials reveal that of the 65 surgical cases listed in the Respondent's application to ABPS for credentialing, the Respondent made fraudulent misrepresentations that she was the primary podiatrist who performed the surgical procedures in 18 cases, including three cases where she amplified her misrepresentation with falsified and altered records.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent is in violation of H.O. §§16-311(a)(2), (10), (17) and (22).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 9th day of December, 2010, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board considering this case:

ORDERED that the Respondent **JEANNINE E. GEORGE-RICHARDSON, D.P.M.'S** license, under License Number 01417, to practice podiatry in the State of Maryland be and hereby is **SUSPENDED** for a minimum period of **ONE (1) YEAR**, with all but **SIX (6) MONTHS** of said suspension **STAYED**, to commence thirty (30) days from the date the Board executes this Consent Order, and continuing until such time as she has completed the following terms and conditions:

Notice and Voice Message

1. On or before the date the Respondent's license is actively suspended, she shall inform her patients by posting a visible notice to the door to her office and by leaving a continuously operating voice message on her office telephone of the following:

- a. That her office is or will be closing for an indefinite period of time;
- b. The method by which patients may obtain their medical records from her;
- c. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of alternate providers who can accept her patients; and
- d. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least two nearest hospital emergency rooms.

In the alternative to closing her office and the above articulated notice and voice-mail requirements, the Respondent may elect to keep her office open during the active suspension of her license, provided she employs or engages a substitute podiatrist who is actively licensed to practice podiatry in Maryland and who will oversee the care of the patients at the Respondent's office. If the Respondent makes the above election, she shall notify the Board within **fifteen (15) days** of the Board's execution of this Consent Order of the name and license number of the substituting podiatrist who will oversee the care of her patients. The Respondent acknowledges that during the active suspension of her license, she is prohibited from practicing podiatry or representing that she has an active license to practice podiatry in Maryland. The Respondent further agrees not to be present in the same room when the substitute podiatrist treats patients at the Respondent's office.

Submissions to the Board

2. On or before the date the Respondent's license is actively suspended, she shall submit to the Board her wall certificate and wallet-size license, which are to be kept by the Board for the duration of the Respondent's active license suspension.

Self-Reporting

3. Within **fifteen (15) days** of the date the Board executes this Consent Order, the Respondent shall self-report and provide this Consent Order to the American Board of Podiatric Surgery and the American Board of Podiatric Orthopedics and Primary Podiatric Medicine.

4. In the event that the Respondent applies to any specialty board during her suspension and probationary periods, she shall attach a copy of this Consent Order with her application.

Professional Ethics Course

5. Within **six (6) months** of the date the Board executes this Consent Order, the Respondent shall register for and successfully complete a Board-approved course in professional ethics. The course shall be in addition to any Continuing Education requirements mandated for continuing licensure, and the Continuing Education shall not count toward fulfilling other continuing education requirements that the Respondent must fulfill in order to renew her license to practice podiatry.

Application for Reinstatement

6. Provided the Respondent fully and successfully complies with the above terms and conditions, and after the conclusion of the entire **SIX (6) MONTHS** period of active suspension, the Respondent may apply for reinstatement of her licensure;

7. If the Board determines that the Respondent fails to comply with the above terms and conditions, the Board shall continue the active suspension of the Respondent's license until she is in compliance; and

8. The Respondent shall be solely responsible for ensuring that she provides the Board with adequate written verification that she is fully and successfully in compliance or has fully and successfully complied with the above terms and conditions.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that in the event the Board reinstates the Respondent's license to practice podiatry, the Respondent's license shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a period of **THREE (3) YEARS**, which shall commence on the date the Board reinstates the Respondent's license, and shall continue until all of the following terms and conditions are met:

Anonymous Donations

1. The Respondent shall make anonymous donations, without the right to seek tax advantage/deduction, to the Fund for Podiatric Medical Education (the "Fund") in the total amount of fifty-thousand (\$50,000) dollars, under the following donation schedule and until the entire amount is fully donated:

- a. Within **thirty (30) days** of the date the Board places the Respondent on probation, the Respondent shall make the first installment of donations to the Fund in the amount of four-thousand one-hundred sixty-six dollars and sixty-seven cents (\$4,166.67).
- b. For the next **thirty-six (36) months** thereafter, the Respondent shall make a donation in the amount of four-thousand one-hundred sixty-six dollars and sixty-seven cents (\$4,166.67) every **three (3) months** (eleven (11) consecutive installments) and until the entire fifty (\$50,000) dollars is fully donated to the Fund.

Pro Bono Community Service Podiatry

2. The Respondent shall perform, without remuneration, one hundred (100) hours of *pro bono* community service podiatry as proposed by the Respondent and approved by the Board, to be completed by the conclusion of her probationary period.

3. Upon completion of the one hundred (100) hours of *pro bono* community service podiatry required, the Respondent shall file a written report with the Board that verifies that the Respondent performed the *pro bono* community service podiatry without remuneration, and which describes with particularity the professional services performed.

4. If requested by the Board, the Respondent shall make available for the Board, or its designee, all records of treatment for each patient for whom *pro bono* podiatry was performed.

Board's Right to Audit

5. The Board reserves the right to conduct random audits of the Respondent's practice.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that after the conclusion of the entire **THREE (3) YEAR PERIOD OF PROBATION**, the Respondent may submit a written petition to the Board requesting termination of her probationary status, but only if she has fully and satisfactorily complied with all of the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, and if there are no pending complaints regarding her before the Board; and be it further

ORDERED that if the Respondent violates any of the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, the Board, in its discretion, after notice and an opportunity for an evidentiary hearing if there is a genuine dispute as to the underlying material facts, or


an opportunity for a show cause hearing otherwise, before the Board, may impose any sanctions which the Board may have imposed in this case, including additional probationary terms and conditions, reprimand, suspension, revocation and/or monetary penalty; and be it further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall comply with the Maryland Podiatry Act and all laws, statutes and regulations pertaining to the practice of podiatry; and be it further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall be responsible for all costs under the Consent Order; and be it further

ORDERED that this Consent Order is considered a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. State Gov't Code Ann. § 16-101 *et seq.* (2009 Repl. Vol.).

Date: 12/09/2010



David J. Freedman, D.P.M.
President
Maryland Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners

CONSENT

I, Jeanine E. George, D.P.M., acknowledge that I am represented by counsel and have consulted with counsel before entering into this Consent Order. By this Consent and for the purpose of resolving the issues raised by the Board, I agree and accept to be bound by the foregoing Consent Order and its terms and conditions.

I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order as if entered into after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf,

and to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by the law. I agree to forego my opportunity to challenge these allegations. I acknowledge the legal authority and jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order. I affirm that I am waiving my right to appeal any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing.

I sign this Consent Order after having an opportunity to consult with counsel, voluntarily and without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order.

11/24/10
Date

Jeanine E. George, D.P.M.
Jeanine E. George, D.P.M.

STATE OF MARYLAND
CITY/COUNTY OF BALTIMORE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 24th day of NOVEMBER, 2010, before me, a Notary Public of the foregoing State and City/County personally appeared Jeanine E. George, D.P.M., License Number 01417, and made oath in due form of law that signing the foregoing Consent Order was his voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESSETH my hand and notary seal.

JAMES GRIMM
NOTARY PUBLIC OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND
COMMISSION EXPIRES: AUGUST 17, 2014

[Signature]
Notary Public

My commission expires: 08/17/2014

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IN THE MATTER OF
JEANNINE GEORGE-RICHARDSON. D.P.M.

Respondent

License Number: 01417

* BEFORE THE MARYLAND
* STATE BOARD OF PODIATRIC
* MEDICAL EXAMINERS
* Case Number: 2010-010

* * * * *

ORDER STAYING SUSPENSION AND REINSTATEMENT WITH CONDITONS

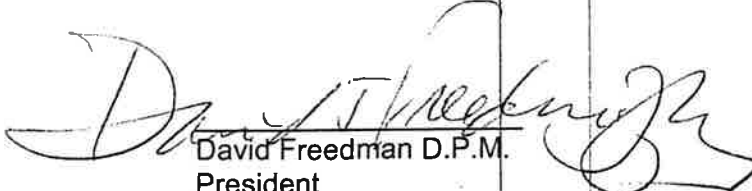
On December 9, 2010, the Maryland State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (the "Board") and Jeanine George-Richardson, D.P.M., ("Respondent") entered into a Consent Order which is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein and remains in full force and effect. Having met the terms and conditions of the Consent Order to date, it is this 20th day of July, 2011, by a full quorum of the Board hereby:

ORDERED that the Suspension of the license of Jeanine George-Richardson, D.P.M. to practice podiatry in this State be and is hereby **STAYED**, and that the Respondent be **REINSTATED** to the practice of podiatry, subject to the terms and conditions as set out in the Consent Order dated December 9, 2010; and it is further

ORDERED the three year period of **Probation** shall commence on the effective date of this Order; and it is further

ORDERED this document constitutes a final order of the State Board of Podiatric medical Examiners and is therefore a public document for purposes of public disclosure, as required by Md. Code Ann., State Gov't Article, §10-617(h), (2009 Repl. Vol.).

7/20/2011
Date


David Freedman D.P.M.
President

IN THE MATTER OF

JEANNINE GEORGE-
RICHARDSON, D.P.M

* **BEFORE THE**
*
* **MARYLAND BOARD OF**
*
* **PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS**
*

License Number 01417

ORDER OF TERMINATION OF PROBATION

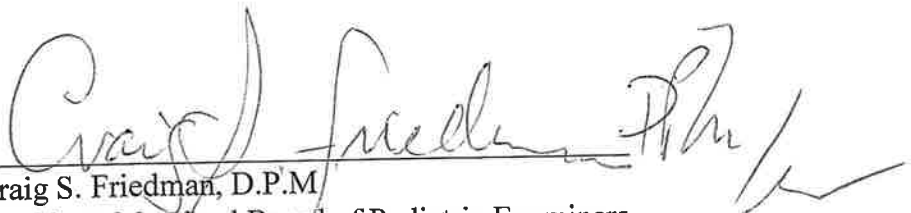
On or about December 9, 2010, the Maryland Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (the “Board”) executed a “Consent Order,” which, among other things, placed the license of Jeannine George-Richardson (the “Petitioner”) to practice as podiatry in the State of Maryland on probation for three (3) years subject to certain terms and conditions. On or about February 18, 2015, the Board received a “Petition to Reinstate License From Probationary Status to Active Status,” requesting that the Board terminate the probation upon her license, citing the successful compliance with the terms and conditions set forth in the December 9, 2010 Consent Order. Upon consideration by the Board and upon finding that the Petitioner has successfully completed all necessary terms and conditions imposed by her probation, the Board grants the Petitioner’s request.

Wherefore, it is hereby:

ORDERED that the probationary terms and conditions imposed upon the license of Jeannine George-Richardson to practice as podiatry in the State of Maryland by the Consent Order, dated December 9, 2010, are hereby **LIFTED AND TERMINATED** and that those terms and conditions have no further force and effect; and it is further

ORDERED that this is a Final Decision and Order of the Maryland Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners and as such is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions § 4-101 *et seq.*

3/17/2015
Date



Craig S. Friedman, D.P.M.
President, Maryland Board of Podiatric Examiners