

IN THE MATTER OF

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BEFORE THE

JONATHAN M. RATLIFF, M.D.

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MARYLAND STATE

Respondent

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BOARD OF PHYSICIANS

License Number: D0082519

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Case Number: 7725-0065

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ORDER AFTER SHOW CAUSE HEARING

FINDINGS OF FACT

Background

On March 11, 2025, Disciplinary Panel A (“Panel A”) of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”) and Jonathan M. Ratliff, M.D., entered into a consent order based on his violations of Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(3)(ii) (unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine); Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(4) (professional, physical, or mental incompetence); Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(7) (habitual intoxication); Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(9)(i) (providing professional services while under the influence of alcohol); and Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(11) (willfully making or filing a false report or record in the practice of medicine). The Consent Order reprimanded Dr. Ratliff and suspended his license for a minimum of one year, to be followed by probation; and imposed terms and conditions, that, among other things, required Dr. Ratliff to enroll in the Maryland Professional Rehabilitation Program (“MPRP”), sign a Participant Rehabilitation Plan, comply with all MPRP’s referrals, rules, and requirements, and sign any written release/consent forms to authorize MPRP to exchange information with out-of-state rehabilitation programs.

Consent Order

The terms of the Consent Order relevant to the Show Cause hearing stated:

ORDERED that the Respondent’s license to practice medicine is **SUSPENDED** for a minimum of **ONE (1) YEAR**; and it is further

ORDERED that during the suspension, the Respondent shall comply with the following terms and conditions of the suspension:

The Respondent shall enroll in the Maryland Professional Rehabilitation Program (MPRP) as follows:

- (a) Within 5 business days, the Respondent shall contact MPRP to schedule an initial consultation for enrollment;
- (b) Within 15 business days, the Respondent shall enter into a Participant Rehabilitation Agreement and Participant Rehabilitation Plan with MPRP;
- (c) the Respondent shall fully and timely cooperate and comply with all MPRP's referrals, rules, and requirements, including but not limited to the terms and conditions of the Participant Rehabilitation Agreement(s) and Participant Rehabilitation Plan(s) entered with MPRP, and shall fully participate and comply with all therapy, treatment, evaluations, and screenings as directed by MPRP;
- (d) the Respondent shall sign and update the written release/consent forms requested by the Board and MPRP, including release/consent forms to authorize MPRP to make written disclosure to the Board and to authorize the Board to disclose relevant information from MPRP records and files in a public order. The Respondent shall not withdraw his release/consent;
- (e) the Respondent shall also sign any written release/consent forms to authorize MPRP to exchange with (i.e., disclose to and receive from) outside entities (including all of the Respondent's current therapists and treatment providers) verbal and written information concerning the Respondent and to ensure that MPRP is authorized to receive the medical records of the Respondent, including, but not limited to, mental health and drug or alcohol evaluation and treatment records. The Respondent shall not withdraw his release/consent;
- (f) that if, upon the authorization of MPRP, the Respondent transfers to a rehabilitation program in another state, the Respondent's failure to comply with any terms or condition of that state's [the out-of-state's] rehabilitation program, constitutes a violation of this Consent Order. The Respondent shall also sign any out-of-state written release/consent forms to authorize the Board to exchange with (i.e., disclose to and receive from) the out-of-state program verbal and written information concerning the Respondent, and to ensure that the Board is authorized to receive the medical records of the Respondent, including, but not limited to, mental health and drug or alcohol evaluation and treatment records. The Respondent shall not withdraw the release/consent;

(g) the Respondent's failure to comply with any of the above terms or conditions including terms or conditions of the Participant Rehabilitation Agreement(s) or Participant Rehabilitation Plan(s) constitutes a violation of this Consent Order; and it is further

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[It is] **ORDERED** that, if the Respondent allegedly fails to comply with any term or condition imposed by this Consent Order, the Respondent shall be given notice and an opportunity for a hearing. . . . [I]f the disciplinary panel determines there is no genuine dispute as to a material fact, the Respondent shall be given a show cause hearing before a disciplinary panel; and it is further

ORDERED that, after the appropriate hearing, if the disciplinary panel determines that the Respondent has failed to comply with any term or condition imposed by this Consent Order, the disciplinary panel may reprimand the Respondent, place the Respondent on probation with appropriate terms and conditions, or suspend with appropriate terms and conditions, or revoke the Respondent's license to practice medicine in Maryland. The disciplinary panel may, in addition to one or more of the sanctions set forth above, impose a civil monetary fine on the Respondent[.]

Comprehensive Evaluation and Recommendation

The full MPRP clinical team recommended that Dr. Ratliff undergo a comprehensive, multi-day, independent evaluation. Dr. Ratliff underwent the evaluation from June 30 to July 1, 2025 at a licensed professional assessment program. MPRP received the results of the report on July 22, 2025. The evaluation discussed Dr. Ratliff's diagnosis and expressed various concerns. The evaluation recommended that Dr. Ratliff complete a residential treatment program addressing certain health conditions. On July 24, 2025, MPRP provided Dr. Ratliff with a list of recommended treatment facilities and requested that he notify MPRP which one he would enter by July 31, 2025.

Current Violation

On July 24, 2025, Dr. Ratliff notified MPRP that he was requesting changes to the professional assessment program evaluation assessment. He also notified the Board that he wished to transfer his monitoring from MPRP to the Oklahoma Health Professionals Program ("OHPP")

where Dr. Ratliff currently lives and was having an “intake meeting” with OHPP on August 6, 2025. He asked if MPRP would wait for the results of that meeting. MPRP requested that his requested modifications to the professional assessment program evaluation assessment report and the transfer to OHPP be discussed during the monthly clinical management meeting scheduled for July 25. That meeting was subsequently cancelled because Dr. Ratliff stated that he intended to record the meeting without MPRP’s consent and the MPRP case manager was not comfortable having their meeting recorded.

On July 28, 2025, MPRP sent Dr. Ratliff an email requesting that he sign and return an MPRP Participant Rehabilitation Plan. The MPRP letter also requested that he sign a release of information form authorizing OHPP and MPRP to communicate by July 29, 2025. In addition, MPRP requested that Dr. Ratliff choose a residential treatment program and sign a release of information for the treatment facility that he has chosen by July 31, 2025. Dr. Ratliff responded that he intended to have a “fresh start” evaluation with OHPP and that it would request the records, as necessary. He explicitly stated that he would not authorize the release of information to or from OHPP and would not select a residential treatment program. MPRP responded that it would be a violation of his Consent Order to refuse to comply with MPRP requests and he could not transfer to OHPP without MPRP’s authorization under the Consent Order. MPRP reiterated that he needed to sign a rehabilitation plan and information release for OHPP or his case would be closed for cause. Dr. Ratliff acknowledged the terms and confirmed that he intended to transfer to OHPP without following the recommendation for residential treatment. Dr. Ratliff failed to sign a rehabilitation plan and OHPP releases and MPRP closed the case for cause on July 30, 2025. MPRP reported the discharge to the Board on August 1, 2025. On August 7, 2025, Dr. Ratliff wrote a letter to the Board explaining his position that the closing of the case due to non-compliance was unfair.

On October 10, 2025, Panel A issued a Violation of Board Order and Notice to Show Cause alleging Dr. Ratliff violated the Consent Order.

Show Cause Hearing

On December 3, 2025, Panel A held a show cause hearing where Dr. Ratliff had the opportunity to argue why his license should not be subject to further discipline. At the Show Cause Hearing, Dr. Ratliff was represented by counsel and the State was represented by an administrative prosecutor. At the hearing, Dr. Ratliff's counsel expressed that Dr. Ratliff was willing to comply with MPRP going forward. He asked the Panel to consider extending the suspension and probation and allowing him to continue in MPRP. He did not contest the facts underlying the violations of the Consent Order. In response, the State summarized the facts of the current violation and recommended an extension of the suspension and continuation of the prior terms.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

Based on Dr. Ratliff's admission and corresponding evidence, Panel A concludes that Dr. Ratliff violated the terms of his Consent Order because he did not "fully and timely cooperate and comply with all of MPRP's referrals, rules and requirements . . . and comply with all therapy, treatment, evaluation, and screenings as directed by MPRP" when he failed to select and attend a residential treatment program after being directed to by MPRP in violation of Section (c) of the consent order. Dr. Ratliff also failed to "sign any out-of-state written release/consent forms to authorize the Board to exchange with (i.e., disclose to and receive from) the out-of-state program verbal and written information concerning the Respondent" when he failed to sign the information release for OHPP, in violation of Section (e) and (f) of the Consent Order. Finally, Dr. Ratliff is required to "enter into a . . . Participant Rehabilitation Plan with MPRP" and his failure to do so is a violation of Section (b) of the Consent Order. The Consent Order section (g) states that a failure

to comply with any of the above terms or conditions constitutes a violation of the Consent Order. The Panel finds that Dr. Ratliff's violations constitute a violation of the Consent Order.

SANCTION

Pursuant to the Consent Order, upon a finding of a violation, the Panel may reprimand Dr. Ratliff, place Dr. Ratliff on probation with appropriate terms and conditions, or suspend or revoke Dr. Ratliff's license to practice medicine in Maryland. Before the Panel, Dr. Ratliff, through counsel, acknowledged the violation and asked for another opportunity to comply with MPRP. At the Show Cause Hearing, both parties agreed that the suspension should be extended for the period of interruption since MPRP's discharge on July 30, 2025, a period of three or four months. Based on evidence that Dr. Ratliff expressed interest in complying with his MPRP participant rehabilitation plan, the Panel will impose a sanction of a Reprimand on Dr. Ratliff's license and allow him to continue his suspension and participation in MPRP, extending the term of suspension by approximately four months in addition to the remaining three months that Dr. Ratliff is still suspended.

ORDER

It is, thus, by Panel A, hereby

ORDERED that Jonathan M. Ratliff, M.D., is **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that the March 11, 2025 Consent Order suspension and terms and conditions of the suspension are **TERMINATED** and superseded by this Order after Show Cause Hearing; and it is further

ORDERED that the **SUSPENSION** of Dr. Ratliff's license to practice medicine in Maryland is continued for a minimum of **SEVEN MONTHS**¹ from the effective date of this Order, and until Dr. Ratliff has complied with the following terms and conditions:

¹ If Dr. Ratliff's license expires while he is suspended, the suspension and conditions will be tolled.

- (a) Within 5 business days, Dr. Ratliff shall reenroll in MPRP;
- (b) Within 15 business days, Dr. Ratliff shall enter into a Participant Rehabilitation Agreement and Participant Rehabilitation Plan with MPRP;
- (c) Dr. Ratliff shall fully and timely cooperate and comply with all MPRP's referrals, rules, and requirements, including, but not limited to, the terms and conditions of the Participant Rehabilitation Agreement(s) and Participant Rehabilitation Plan(s) entered with MPRP, and shall fully participate and comply with all therapy, treatment, evaluations, and screenings as directed by MPRP;
- (d) Dr. Ratliff shall sign and update the written release/consent forms requested by the Board and MPRP, including release/consent forms to authorize MPRP to make verbal and written disclosures to the Board and to authorize the Board to disclose relevant information from MPRP records and files in a public order. The Respondent shall not withdraw his release/consent;
- (e) Dr. Ratliff shall also sign or update any written release/consent forms to authorize MPRP to exchange with (i.e., disclose to and receive from) outside entities (including other state rehabilitation programs and all of Dr. Ratliff's current therapists and treatment providers) verbal and written information concerning Dr. Ratliff and to ensure that MPRP is authorized to receive the medical records of Dr. Ratliff, including, but not limited to, mental health and drug or alcohol evaluation and treatment records. Dr. Ratliff shall not withdraw his release/consent;
- (f) that if, upon the authorization of MPRP, Dr. Ratliff transfers to a rehabilitation program in another state, Dr. Ratliff's failure to comply with any term or condition of that state's [the out-of-state's] rehabilitation program, constitutes a violation of this Consent Order. Dr. Ratliff shall also sign any out-of-state written release/consent forms to authorize the Board to exchange with (i.e., disclose to and receive from) the out-of-state program verbal and written information concerning Dr. Ratliff, and to ensure that the Board is authorized to receive the medical records of Dr. Ratliff, including, but not limited to, mental health and drug or alcohol evaluation and treatment records. Dr. Ratliff shall not withdraw the release/consent;
- (g) Dr. Ratliff's failure to comply with any of the above terms or conditions including terms or conditions of the Participant Rehabilitation Agreement(s) or Participant Rehabilitation Plan(s) constitutes a violation of this Consent Order; and it is further

ORDERED that during the period of suspension, Dr. Ratliff shall not:

- (a) practice medicine;
- (b) take any actions after the effective date of this Order to hold himself out to the public as a current provider of medical services;

- (c) authorize, allow or condone the use of his name or provider number by any health care practice or any other licensee or health care provider;
- (d) function as a peer reviewer for the Board or for any hospital or other medical care facility in the state;
- (e) prescribe or dispense medications; or
- (f) perform any other act that requires an active medical license; and it is further

ORDERED that Dr. Ratliff shall not apply for early termination of suspension; and it is further

ORDERED that after the minimum period of suspension imposed by this Order has passed and if MPRP finds, and notifies the Board, that Dr. Ratliff is safe to return to the practice of medicine, Dr. Ratliff may submit a written petition to the disciplinary panel to terminate the suspension of his license. Dr. Ratliff may be required to appear before the disciplinary panel to discuss his petition for termination. If the disciplinary panel determines that it is safe for Dr. Ratliff to return to the practice of medicine, the suspension will be terminated through an Order of the disciplinary panel, and the disciplinary panel shall impose **PROBATION** for a minimum of **TWO (2) YEARS** with continued enrollment in MPRP and any other conditions it deems appropriate on Dr. Ratliff's return to practice. If the disciplinary panel determines that it is not safe for Dr. Ratliff to return to the practice of medicine, the suspension shall be continued through an Order of the disciplinary panel for a length of time determined by the disciplinary panel, and the disciplinary panel may impose any additional terms and conditions it deems appropriate; and it is further

ORDERED that a violation of the suspension constitutes a violation of this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that, if Dr. Ratliff allegedly fails to comply with any term or condition imposed by this Order, Dr. Ratliff shall be given notice and an opportunity for a hearing. If the

disciplinary panel determines there is a genuine dispute as to a material fact, the hearing shall be before an Administrative Law Judge of the Office of Administrative Hearings followed by an exceptions process before a disciplinary panel; and if the disciplinary panel determines there is no genuine dispute as to a material fact, Dr. Ratliff shall be given a show cause hearing before a disciplinary panel; and it is further

ORDERED that after the appropriate hearing, if the disciplinary panel determines that Dr. Ratliff has failed to comply with any term or condition imposed by this Order, the disciplinary panel may reprimand Dr. Ratliff, place Dr. Ratliff on probation with appropriate terms and conditions, or suspend with appropriate terms and conditions, or revoke Dr. Ratliff's license to practice medicine in Maryland. The disciplinary panel may, in addition to one or more of the sanctions set forth above, impose a civil monetary fine on Dr. Ratliff; and it is further

ORDERED that this Order shall not be amended or modified, and future requests for modification will not be considered by the Board or a disciplinary panel; and it is further

ORDERED that Dr. Ratliff is responsible for all costs incurred in fulfilling the terms and conditions of this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that the effective date of this Order is the date the order is signed by the Executive Director of the Board. The Executive Director signs the Order on behalf of the disciplinary panel which has imposed the terms and conditions of this Order; and it is further

ORDERED this Order is a public document. See Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 1-607, 14-411.1(b)(2) and Gen. Prov. § 4-333(b)(6).

12/15/2025
Date

Signature on file

Christine A. Farrelly, Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Physicians