

**State of New Hampshire
Board of Medicine
Concord, New Hampshire**

**In the Matter of:
Gail S. Ford, D.O.
License No.: 8215**

Docket No. 14-02

ORDER OF DENIAL OF LICENSE

The NH Board of Medicine ("Board") held a hearing regarding certain allegations of professional misconduct against Gail S. Ford, D.O. ("Respondent" or "Dr. Ford"). The hearing commenced on July 2, 2014 and was held in absentia following the Board's denial of Respondent's June 29, 2014 request for a continuance. In the Board's July 15, 2014 Order, it found that Respondent engaged in professional misconduct, in violation of RSA 329:17, VI (a), by knowingly providing false information on her 2013 renewal application.

As a result of these findings, the Board imposed an indefinite suspension of Respondent's license to practice medicine. The Board further ordered that Respondent could request a Show Cause hearing to lift the suspension after ninety (90) days. It was noted that if Respondent did not apply for renewal of her license, it would lapse automatically when it expired.

Respondent subsequently requested a Show Cause hearing after the requisite ninety (90) days. A Show Cause hearing was held on October 7, 2015 at 1:00 P.M. The following exhibits were admitted into evidence the day of the hearing:

Board's Exhibits

1. Letter from Lost Rivers Medical Center to Dr. Ford, dated 6/1/2012
2. Complaint against Dr. Ford filed with Idaho Board, dated 8/30/2012
3. Letter from Dr. Ford to Idaho Board, dated 10/28/2012
4. Letters from Susan Bunnell, M.D. (9/11/2012), Jared Morton, M.D. (11/11/2012) and Patrick Gorman, M.D. (dated 11/15/2012)
5. Idaho Board Stipulation and Order on Non-Practice Agreement, dated 3/1/2013
6. Idaho Board Stipulation and Order on License Surrender, dated 3/20/2013
7. DataBank Report of License Surrender, dated 4/22/2013
8. Dr. Ford's New Hampshire Medical License Renewal Application (& attached letter of 6/16/2013), dated 6/13/2013
9. Letter from Board Investigator Dori Lefebvre to Dr. Ford, dated 9/30/2013
10. Letter from Dr. Ford to Investigator Lefebvre, dated 11/21/2013
11. E-mail from Dr. Ford to Penny Taylor and Matthew Mavrogeorge, dated 7/2/2104

Respondent's Exhibits

- A. Intensive Diagnostic Evaluation from Professionals Treatment at Promises Treatment Centers regarding Dr. Ford, dated March 20, 2015
- B. Letter from Alan G. Avondet, M.D. dated August 27, 2015
- C. Letter from Robert E. Stahn dated August 25, 2015
- D. Letter from Dr. Ford dated September 2, 2015, along with Dr. Ford's "Professionals Treatment at Promises Treatment Centers" dated 3/20/15, together with records from Dr. Ford's treatment providers
- E. Gail S. Ford, D.O.'s medical records from Massachusetts General Hospital
- F. Letter from Dr. Ford indicating witnesses, with attached records from Massachusetts General Hospital

Discussion and Rulings

The Board indefinitely suspended the license of Gail Ford D.O. on July 15, 2014 pursuant to a hearing held *in absentia* on July 2, 2014. The indefinite suspension was based upon a finding that the Respondent did knowingly provide false information in her application for license renewal dated June 13, 2013 by providing false answers to questions 1, 5, 7, 8 and 9. It further found that the Respondent failed to provide the required written explanation for her yes answer to question 2 on the application.

The Board considered *inter alia* a Stipulation of Facts executed by the Respondent on June 10, 2014 and read into the record of the hearing on July 2, 2014. The Stipulation of Facts outlined in detail the facts relied upon by Hearing Counsel to prove that the Respondent provided false answers to questions 1, 5, 7, 8 and 9. She also admitted that she failed to provide a written explanation to her yes answer to question 2. These admissions are contained in Paragraphs 9-14 of the Stipulation of Facts. The Stipulation of Facts is incorporated herein by reference.

The Board gave the Respondent leave to request a Show Cause hearing to lift the suspension after ninety (90) days from the date of the Order. After several continuances the Board held a hearing on October 7, 2015 and accepted the exhibits listed above as well as testimony from the respondent and others.

The Board carefully considered the documentary and testimonial evidence and finds and rules as follows:

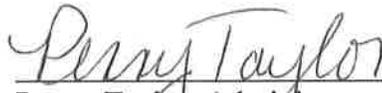
As stated in the Order of the Board on July 15, 2015 “The issue before the Board is a narrow one. It is limited to whether Respondent violated RSA 329:17, VI (a) by providing false information in her license renewal application in the form of making false affirmative statements and/or failing to disclose material facts.” Further, as noted above, the Respondent, in a properly submitted Stipulation of Facts, admitted that each and every false answer in the Notice of Hearing was given KNOWINGLY. The only justification presented for the false answers was “I felt like a criminal so I checked the wrong box”. This statement was contained in an email to the Board dated November 21, 2013.

The Respondent presented substantial evidence of her myriad emotional and physical maladies since 2012. She also presented documentary and testimonial evidence of the treatment she has undergone to responsibly address these issues, which is laudable. The Respondent expressed a good deal of compassion for her former patients, and the Board commends her obvious dedication to those she has cared for. Nonetheless, none of the evidence considered obviates the conclusion that the Respondent knowingly provided false answers to multiple questions in her 2013 license renewal application.

While the Board has empathy towards the Respondent and her plight, the Order of the Board dated July 15, 2014 is AFFIRMED.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD*

Dated: March 25, 2016



Penny Taylor, Administrator
Authorized Representative of the
New Hampshire Board of Medicine

*Louis Rosenthal, M.D., Board Member, recused.