

**GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD**

BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

JAN 07 2010

DOCKET NUMBER

20100052

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

**LAWRENCE W. MILLER, M.D.,
License No. 50078,
Respondent.**

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DOCKET NO.

PUBLIC CONSENT ORDER

By agreement of the Georgia Composite Medical Board ("Board") and Lawrence W. Miller, M.D. ("Respondent"), the following disposition of the matter is entered pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 50-13-13(a)(4).

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

Respondent is licensed to practice medicine in the State of Georgia and was licensed as such at all times relevant to the matters stated herein.

2.

Medical records show that on or about March 11, 2008, 15 year old patient B.M. presented at Respondent's office, Savannah Medical Clinic, Savannah, GA, for an induced termination of her approximate 15 week twin pregnancy. Medical records further show that Respondent was unable to complete the procedure, sent the patient back to the recovery room, and then back to the OR to resume the procedure. Medical records indicate that although Respondent recognized the abortion was incomplete and that perforation was possible, he sent the patient home with instructions to her family to go to the hospital ER if she complained of abdominal pain or vaginal bleeding. Medical records indicate that patient B.M. was admitted the same evening to Memorial Hospital, Savannah, GA, with severe abdominal/pelvic pain and

bleeding, and underwent emergent surgery to repair three (3) uterine perforations (5-6 cm long), complete the abortion and cystoscopy. Medical records show patient B.M. received four (4) units of blood and spent five (5) days in the hospital.

3.

A Board appointed peer reviewer evaluated Respondent's treatment of patient B.M. and concluded that it departed from and failed to conform to minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice in the following ways:

(a) Regarding diagnosis, Respondent failed to abandon the procedure when perforation was suspected along with what appeared to be fetal parts outside the uterus. Respondent also failed to immediately transfer the patient by ambulance to the hospital and allowed her to leave by private vehicle; and

(c) Regarding recordkeeping, Respondent's records indicate incomplete physical examination, skimpy, handwritten operative note and progress note with little emphasis on the likely perforation(s) and the recording of few vital signs despite the length of time in recovery and the seriousness of the patient's condition.

4.

Respondent admits the above findings of fact and waives any additional findings of fact in the above-referenced matter.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's conduct constitutes sufficient grounds for the Board to exercise its disciplinary authority and to impose sanctions on Respondent's license to practice medicine in

the State of Georgia under O.C.G.A. Chs. 1 and 34, T. 43, as amended. Respondent hereby waives any further conclusions of law with respect to the above-styled matter.

ORDER

The Georgia Composite Medical Board, having considered the particular facts and circumstances of this case, hereby orders and Respondent hereby agrees to the following terms:

1.

Respondent shall obtain twenty (20) hours of continuing medical education ("CME") in the area of pregnancy termination in addition to the CME required of all Georgia physicians. Prior to obtaining the CME, Respondent shall submit the title of the course(s) he plans to attend and information concerning the course(s) to the Board. Within one (1) year from the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall submit proof of completion of the additional twenty (20) hours to the Board.

2.

Respondent shall submit to the Board a fine of seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500.00) to be paid by cashier's check or money order made payable to the Georgia Composite Medical Board within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Order. Failure to pay the fine in full by the 90th day shall be considered a violation of this Order and shall result in further sanctioning of Respondent's license, including revocation, upon substantiation thereof.

3.

In addition to the fine, Respondent shall pay administrative fees in the amount of five hundred fifty dollars (\$550.00) as reimbursement to the Board of expenses incurred in the investigation of this matter, which expenses do not include time spent by the investigative division

of the Board. Said fees shall be payable by certified check or money order to the Georgia Composite Medical Board within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Consent Order. Failure to pay the entire amount by the 30th day shall be considered a violation of this Consent Order and shall result in further sanctioning of Respondent's license, including revocation, upon substantiation.

4.

This Consent Order and dissemination thereof shall be considered a public reprimand of Respondent by the Board.

5.

Respondent understands that pursuant to O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapter 34A, the contents of this order shall be placed on Respondent's Physician Profile. Furthermore, by executing this Consent Order, Respondent hereby agrees to permit the Board to update the Physician's Profile reflecting this Consent Order.

6.

Respondent acknowledges that he is represented by counsel and that he has read this Consent Order and understands its contents. Respondent understands that he has the right to a hearing in this matter and freely, knowingly and voluntarily waives that right by entering into this Consent Order. Respondent understands and agrees that a representative of the Department of Law may be present during the Board's consideration of this Consent Order and that the Board shall have the authority to review the investigative file and all relevant evidence in considering this Consent Order. Respondent further understands that this Consent Order will not become effective until approved and docketed by the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Respondent understands that this Consent Order, once approved and docketed, shall constitute a

public record, evidencing disciplinary action by the Board. However, if this Consent Order is not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding, or prejudice the right of the Board to adjudicate this matter. Respondent hereby consents to the terms and sanctions contained herein.

Approved, this 7th day of January, 2010.

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

(BOARD SEAL)

BY: _____

[Signature]
JOHN T. PERRY, M.D.
Chairperson

ATTEST:

[Signature]
LASHARN HUGHES
Executive Director

CONSENTED TO:

[As to Dr. Miller's signature:]

Sworn to and subscribed
before me this 4th day
of January, 2010.

[Signature]
LAWRENCE W. MILLER, M.D.
Respondent

Crystal L. Nichols
NOTARY PUBLIC
My commission expires:

[Signature]
CHRISTOPHER L. RAY, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

