BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

)))
) Case No. 16-2012-221242
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DECISION

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on January 2, 2013

IT IS SO ORDERED December 26, 2012.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Linda K. Whitney

Executive Director

1	KAMALA D. HARRIS				
2	Attorney General of California JOSE R. GUERRERO				
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General ESTHER H. LA				
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 160706				
5	455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000 San Francisco, CA 94102-7004				
6	Telephone: (415) 703-5636 Facsimile: (415) 703-5480				
7	Attorneys for Complainant				
8	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA				
9	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
10					
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 16-2012-221242				
12	LOUIS M. FERNANDEZ, M.D. 4855 Tanglewood Court				
13	Atlanta, GA 30327 STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND ORDER				
14	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G71660				
15	Respondent.				
16					
17	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties in this				
18	proceeding that the following matters are true:				
19	<u>PARTIES</u>				
20	1. Linda K. Whitney (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of				
21	California (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in				
22	this matter by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the State of California, by Esther H. La,				
23	Deputy Attorney General.				
24	2. Louis M. Fernandez, M.D. (Respondent) is representing himself in this proceeding				
25	and has chosen not to exercise his right to be represented by counsel.				
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JURISDICTION

- 3. On or about October 29, 2010, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G71660 to Respondent. Said Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on January 31, 2014, unless renewed.
- 4. Accusation No. 16-2012-221242 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of the Accusation is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in
 Accusation No. 16-2012-221242. Respondent also has carefully read, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel, at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- 8. Respondent agrees Complainant could establish a *prima facie* case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in the Accusation, and that he has thereby subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G71660 to discipline.
- 9. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation he enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate without further process.

CONTINGENCY

- Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and surrender, without notice to or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Surrender and Order shall be of no force or effect and, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 11. The parties understand and agree that facsimile or electronic copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 12. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Order:

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G71660, issued to Respondent Louis M. Fernandez, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Medical Board of California.

- 1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Medical Board of California.
- 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a physician and surgeon in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.
- 3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board his pocket license and, if one was issued, his wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.

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- If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in 4. the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 16-2012-221242 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.
- If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation, No. 16-2012-221242 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

12.14.2014 Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Dated: Dec. 18, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California JOSE R. GUERRERO Supervising Deputy Attorney General

Etter H. Le

Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 16-2012-221242

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	MEDICAL BOARD DEPARTMENT OF C STATE OF C In the Matter of the Accusation Against: LOUIS M. FERNANDEZ, M.D. 4855 Tanglewood Court Atlanta, GA 30327 Physician's and Surgeon's No. G 71660	FILED STATE OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA SACRAMENTO June 4 20 12 BY H. Park ANALYST RE THE OF CALIFORNIA CONSUMER AFFAIRS CALIFORNIA Case No. 16-2012-221242 A C C U S A T I O N	
15	Respondent.		
16			
17	Complainant alleges: PARTIES		
18		ngs this Accusation solely in her official capacity	
19 20			
21	as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs. 2. On or about October 29, 2010, the Medical Board of California issued Physician's and		
22	Surgeon's Number G 71660 to Louis M. Fernandez, M.D. ("Respondent"). Said Certificate was		
23	in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on		
24	January 31, 2014, unless renewed.		
25	///		
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Accusation (Case No. 16-2012-221242)

JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Medical Board of California ("Board"), ¹ Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
- 4. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other action taken in relation to discipline as the Division deems proper.
 - 5. Section 2305 of the Code states:

"The revocation, suspension, or other discipline, restriction or limitation imposed by another state upon a license or certificate to practice medicine issued by that state, or the revocation, suspension, or restriction of the authority to practice medicine by any agency of the federal government, that would have been grounds for discipline in California of a licensee under this chapter [Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act] shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct against the licensee in this state."

- 6. Section 141 of the Code states:
- "(a) For any licensee holding a license issued by a board under the jurisdiction of the department, a disciplinary action taken by another state, by any agency of the federal government, or by another country for any act substantially related to the practice regulated by the California license, may be a ground for disciplinary action by the respective state licensing board. A certified copy of the record of the disciplinary action taken against the licensee by another state, an agency of the federal government, or another country shall be conclusive evidence of the events related therein.
- "(b) Nothing in this section shall preclude a board from applying a specific statutory provision in the licensing act administered by that board that provides for discipline based upon a

^{1.} The term "Board" means the Medical Board of California; "Division of Medical Quality" shall also be deemed to refer to the Board.

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disciplinary action taken against the licensee by another state, an agency of the federal government, or another country."

CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Discipline, Restriction, or Limitation Imposed by Another State)

- 7. On or about January 13, 2012, the Division of Professional Regulation of the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation of the State of Illinois ("Illinois Department") issued a Consent Order suspending Respondent's license to practice for three months and requiring Respondent to successfully complete 25 additional hours of continuing medical education in the areas of medical ethics and also pay a fine of \$2,000.00. The Consent Order was based on findings by the Illinois Department that Respondent, during 2007 through 2009, while working as a consultant for Secure Telemedicine, LLC, had prescribed medications, including controlled substances, over the internet without personally meeting with or conducting a physical examination of the patients who received the prescribed medications. A true and correct copy of the January 13, 2012 Consent Order issued by the Illinois Department is attached as Exhibit A.
- 8. Respondent's conduct and the action of the Illinois Department as set forth in paragraph 7, above, constitute grounds for disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct within the meaning of Code section 2305 and grounds for disciplinary action within the meaning of Code section 141.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Medical Board of California issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Number G 71660, issued to Respondent Louis M. Fernandez, M.D.;
- 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Louis M. Fernandez, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants, pursuant to section 3527 of the Code;
- 3. Ordering Louis M. Fernandez, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the costs of probation monitoring: and

1	4. Taking such other and furth	ner action as deemed necessary and proper.
2		
3	DATED: June 4, 2012	LINDA K. WHITNEY
4		Executive Director Medical Board of California
5		Medical Board of California Department of Consumer Affairs State of California
6		Complainant
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STATE OF ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND)
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION)
of the State of Illinois	Complainant)
v.) No. 200802557
LOUIS M. FERNANDEZ,	Respondent)
License No. 036089058)

CONSENT ORDER

The Division of Professional Regulation of the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation of the State of Illinois by David K. Igasaki, one of its attorneys, and Louis M. Fernandez, Respondent, hereby agree to the following:

STIPULATIONS

Louis M. Fernandez is licensed as a Physician and Surgeon in the State of Illinois, holding license No 036089058. At all times material to the matter set forth in this Consent Order, the Division of Professional Regulation of the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation of the State of Illinois had jurisdiction over the subject matter and parties herein.

Information has come to the attention of the Department that, over a period of time between 2007 through 2009, while working as a consulting physician for Secure Telemedicine, LLC, the Respondent prescribed medications, including controlled substances, over the internet without personally meeting with or conducting a physical examination of the patients who received the prescribed medications.

The allegation as set forth herein, if proven to be true, could constitute grounds for suspending or revoking Respondent's license as a Physician and Surgeon, on the authority of Illinois Compiled Statutes (2006), Chapter 225, paragraph(s) 60/22 (A) (5) and (17).

As a result of the foregoing allegation, the Department held an Informal Conference at the offices of the Department, 100 West Randolph Street, Suite 9-300. Chicago, Illinois 60601 on November 17, 2010. Respondent appeared in person on that date, represented by Anne M. Oldenburg. Georgia B. Lubben, M.D., appeared as a member of the Medical Disciplinary Board of the State of Illinois and David K. Igasaki appeared as an attorney for the Department. Subsequent to the filing of a Formal Complaint, Respondent reopened negotiations, through attorney Michael G. Erens, and agreement was reached on the terms as set forth below.

Respondent, for purposes of this Consent Order only, admits the allegation in this Consent Order.

Respondent has been advised of the right to have the pending allegation reduced to written charges, the right to a hearing, the right to contest any charges brought, and the right to administrative review of any Order resulting from a hearing. Respondent

knowingly waives each of these rights, as well as any right to administrative review of this Consent Order.

Respondent and the Department have agreed, in order to resolve this matter, that Louis M. Fernandez be permitted to enter into a Consent Order with the Department, providing for the imposition of disciplinary measures which are fair and equitable in the circumstances and which are consistent with the best interests of the people of the State of Illinois.

CONDITIONS

WHEREFORE, the Department, through David K. Igasaki, its attorney, and Louis M. Fernandez, agree:

- A. Louis M. Fernandez's license as a Physician and Surgeon, License No.036089058, is Suspended for three (3) months.
- B. Respondent shall successfully complete twenty five (25) additional hours of continuing medical education in medical ethics within three (3) months of the effective date of this Consent Order. Such courses shall be in addition to the continuing medical education hours required for licensure and the courses shall be pre-approved by the Chief Medical Coordinator.
- C. Louis M. Fernandez's license as a Physician and Surgeon, License No.036089058, is Fined in the amount of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2000.00).

- Said fine shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this
 Consent Order.
- E. Said fine shall be paid to the SSC- Accounts Receivable Section- FinesIllinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation- 320 W.

 Washington Street- # 344- P.O. Box # 7086- Springfield, Illinois 627917086 and shall be made payable to the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation with the case number of this case clearly marked on the check or money order.
- F. Respondent Louis M. Fernandez agrees that any violation of this Consent
 Order permits the Director of the Division of Professional Regulation to
 issue an Order forthwith mandating the automatic, indefinite, and
 immediate suspension of Respondent's license as a Physician and Surgeon
 for a minimum period of one (1) year. This suspension shall not preclude
 the Department from taking any other disciplinary or other action it deems
 appropriate by filing an appropriate Complaint or sending an appropriate
 Notice. In the event Respondent contests in writing, by the filing of an
 appropriate Petition with the Department, the factual basis underlying said
 suspension within thirty (30) days of the imposition thereof, then
 Respondent shall be afforded a hearing on the merits within thirty (30)
 days from filing of said Petition.

G. This Consent Order shall become effective immediately after it is approved by the Director of the Division.

> DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION of the State of Illinois

9/30/2	SII
DATE	

Attorney for the Department

Louis M. Fernandez Respondent

Anne M. Oldenburg

Attorney for the Respondent

Member, Medical Disciplinary Boar

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION of the State of Illinois BRENT E. ADAMS, SECRETARY Division of Professional Regulation

JAY SVEWART DIRECTOR

REF: License No.036089058 Case No. 200802557