

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS BRANCH

In re: Edward J. Watson, M.D.

Petition No. 2005-0505-001-121

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, Edward J. Watson of New London, Connecticut (hereinafter "respondent") has been issued license number 029712 to practice as a physician and surgeon by the Department of Public Health (hereinafter "the Department") pursuant to Chapter 370 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, the Department alleges that:

1. Respondent specializes in obstetrics and gynecology at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital in New London, Connecticut. On or about September 22, 2004, an 18-year old female patient was admitted to Lawrence and Memorial for induction of labor at approximately 41 weeks gestation with a diagnosis of oligohydramnios. Intrapartum records identify persistent fetal heart rate decelerations from approximately 9:34 a.m. to delivery at 11:13 a.m. on September 23, 2004. Despite the fetal heart rate decelerations, respondent attempted to proceed with a vaginal forcep and vacuum delivery without success. In addition, respondent failed to record the station or presentation of the fetal head prior to application of the vacuum extractor or forceps.
2. At approximately 11:13 a.m., a 7-pound, 9-ounce female was delivered vaginally after suctioning thick meconium. The infant was intubated and subsequently transferred to Yale-New Haven Hospital for further treatment, where a CT-scan revealed an occipital fracture, subarachnoid and tentorial hemorrhage and a small amount of intraventricular hemorrhage. On or about October 8, 2004, the infant was discharged from Yale-New Haven Hospital with a guarded prognosis and requirement for neurological follow-up.
3. The above described facts constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, §20-13c, including, but not limited to §20-13c(4).

WHEREAS, respondent, in consideration of this Consent Order, has chosen not to contest the above allegations of wrongdoing but, while admitting no guilt or wrongdoing, agrees that for purposes of this or any future proceedings before the Connecticut Medical Examining Board (hereinafter "the Board"), this Consent Order shall have the same effect as if proven and ordered

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after a full hearing held pursuant to §§19a-10, 19a-14 and 20-13c of the General Statutes of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, respondent, since the initiation of this petition, has obtained American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists continuing education relating to fetal monitoring and medical documentation standards and successfully completed the National Certification Corporation's fetal monitoring certification process; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology for Lawrence and Memorial Hospital, since the initiation of this petition, has reviewed respondent's practice and instituted revised facility practices related to electronic fetal monitoring strip interpretation, documentation standards and communication between the labor and delivery staff and indicated that respondent has been practicing with reasonable skill and safety.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to §§19a-14, 19a-17 and 20-13c of the General Statutes of Connecticut, respondent hereby stipulates and agrees to the following:

1. Respondent waives his right to a hearing on the merits of this matter.
2. Respondent's license number 029712 to practice as a physician and surgeon in the State of Connecticut is hereby reprimanded.
3. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of ten-thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) by certified or cashier's check payable to "Treasurer, State of Connecticut." The check shall reference the Petition Number on the face of the check, and shall be payable at the time respondent submits the executed Consent Order to the Department.
4. Respondent shall comply with all state and federal statutes and regulations applicable to his licensure.
5. Respondent shall pay all costs necessary to comply with this Consent Order.

6. Legal notice shall be sufficient if sent to respondent's last known address of record reported to the Office of Practitioner Licensing and Certification of the Bureau of Healthcare Systems of the Department.
7. This Consent Order is effective on the first day of the month immediately following the date this Consent Order is accepted and ordered by the Board.
8. Respondent agrees that this Consent Order shall be deemed a public document, and the Department's allegations as contained in this Consent Order shall be deemed true in any subsequent proceeding before the Board in which his compliance with this Consent Order or with §20-13c of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended, is at issue.  
Further, respondent understands that unless the only discipline imposed by this Consent Order is a civil penalty, this action will be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank and that all disciplinary actions will appear on his physician profile pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 20-13j.
9. This Consent Order and terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review under any form or in any forum. Further, this Order is not subject to appeal or review under the provisions of Chapters 54 or 368a of the General Statutes of Connecticut, provided that this stipulation shall not deprive respondent of any rights that he may have under the laws of the State of Connecticut or of the United States.
10. This Consent Order is a revocable offer of settlement which may be modified by mutual agreement or withdrawn by the Department at any time prior to its being executed by the last signatory.
11. Respondent permits a representative of the Legal Office of the Healthcare Systems Branch to present this Consent Order and the factual basis for this Consent Order to the Board.

Respondent understands that the Board has complete and final discretion as to whether this executed Consent Order is approved or accepted.

12. Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to signing this document.
13. The execution of this document has no bearing on any criminal liability without the written consent of the Director of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit or the Bureau Chief of the Division of Criminal Justice's Statewide Prosecution Bureau.

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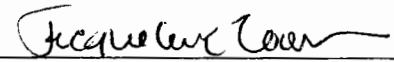
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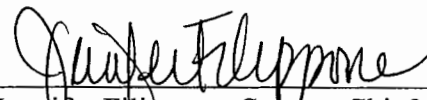
I, Edward J. Watson, have read the above Consent Order, and I stipulate and agree to the terms as set forth therein. I further declare the execution of this Consent Order to be my free act and deed.

  
Edward J. Watson, M.D.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 2006.

  
Notary Public or person authorized  
by law to administer an oath or affirmation  
JACQUES L. COHEN  
JULY 22, 2004  
MIDGONVILLE, MISSOURI, 64578

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of November 2006, it is hereby accepted.

  
Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief  
Practitioner Licensing and Investigations  
Healthcare Systems Branch

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Connecticut Medical Examining Board on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 2006, it is hereby ordered and accepted.

  
Connecticut Medical Examining Board