

BEFORE THE BOARD OF HEALING ARTS
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF)
)
W. L. COKER, M.D.)
Kansas License No. 04-19319)
_____)

Case # 97-00682
FEB 16 1997

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF
HEALING ARTS

STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT
AND ENFORCEMENT ORDER

COMES NOW, the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts ("Board") by and through Kevin K. LaChance, Disciplinary Counsel ("Petitioner"), and W. L. Coker, M.D. ("Licensee"), and stipulate and agree as follows:

1. The Board is the sole and exclusive administrative agency in the State of Kansas authorized to regulate the practice of the healing arts, specifically the practice of medicine and surgery. K.S.A. 65-2801 et seq; K.S.A. 65-2869. Licensee admits that this Stipulation and Agreement and Enforcement Order ("Stipulation") and the filing of such document are in accordance with the requirements of law; that the Board has jurisdiction to consider the Stipulation and is lawfully constituted to consider this matter to include consideration of this Stipulation. Licensee further notes that the Kansas Healing Arts Act is constitutional on its face and as applied in this case. Licensee further acknowledges that the Board, acting in this matter, is not acting beyond the jurisdiction referred to it by any provision of law.

2. Licensee is or has been entitled to engage in the practice of medicine and surgery in the State of Kansas, having been issued license number 04-19319 on December 5, 1981. At all times relevant to the allegations set forth below, Licensee has held a current license to engage in the practice of medicine and surgery in the state of Kansas, having last renewed his license on June 14, 1996.

3. The Board has received information, has investigated such information, and has reasonable cause to believe that Licensee has committed certain acts in violation of the Healing Arts Act. K.S.A. 65-2801 et seq; K.S.A. 65-2836. Specifically, it is alleged that Licensee violated K.S.A. 65-2836(i), in that Licensee has the inability to practice the branch of the healing arts for which Licensee is licensed with reasonable skill and safety to patients

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Further, it is alleged that Licensee violated K.S.A. 65-2836(s), in that Sanctions or disciplinary actions have been taken against Licensee by two health care facilities for acts or conduct similar to acts or conduct which would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under the Healing Arts Act. The Board states it would present substantial evidence in an administrative hearing in support of its allegations. Licensee neither confirms nor denies the allegations

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but admits the allegations pertaining to the sanctions and/or disciplinary actions taken by the health care facilities.

4. Such acts or conduct as set forth above could constitute grounds for disciplinary action by the Board pursuant to the cited provisions of the Healing Arts Act. Under the provisions of K.S.A. 65-2838(a), the Board has jurisdiction to impose appropriate discipline if a licensee to the Board has engaged in any commissions or omissions to bring licensee within the purview of K.S.A. 65-2836. Under the provisions of K.S.A. 65-2838(b), the Board has authority to enter into this Stipulation without the necessity of proceeding to a formal hearing. Licensee voluntarily and affirmatively waives his right to a hearing pertaining to any matter under the jurisdiction of the Board regarding his license to engage in the practice of medicine and surgery. Licensee voluntarily and knowingly waives his right to present a defense by oral testimony and documentary evidence, to submit rebuttal

evidence, to conduct such cross-examination of witnesses as may be desired and to waive any and all substantive and procedural motions and defenses that could be raised if an administrative hearing would be held.

The terms and conditions of the Stipulation are entered into between the undersigned parties and are submitted for the purpose of allowing these terms and conditions to become an Order of the Board. This Stipulation shall not be binding on the Board until an authorized signature is affixed at the end of this document. Upon signature by Licensee to this document, it shall be deemed a unilateral contract and agreement and shall bind Licensee to the terms and conditions set forth in the Stipulation whether or not the Board's signature is affixed to the document. Licensee specifically acknowledges that counsel for the Board is not authorized to sign for nor bind the Board.

5. In consideration of the conditions, terms, covenants, and promises contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

a) In lieu of the commencement of formal proceedings and/or the making of findings by the Board, Licensee, by signature attached to this Stipulation, hereby voluntarily agrees to the following disciplinary measures placed on his license to engage in the practice of medicine and surgery in the State of Kansas:

i) Licensee agrees that his license to practice medicine and surgery is hereby placed in an inactive status for an indefinite period of time upon Licensee's placement of his signature upon this Stipulation.

ii) Licensee agrees that the indefinite period shall be a minimum of one-year in length commencing the date Licensee places his signature upon this Stipulation. Licensee further agrees that, prior to applying for a change of his inactive status, he will enter into a contract

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the terms of which will be adopted as part of this Stipulation as if fully restated herein. Confidential

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Licensee agrees

and understands that this requirement is a condition precedent to his applying for a change of his inactive status, and that the Board will exercise its independent judgement as to whether and/or to what conditions Licensee may resume the practice of medicine and surgery. Licensee agrees that he bears the burden of proof before the Board pertaining to the issue of whether or not his license status should be changed.

b) Licensee's failure to comply with the provisions of the Stipulation will result in the Board taking disciplinary action as the Board deems appropriate in compliance with the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act and/or the terms of this Stipulation.

c) Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to deny the Board jurisdiction to investigate alleged violations of the Healing Arts Act, or to investigate complaints received under the Risk Management Law, K.S.A. 65-4921 et seq, that are unknown and are not covered under the conditions of this Stipulation, or to initiate formal proceedings based upon known or unknown allegations of violations of the Healing Arts Act, including the information which provides the basis for this Stipulation.

d) This Stipulation constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and may only be modified and/or amended by a subsequent document executed in the same manner by the parties.

e) Licensee acknowledges that he has read this Stipulation and fully understands its contents. Licensee acknowledges that this Stipulation has been entered in freely and voluntarily given.

f) Licensee releases the Board, its employees and agents, from all claims to mean those damages, actions, liabilities and causes of ac-

tions, both administrative and civil, including the Kansas Act for Judicial Review and Civil Enforcement of Agency Actions; K.S.A. 77-601 et seq. This release shall discharge the Board of any and all claims or demands of every kind and nature that Licensee has claimed to have had at the time of this release or might have had, either known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, and Licensee shall not commence to prosecute, cause or permit to be prosecuted, any action or proceeding of any description against the Board, its employees or agents, arising out of acts leading to the execution of this Stipulation and Agreement or the contents of this Stipulation and Agreement.

g) Licensee acknowledges that this document shall be deemed a public disciplinary record upon Licensee's signing this document and Board acceptance of the terms of this document. Licensee further acknowledges this action is reportable to the National Practitioner Data Bank and the Federation of State Medical Boards and other reporting agencies.

h) Licensee authorizes Petitioner to present this Stipulation to the Board for its consideration and to fully disclose to and discuss with the Board the nature and results of the investigation, even if Licensee is not present.

6. All correspondence or communication between Licensee and the Board shall be by certified mail addressed to: Kansas State Board of Healing Arts, ATTENTION: Disciplinary Counsel, 235 S. Topeka Boulevard, Topeka, Kansas 66603-3068.

7. Licensee shall obey all federal, state, and local laws and rules governing the practice of medicine and surgery in the State of Kansas that may be in place at the time of execution of the Stipulation and Agreement or may become effective subsequent to the execution of this document.

8. Licensee has an affirmative duty to notify the Board of changes in his personal professional status which would inhibit compliance with the above conditions in this Stipulation.

9. Upon execution of this Stipulation by the affixing of a Board authorized signature below, the provisions of this Stipulation shall become an Order of the Board and shall be deemed a proper and lawful Enforcement Order under K.S.A. 65-2838. This Stipulation shall constitute the Board's Order when filed with the Office of the Executive Director for the Board and no further Order is required.

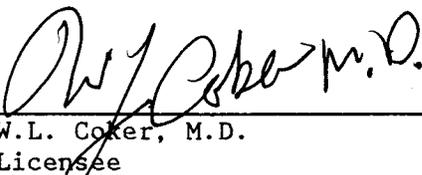
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this agreement on the

15th day of February, 1996.

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF HEALING ARTS

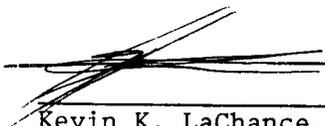

Lawrence T. Buening, Jr.
Executive Director

Feb 15, 1997
Date

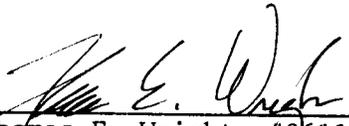

W.L. Coker, M.D.
Licensee

12-24-96
Date

Prepared and Approved As To Form By:



Kevin K. LaChance, #15058
Disciplinary Counsel
Kansas State Board of Healing Arts
235 S. Topeka Boulevard
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3068
(913) 296-2075



Thomas E. Wright, #06115
Counsel for Licensee
Wright, Henson, Somers, Sebelius, Clark & Baker
Commerce Bank Building, 2d Floor
Topeka, Kansas 66601-3555
(913) 232-2200

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Lawrence T. Buening, do hereby certify that on the 15th day of February, 1997, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT ORDER was deposited in the United States mail, first class, postage prepaid to the following:

W. Laurence Coker, M.D.
901 Garfield
Topeka, KS 66606

and

Thomas E. Wright, #06115
Counsel for Licensee
Wright, Henson, Somers, Sebelius, Clark & Baker
Commerce Bank Building, 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66601-3555
(913) 232-2200

and a copy was hand-delivered to:

Kevin K. LaChance #15058
Disciplinary Counsel
Kansas State Board of Healing Arts
235 S. Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66603
(913) 296-2075


LAWRENCE T. BUENING, JR.
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