



**FILED**



**JUL 12 2013**

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF HEALING ARTS  
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

**KS State Board of Healing Arts**

In the Matter of )  
Joel P. Higgins, D.C. )  
Kansas License No. Pending )

Docket No. 14-HA 00002

**CONSENT ORDER**

**COMES NOW**, the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts, (“Board”), by and through Jessica A. Bryson, Associate Litigation Counsel (“Petitioner”), and Joel P. Higgins, D.C. (“Applicant”), *pro se*, and move the Board for approval of a Consent Order affecting Applicant’s license to practice chiropractic in the State of Kansas. The Parties stipulate and agree to the following:

1. Applicant’s last known mailing address to the Board is: **Confidential**  
Hutchinson, Kansas 67501.
2. On or about December 31, 2012, Applicant submitted to the Board an application for licensure in chiropractic. Such application was deemed complete and filed with the Board on July 8, 2013.
3. 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 chiropractic. K.S.A. 65-2801 *et seq.* and K.S.A. 65-2871.
4. This Consent Order and the filing of such document are in accordance with applicable law and the Board has jurisdiction to enter into the Consent Order as provided by K.S.A. 77-505 and 65-2838. Upon approval, these stipulations shall

constitute the findings of the Board, and this Consent Order shall constitute the Board's Final Order.

5. The Kansas Healing Arts Act is constitutional on its face and as applied in the case. Applicant agrees that, in considering this matter, the Board is not acting beyond its jurisdiction as provided by law.
6. Applicant voluntarily and knowingly waives his right to a hearing. Applicant voluntarily and knowingly waives his right to present a defense by oral testimony and documentary evidence, to submit rebuttal evidence, and to conduct cross-examination of witnesses. Applicant voluntarily and knowingly agrees to waive all possible substantive and procedural motions and defenses that could be raised if an administrative hearing were held.
7. The terms and conditions of the Consent Order 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 Consent Order shall not be binding on the Board until an authorized signature is affixed at the end of this document. Applicant specifically acknowledges that counsel for the Board is not authorized to sign this Consent Order on behalf of the Board.
8. The Board has received information and investigated the same, and has reason to believe that there may be grounds pursuant to K.S.A. 65-2836(i), to take action with respect to Applicant's license under the Kansas Healing Arts Act, K.S.A. 65-2801, *et seq.*
9. In Applicant's application for a license, he disclosed receiving two (2) DUIs.

10. In regard to the first DUI that occurred in 2007, Applicant explained that he had been at a bar with a friend and made the mistake of believing he was sober enough to drive when they left the bar.
11. Applicant entered into, and successfully completed, a diversion for the first DUI in August 2008.
12. In regard to the second DUI that occurred in 2008, Applicant explained that he had a party on his parents' land for a friend who was returning from military deployment in Japan. He stated that he had decided to close the gate to his parents' land to prevent people from leaving and driving while inebriated. He stated that he drove to the gate, stopped approximately 150 yards from the gate, walked to the gate, and found police officers investigating "mysterious activity" near his neighbors' property. He stated that the officers arrested him for DUI.
13. Applicant successfully completed probation for his second DUI in September 2009.

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19. Applicant acknowledges that if formal hearing proceedings were conducted and Applicant presented no exhibits, witnesses or other evidence, the Board has sufficient evidence to prove that Applicant has violated the Kansas Healing Arts Act with respect to the above allegations. Applicant further waives his right to dispute or otherwise contest the allegations contained in the above paragraphs in any further proceeding before this Board.

20. A protective order is hereby entered to protect all confidential information under 42 CFR Part II, K.S.A. 65-2836(i), and K.S.A. 65-4925.

21. Applicant's acts, if proven, constitute unprofessional conduct as set forth in K.S.A. 65-2836.

22. Applicant violated K.S.A. 65-2836(b), as set forth in K.S.A. 65-2837(b)(12) by committing conduct likely to harm the public. Applicant's driving while under the influence of alcohol is conduct likely to harm the public.

23. Applicant violated K.S.A. 65-2836(i) Confidential  
Confidential

24. Pursuant to K.S.A. 65-2836, the Board may revoke, suspend, limit, censure or place under probationary conditions Applicant's license, and pursuant to K.S.A. 65-2863a the Board has the authority to impose administrative fines for violations of the Kansas Healing Arts Act.
25. According to K.S.A. 65-2838(b) and K.S.A. 77-505, the Board has authority to enter into this Consent Order without the necessity of proceeding to a formal hearing.
26. All pending investigation materials in KSBHA Investigative Case Number 13-00445 regarding Applicant, were fully reviewed and considered by the Board members who serve on the Board's Disciplinary Panel. Disciplinary Panel No. 28 authorized and directed Board counsel to seek settlement of this matter with the provisions contained in this Consent Order.
27. Applicant further understands and agrees that if the Board finds, after due written notice and an opportunity for a hearing, that Applicant has failed to comply with and abide by any of the terms of this Consent Order, the Board may immediately impose any sanction provided for by law, including but not limited to suspension or revocation of Applicant's license to practice chiropractic in the State of Kansas. Applicant hereby expressly understands and agrees that, at any such hearing, the sole issue shall be whether or not Applicant has failed to comply with any of the terms or conditions set forth in this Consent Order. The Board acknowledges that at any such hearing, Applicant retains the right to confront and examine all witnesses, present evidence, testify on his own behalf, contest the allegations, present oral argument, appeal to the courts, and all other rights set

forth in the Kansas Administrative Procedures Act, K.S.A. 77-501 *et seq.*, and the Kansas Healing Arts Act, K.S.A. 65-2801 *et seq.*

28. Nothing in this Consent Order shall be construed to deny the Board jurisdiction to investigate alleged violations of the Kansas Healing Arts Act, or to investigate complaints received under the Risk Management Law, K.S.A. 65-4921 *et seq.*, that are known or unknown and are not covered under this Consent Order, or to initiate formal proceedings based upon known or unknown allegations of violations of the Kansas Healing Arts Act.
29. Applicant hereby releases the Board, its individual members (in their official and personal capacity), attorneys, employees and agents, hereinafter collectively referred to as "Releasees", from any and all claims, including but not limited to those alleged damages, actions, liabilities, both administrative and civil, including the Kansas Judicial Review Act, K.S.A. 77-601 *et seq.* arising out of the investigation and acts leading to the execution of this Consent Order. This release shall forever discharge the Releasees of any and all claims or demands of every kind and nature that Applicant has claimed to have had at the time of this release or might have had, either known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, and Applicant shall not commence to prosecute, cause or permit to be prosecuted, any action or proceeding of any description against the Releasees.
30. Applicant further understands and agrees that upon signature by Applicant, this document shall be deemed a public record and shall be reported to any entities authorized to receive disclosure of the Consent Order.

31. This Consent Order, when signed by both parties, constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and may only be modified or amended by a subsequent document executed in the same manner by the parties.
32. Applicant agrees that all information maintained by the Board pertaining to the nature and result of any complaint and/or investigation may be fully disclosed to and considered by the Board in conjunction with the presentation of any offer of settlement, even if Applicant is not present. Applicant further acknowledges that the Board may conduct further inquiry as it deems necessary before the complete or partial acceptance or rejection of any offer of settlement.
33. Applicant, by signature to this document, waives any objection to the participation of the Board members, including the Disciplinary Panel and General Counsel, in the consideration of this offer of settlement and agrees not to seek the disqualification or recusal of any Board member or General Counsel in any future proceedings on the basis that the Board member or General Counsel has received investigative information from any source which otherwise may not be admissible or admitted as evidence.
34. Applicant acknowledges that he has read this Consent Order and fully understands the contents.
35. Applicant acknowledges that this Consent Order has been entered into freely and voluntarily.
36. All correspondence or communication between Applicant and the Board relating to the Consent Order shall be by certified mail addressed to the Kansas State

Board of Healing Arts, Attn: Compliance Coordinator, 800 SW Jackson, Lower Level-Suite A, Topeka, Kansas 66612.

37. Applicant shall obey all federal, state and local laws and rules governing the practice of chiropractic in the State of Kansas that may be in place at the time of execution of the Consent Order or may become effective subsequent to the execution of this document.
38. Upon execution of this Consent Order by affixing a Board authorized signature below, the provisions of this Consent Order shall become a Final Order under K.S.A. 65-2838. This Consent Order shall constitute the Board's Order when filed with the office of the Executive Director for the Board and no further Order is required.
39. This Consent Order does not constitute disciplinary action.
40. The Board may consider all aspects of this Consent Order in any future matter regarding Applicant.
41. Applicant understands that a Temporary License shall be issued based upon Applicant's signing this Consent Order, paying the temporary license fee, Confidential, and abiding by the terms of this Consent Order. Applicant further understands that the Temporary License is only effective until a conference hearing is held by the Board on ratification of this Consent Order and that if the Board fails to ratify this Consent Order, the Temporary License shall immediately expire at the conclusion such hearing. If the Board ratifies this Consent Order, Applicant shall be issued a permanent license under the terms of this Consent Order.

42. In lieu of conducting a formal proceeding, Applicant, by signature affixed to this Consent Order, hereby voluntarily agrees to the following non-disciplinary action as a condition to being granted licensure on his license to engage in the practice of chiropractic:

**MONITORING**

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50. Applicant will furnish a copy of this Consent Order to each and every state in which he holds licensure or applies for licensure and to an appropriate work site supervisor or personnel ; Confidential

51. Applicant shall immediately notify the Board or its designee of any citation, arrest or charge filed against him or of any conviction for any traffic or criminal offenses.

52. Applicant shall at all times keep Board staff informed of all his current practice locations, addresses and telephone numbers. Licensee shall provide the above information in writing to the Board within ten (10) days of any such change.

**TIMEFRAME**

53. The above monitoring provisions are not self-terminating. After a period of three (3) years, Applicant may request modification or termination of the provisions. For any period of time that Applicant is not actively practicing chiropractic in Kansas, the monitoring provisions will remain in effect but will be tolled and not counted towards reducing the three (3) year timeframe.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that the Consent Order and agreement of the parties contained herein is adopted by the Board as findings of fact, conclusions of law, and as a Final Order of the Board.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that upon meeting all technical requirements for licensure, Applicant shall be granted a license, pursuant to the conditions above.

**IT IS SO ORDERED** on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013.

**FOR THE KANSAS STATE  
BOARD OF HEALING ARTS:**

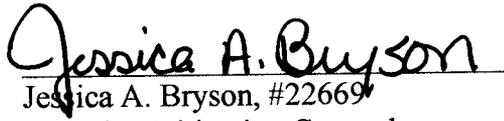
  
Kathleen Selzlet Lippert  
Executive Director

7/12/13  
Date

  
Joel P. Higgins, D.C.  
Applicant

7-2-13  
Date

PREPARED AND APPROVED BY:

  
Jessica A. Bryson, #22669

Associate Litigation Counsel  
Kansas Board of Healing Arts  
800 SW Jackson Ave, Lower Level Ste A  
Topeka, Kansas 66612  
785-296-8022

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I served a true and correct copy of the Consent Order by United States mail, postage prepaid, on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013, to the following:

Joel P. Higgins, D.C.  
Applicant  
**Confidential**  
Hutchinson, Kansas 67501

And the original was hand-filed with:

Kathleen Selzler Lippert  
Executive Director  
Kansas Board of Healing Arts  
800 SW Jackson, Lower Level-Suite A  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

And a copy was hand-delivered to:

Jessica A. Bryson  
Associate Litigation Counsel  
Kansas Board of Healing Arts  
800 SW Jackson, Lower Level-Suite A  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Compliance Coordinator  
Kansas Board of Healing Arts  
800 SW Jackson, Lower Level-Suite A  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Katy Lenahan  
Licensing Administrator  
Kansas Board of Healing Arts  
800 SW Jackson, Lower Level-Suite A  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

*Cathy A. Brown*  
