

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

In the Matter of)
Steven D. Ringel, M.D.)
Kansas License No. 04-28474)

)

Docket No. 05-HA-35

CONSENT ORDER

COMES NOW the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts ("Board"), by and through Stacy L. Cook, Litigation Counsel ("Petitioner"), and Steven Ringel, M.D. ("Licensee"), and move the Board for approval of a Consent Order affecting Licensee's license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of Kansas. The parties stipulate and agree to the following:

1. Licensee's last known mailing address to the Board is PO Box 26706, Shawnee Mission, KS 66225.
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 No. 04-28474 on October 16, 1999. Licensee's license status is inactive.
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 medicine and surgery.
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. 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 as applied in this case.

6. Licensee agrees that, in considering this matter, the Board is not acting beyond its jurisdiction as provided by law.

7. Licensee voluntarily and knowingly waives his right to a hearing. Licensee 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. Licensee voluntarily and knowingly agrees to waive all possible substantive and procedural motions and defenses that could be raised if an administrative hearing were held.

8. 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. Licensee specifically acknowledges that counsel for the Board is not authorized to sign this Consent Order on behalf of the Board.

9. From approximately September of 2000 through April of 2004, Licensee wrote or phoned in prescriptions for Hydrocodone, a controlled substance, for use outside the scope of professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose.

10. Licensee wrote or phoned in the prescriptions using fictitious patient names and agreed with acquaintances that they would obtain and acquire

the controlled substances for their use and Licensee's use. On other occasions Licensee used a fictitious name and obtained the medications himself.

11. Licensee and his acquaintances obtained at least 30,000 dosage units of Hydrocodone in this manner.

12. Licensee failed to create and/or maintain medical records regarding the prescribing of controlled substances.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

15. According to K.S.A. 65-2838(b), the Board has authority to enter into this Consent Order without the necessity of proceeding to a formal hearing.

16. In lieu of the conclusion of formal proceedings, Licensee, by signature affixed to this Consent Order, hereby voluntarily agrees to the following disciplinary measures:

- a. Licensee hereby surrenders his license to practice medicine and surgery. Such surrender shall be treated as a revocation for all purposes including reporting; and
- b. Licensee agrees that if he applies for reinstatement of his license, such application will be considered in

accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 65-2844. Further, Licensee's application will be governed by Vakas v. The Kansas Board of Healing Arts, 248 Kan. 589 (Kan. 1991), and all applicable statutes, law, and rules and regulations regarding qualification for licensure and reinstatement.

17. Licensee's failure to comply with the provisions of the Consent Order may result in the Board taking further disciplinary action as the Board deems appropriate according to the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act.

18. Nothing in the Consent Order 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 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 Healing Arts Act.

19. Licensee hereby releases the Board, its individual members (in their official and personal capacities), 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 Act for Judicial Review and Civil Enforcement of Agency Actions, 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 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 Releasees.

20. Licensee further understands and agrees that upon signature by Licensee, this document shall be deemed a public record and shall be reported to the National Practitioner Databank, Federation of State Medical Boards, and any other reporting entities requiring disclosure of the Consent Order.

21. 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.

22. Licensee 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 Licensee is not present. Licensee 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.

23. Licensee, by signature to this document waives any objection to the participation of the Board members, including the Disciplinary Panel, in the consideration of this offer of settlement and agrees not to seek the disqualification or recusal of any Board member in any future proceeding on the

basis that the Board member has received investigative information from any source which otherwise may not be admissible or admitted as evidence.

24. Licensee acknowledges that he has read this Consent Order and fully understands the contents.

25. Licensee acknowledges that this Consent Order has been entered into freely and voluntarily.

26. All correspondence or communication between Licensee and the Board relating to this Consent Order shall be by certified mail addressed to the Kansas State Board of Healing, Attn: Stacy L. Cook, 235 S. Topeka Blvd., Topeka, Kansas 66603-3068.

27. 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 Consent Order or may become effective subsequent to the execution of this document.

28. Upon execution of this Consent Order by affixing a Board authorized signature below, the provisions of this Consent Order shall become an 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.

29. The Board may consider all aspects of this Consent Order in any future matter regarding Licensee.

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

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in lieu of the conclusion of formal proceedings, Licensee, by signature affixed to this Consent Order, hereby voluntarily agrees to the following:

- a. Licensee hereby surrenders his license to practice medicine and surgery. Such surrender shall be treated as a revocation for all purposes including reporting; and
- b. Licensee agrees that if he applies for reinstatement of his license, such application will be considered in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 65-2844. Further, Licensee's application will be governed by Vakas v. The Kansas Board of Healing Arts, 248 Kan. 589 (Kan. 1991), and all applicable statutes, law, and rules and regulations regarding qualification for licensure and reinstatement.

IT IS SO ORDERED on this 13TH day of December, 2004.

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

/s/
Lawrence T. Buening, Jr.
Executive Director

PREPARED AND APPROVED BY:

/s/
Stacy L. Cook #16385
Litigation Counsel
Kansas State Board of Healing Arts
235 S. Topeka Boulevard
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3065
(785) 296-7413

AGREED TO BY:

/s/
Steven D. Ringel, M.D.
Licensee

CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I, Stacy L. Cook, hereby certify that the Consent Order was served this 13th day of December, 2004, by depositing the same in the United States mail, postage prepaid, and addressed to the following:

Steven D. Ringel, M.D.
PO Box 26706
Shawnee Mission, KS 66225-6706

and the original was hand-delivered for filing to:

Lawrence D. Buening, Jr.
Executive Director
Kansas State Board of Healing Arts
235 S. Topeka Boulevard
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3068

/s/
Stacy L. Cook