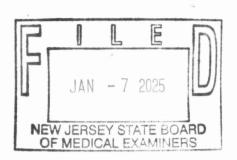
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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
OAL DOCKET: BDS 09307-2023

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF:

Administrative Action

HARSHA SAHNI, M.D. License No.: 25MA05721500 FINAL CONSENT ORDER

TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") upon receipt of information that Harsha Sahni, M.D. ("Respondent"), a physician in the State of New Jersey, pled guilty in federal court on February 16, 2023 to an Information charging her with one count of Conspiracy to Conceal and Harbor Aliens and one count of Filing a Fraudulent Tax Return. Respondent notified the Board, through her attorney, that she pled guilty.

Respondent pled guilty to conduct related to harboring two Indian nationals from 2013 through 2021. The two women lived in Respondent's home as well as at the home of Respondent's relative. As part of her plea, Respondent admitted that she knew the women

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were aliens and she concealed them for private financial gain. She admitted to instructing both victims to tell immigration officials that they were members of her family and in the United States for tourism, which was false. Respondent kept both victims as housekeepers at a price less than they would have been paid if they were employed legally. Respondent did not pay taxes related to the victims' labor, despite them being household employees. Respondent provided the victims with food, clothing and housing but admitted that she caused both victims to believe they would be arrested and deported if they spoke to law enforcement. Respondent conspired to list fake names and addresses while sending money to India for Victim 1's labor and also provided a fake address to a hospital for Victim 1.

On August 31, 2023, the Attorney General filed a Verified Complaint against Respondent. An Order to Show Cause was entered the same day requiring her to appear before the Board on September 13, 2023 and show cause why an Order temporarily suspending her license should not be entered by the Board. It is alleged in the Attorney General's filing that Respondent's medical training and status as a physician not only helped perpetrate her crimes by allowing her to falsify documents but amplified her misconduct in handling Victim 1's serious medical conditions, including a brain aneurysm.

On September 11, 2023, Respondent filed an Answer to the Verified Complaint, as well as a Brief in Opposition to the Verified Complaint.

On September 12, 2023, the parties entered into an Interim Consent Order. Pursuant to the Interim Consent Order, Respondent's license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey was temporarily suspended, effective September 13, 2023. The temporary suspension of Respondent's license is in effect until the conclusion of a plenary hearing on the

Verified Complaint and further Order of the Board or upon entry of a settlement acceptable to both parties and the Board. Respondent appeared before the Board at its September 13, 2023 meeting and the Interim Consent Order was placed on the record.

The matter was transferred to the Office of Adminstrative Law and assigned Docket Number BDS 09307-2023.

On October 28, 2024, Respondent was sentenced to 27 months in prison on both Count 1 and 2 of the Indictment, to be served concurrently. She will be on Supervised Release for a term of 2 years on Count 1 and 1-year on Count 2, with the terms to run concurrently. Respondent was also assessed a fine of \$50,000 and a Special Assessment of \$200.00. Restitution in the amount of \$728,326.98 was ordered and Respondent is also required to pay up to \$200,000 towards Victim 1's medical bills.

As a result of her guilty plea, the Board finds that Respondent has been convicted of a crime that has a direct or substantial relationship to the practice of medicine. Further, the Board finds that the crime, Conspiracy to Conceal and Harbor Aliens, and the underlying acts are of a nature such that Respondent's licensure would be inconsistent with the public's health, safety, or welfare. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(f) this conviction is grounds for revocation of Respondent's license to practice medicine and surgery in New Jersey.

Further, the Board finds that Respondent engaged in the use or employment of dishonesty, fraud, deception, misrepresentation, false promise or false pretense in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b); engaged in gross negligence or gross incompetence which damaged or endangered the life, health, welfare and safety of Victim 1 in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(c); engaged in professional or occupational misconduct in violation of N.J.S.A 45:1-21(e), and

failed to comply with the provisions of an act or regulation administered by the Board in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h), namely the requirement to be of good moral character pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:9-6.

The parties being desirous of resolving this matter without the necessity of further proceedings; and it appearing that Respondent has read the terms of the within Final Consent Order and understands their meaning and effect; and Respondent, having been specifically informed that she may consult an attorney to represent her in this matter, chooses to voluntarily enter into this Final Consent Order and be bound by same; and being further satisfied that the within Final Consent Order is adequately protective of the public health, safety, and welfare, and that good cause exists to support entry of this Order,

IT IS, THEREFORE, ON THIS THAT OF JAN, 2025,

ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

- 1. Respondent, Harsha Sahni, M.D., hereby surrenders her license to practice as a Physician in the State of New Jersey, with such surrender to be deemed a Permanent Revocation. Such revocation shall be with prejudice and Respondent shall not re-apply for her license to practice medicine and surgery at any time in the future.
- 2. If she has not already done so, Respondent shall immediately return her original New Jersey Medical License, any biennial registration cards, and CDS Registration to the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners, P.O. Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183.*
- 3. If she has not already done so, Respondent shall immediately send all of her remaining prescription blanks, along with a cover memorandum indicating that she will no longer be writing prescriptions and asking that her prescription blanks be destroyed pursuant

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to standard operating procedures to Dana Pulizzano, Drug Control Unit, P.O. Box 45045, Newark, NJ 07101.

- 4. Respondent shall immediately advise the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") of this Order, specifically the Permanent Revocation of her medical license, and provide proof of said notification to the DEA to the Board within five days.
- 5. Respondent shall not enter the premises of her former medical practice during business hours when patients may be present.
- 6. Respondent shall be precluded from managing, overseeing, supervising or influencing the practice of medicine or provision of healthcare activities, including by testifying as an expert witness or serving as a consultant expert, in the State of New Jersey.
- 7. Respondent shall continue to cease and desist all patient contact at any location and the rendering of medical care, including the issuance of any prescriptions for, or dispensation of, medications of any kind, including but not limited to Controlled Dangerous Substances.
- 8. Respondent shall not charge, receive or share in any fee for professional services rendered by others. Respondent shall be permitted to collect accounts receivable with respect to professional services rendered prior to the entry of the Interim Consent Order on September 13, 2023.
- 9. Respondent shall comply with N.J.A.C. 13:35-6.5(h), the Board regulation for practice closure. Within ten days of the filing of this Final Consent Order, Respondent is to notify Antonia Winstead, Executive Director, State Board of Medical Examiners, 140 East Front Street, P.O. Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183 as to where her patient records are

secured, and how patients may obtain them.

- 10. Respondent shall divest herself from any current and future financial interest in or benefit derived from the practice of medicine.
- 11. The parties hereby stipulate that entry of this Final Consent Order is without prejudice to further action, investigation, and prosecution by this Board, the Attorney General, the Drug Control Unit, the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs or other law enforcement entities resulting from Respondent's conduct prior to the entry of this Final Consent Order, including, but not limited to, any pending criminal matters. The Board shall retain jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Final Consent Order. Upon receipt of any reliable information indicating that Respondent has violated any term of this Final Consent Order, the Board reserves the right to bring further disciplinary action.
- 12. The annexed "Directives Applicable to any Medical Board Licensee who is Disciplined or whose Surrender of Licensure or Cessation of Practice has been Ordered or agreed upon," is incorporated herein.
- 13. This Final Consent Order shall be a full and final disposition of the OAL matter docketed as BDS 09307-2023.
- 14. Respondent has been specifically informed that she may consult an attorney to represent her in this matter. Respondent acknowledges that she has been advised of the ability to consult with counsel and that she chooses to voluntarily enter into this Final Consent Order.
- 15. Respondent enters into this Final Consent Order knowingly and voluntarily and acknowledges that there have been no other representations or agreements not stated in writing herein.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

Otto F. Sabando, D.O. Board President

I have read and understood the within Final Consent Order and agree to be bound by its terms.
I have been advised of my right to have this Final Consent Order reviewed by an attorney. I voluntarily give consent to the Board to enter this Final Consent Order.

Harsha Sahni, M.D.

Dated:

12/18/24.

NOTICE OF REPORTING PRACTICES OF BOARD REGARDING DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

All Orders filed by the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners are "government records" as defined under the Open Public Records Act and are available for public inspection, copying or Examination. See N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1, et seq., N.J.S.A. 52:14B-3(3). Should any inquiry be made to the Board concerning the status of a licensee who has been the subject of a Board Order, the inquirer will be informed of the existence of the Order and a copy will be provided on request. Unless sealed or otherwise confidential, all documents filed in public actions taken against licensees, to include documents filed or introduced into evidence in evidentiary hearings, proceedings on motions or other applications conducted as public hearings, and the transcripts of any such proceedings, are "government records" available for public inspection, copying or examination.

Pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 45:9-22, a description of any final board disciplinary action taken within the most recent ten years is included on the New Jersey Health Care Profile maintained by the Division of Consumer Affairs for all licensed physicians. Links to copies of Orders described thereon are also available on the Profile website. See http://www.njdoctorlist.com.

Copies of disciplinary Orders entered by the Board are additionally posted and available for inspection or download on the Board of Medical Examiners' website.

See http://njconsumeraffairs.gov/bme.

Pursuant to federal law, the Board is required to report to the National Practitioner Data Bank (the "NPDB") certain licensure actions taken against licensees related to professional competence or conduct, generally including the revocation suspension of a license; reprimand; censure; and/or probation. Additionally, any negative action or finding by the Board under New Jersey law, is publicly available information is reportable to the NPDB, to include, without limitation, limitations on scope of practice and final adverse actions that occur conjunction with settlements in which no finding of liability has been made, Additional information regarding the specific actions which the Board is required to report to the National Practitioner Data Bank can be found in the NPDB Guidebook issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in April 2015. http://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/resources/npdbguidebook.pdf.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:9-19.13, in any case in which the Board refuses to issue, suspends, revokes or otherwise places conditions on a license or permit, the Board is required to notify each licensed health care facility and health maintenance organization in this state with whom he or she is directly associated in private medical practice.

In accordance with an agreement with the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, a list of all disciplinary orders entered by the Board is provided to the Federation on a monthly basis.

From time to time, the Press Office of the Division of Consumer Affairs may issue press releases including information regarding public actions taken by the Board.

Nothing herein is intended in any way to limit the Board, the Division of Consumer Affairs or the Attorney General from disclosing any public document.