# BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	) )	
MICHAEL J. COSGROVE, M.D.	) File No. 02-2008-190755	
Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G62191	) )	
Respondent.	) ) _)	
The attached Stipulated Settlemen	DECISION  It and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the of California, Department of Consumer Affairs,	
State of California.	or camorma, popul amont or consumor services,	
This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on May 7, 2009		
IT IS SO ORDERED April 7, 2009		
	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA	
	By: Shelton Duruisseau, Ph.D., Chair Panel A	

1	EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General		
2	of the State of California GAIL M. HEPPELL		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General JESSICA M. AMGWERD, State Bar No. 155757		
4	Deputy Attorney General 1300 I Street, Suite 125		
	P.O. Box 944255		
5	Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 Telephone: (916) 445-7376		
6	Facsimile: (916) 327-2247		
7	Attorneys for Complainant		
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9	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA		
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
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		L G N 02 2000 100755	
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 02-2008-190755	
13	MICHAEL J. COSGROVE, M.D. 1206 Deodara Street	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT	
14	Davis, CA 95616	AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER	
15	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G62191		
16	Respondent.	·	
17		<b>.</b>	
18	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the		
19	above-entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:		
20	<u>PARTIES</u>		
21	1. Barbara Johnston (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical		
22	Board of California. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in		
23	this matter by Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Attorney General of the State of California, by Jessica M.		
24	Amgwerd, Deputy Attorney General.		
25	2. Respondent Michael Cosgrove,	M.D. is not represented by counsel in this	
26	proceeding.		
27	3. On or about January 25, 1988, t	he Medical Board of California issued	
28	Physician and Surgeon's Certificate No. G62191 to Mi	ichael Cosgrove, M.D. (Respondent). The	

Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 02-2008-190755 and will expire on January 31, 2010, unless renewed.

# **JURISDICTION**

4. Accusation No. 02-2008-190755 was filed before the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on January 5, 2009. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 02-2008-190755 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

# **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

- 5. Respondent has carefully read and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 02-2008-190755. Respondent has also carefully read this stipulated settlement and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order on his license.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

#### **CULPABILITY**

8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation No. 02-2008-190755. More specifically, Respondent admits he violated Business & Professions Code section 2239(a) [misuse of alcohol] and section 2234/2236 [unprofessional conduct/criminal convictions], arising out of his two criminal convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol in 2003 and 2007.

9. Respondent agrees that his Physician and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

#### RESERVATION

10. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Medical Board of California, or other professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceeding.

#### **CONTINGENCY**

- California. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 12. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

#### **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician and Surgeon's Certificate No. G62191 issued to Respondent Michael Cosgrove, M.D. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed

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and Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions: applications thereof, shall not be affected. Each condition of this Order shall separately be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

1. **ETHICS COURSE** Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in ethics, at Respondent's expense, approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Failure to successfully complete the course during the first year of probation is a violation of probation.

An ethics course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

Respondent shall submit a certificate of successful completion to the Board or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not less than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

- 2. <u>BIOLOGICAL FLUID TESTING</u> Respondent shall immediately submit to biological fluid testing, at Respondent's expense, upon the request of the Board or its designee. A certified copy of any laboratory test results may be received in evidence in any proceedings between the Board and the Respondent. Failure to submit to, or failure to complete the required biological fluid testing, is a violation of probation.
- 3. ALCOHOL ABSTAIN FROM USE Respondent shall abstain completely from the use of products or beverages containing alcohol.
- 4. <u>NOTIFICATION</u> Prior to engaging in the practice of medicine, the Respondent shall provide a true copy of the Decision and Accusation to the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to Respondent, at any other facility where Respondent engages in the practice of medicine,

insurance carrier.

- SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS During probation,
   Respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants.
- 6. OBEY ALL LAWS Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules governing the practice of medicine in California, and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments and other orders.
- 7. **QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS** Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.
- 8. **PROBATION UNIT COMPLIANCE** Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation unit. Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of Respondent's business and residence addresses. Changes of such addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Board or its designee. Under no circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business and Professions Code section 2021(b).

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine in Respondent's place of residence. Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's license.

Respondent shall immediately inform the Board, or its designee, in writing, of travel to any areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than 30 calendar days.

III

# 9. INTERVIEW WITH THE DIVISION, OR ITS DESIGNEE

Respondent shall be available in person for interviews either at Respondent's place of business or at the probation unit office, with the Board or its designee, upon request at various intervals, and either with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.

Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice, Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of departure and return.

Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding 30 calendar days in which Respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in Sections 2051 and 2052 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program outside the State of California which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall be considered as time spent in the practice of medicine within the State. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will relieve Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws; Probation Unit Compliance; and Cost Recovery.

Respondent's license shall be automatically canceled if Respondent's periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California total two years. However, Respondent's license shall not be canceled as long as Respondent is residing and practicing medicine in another state of the United States and is on active probation with the medical licensing authority of that state, in which case the two year period shall begin on the date probation is completed or terminated in that state.

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# 11. FAILURE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE - CALIFORNIA RESIDENT

In the event Respondent resides in the State of California and for any reason Respondent stops practicing medicine in California, Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing within 30 calendar days prior to the dates of non-practice and return to practice. Any period of non-practice within California, as defined in this condition, will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term and does not relieve Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the terms and conditions of probation. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding 30 calendar days in which Respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in sections 2051 and 2052 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall be considered time spent in the practice of medicine. For purposes of this condition, non-practice due to a Board-ordered suspension or in compliance with any other condition of probation, shall not be considered a period of non-practice.

Respondent's license shall be automatically canceled if Respondent resides in California and for a total of two years, fails to engage in California in any of the activities described in Business and Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052.

- 12. **COMPLETION OF PROBATION** Respondent shall comply with all financial obligations (e.g., cost recovery, restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate shall be fully restored.
- or condition of probation is a violation of probation. If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, Petition to Revoke Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

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**ACCEPTANCE** I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California. DATED: 2/15/09 COSGROVE, M.D. Respondent **ENDORSEMENT** The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs. DATED: March 4 2009 EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., Attorney General of the State of California 

JESSICA M. AMGWERD Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant

1	EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General of the State of California	e grand diggs with a common common
2	GAIL M. HEPPELL	FILED
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General JESSICA M. AMGWERD, State Bar No. 155757 Deputy Attorney General	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
4	1300 I Street, Suite 125 P.O. Box 944255	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA SACRAMENTO Annuay 5, 20 09
5	Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 Telephone: (916) 445-7376	BY (alene MO) ANALYST
6	Facsimile: (916) 327-2247	•
7	Attorneys for Complainant	
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9	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
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12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 02-2008-190755
13	MICHAEL J. COSGROVE, M.D. 1206 Deodara Street	ACCUSATION
14	Davis, CA 95616	·
15	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G62191	
16	Respondent.	
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18	Complainant alleges:	
19	Ι.	
20	<u>PARTIES</u>	
21	1. Barbara Johnston (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her	
22	official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of	
23	Consumer Affairs.	
24	2. On or about January 25, 1988, the Medical Board of California issued	
25	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number G62191 to Michael J. Cosgrove, M.D.	
26	(Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times	
27	relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on January 31, 2010, unless renewed.	
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STATUTORY PROVISIONS

3. This Accusation is brought before the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Bus. & Prof. Code unless otherwise indicated.

Bus. & Prof. Code Section 2227 provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other action taken in relation to discipline as the Division deems proper.

> 5. Bus. & Prof. Code Section 2234 of the Code states:

# § 2234. Unprofessional conduct

The Division of Medical Quality shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

> Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter [Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act].

6. Bus. & Prof. Code Section 2236(a), states in pertinent part, the following:

§ 2236. Conviction of offense related to qualifications, functions, or duties of physician or surgeon; unprofessional conduct; notice of pendency of action; record of conviction

> (a) The conviction of any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon constitutes unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this chapter. The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence only of the fact that the conviction occurred.

<sup>1.</sup> Bus. & Prof. Code Section 2002, as amended and effective January 1, 2008, provides that, unless otherwise expressly provided, the term "board" as used in the State Medical Practices Act means the "Medical Board of California", and references to the "Division of Medical Quality" in the Act or any other provision of law shall be deemed to refer to the Board.

7. Bus. & Prof. Code Section 2239 states in pertinent part, the following:

# § 2239. Misuse of controlled substances, dangerous drugs or alcohol; unprofessional conduct

- (a) The use or prescribing for or administering to himself or herself, of any controlled substance; or the use of any of the dangerous drugs specified in Section 4022, or of alcoholic beverages, to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to the licensee, or to any other person or to the public, or to the extent that such impairs the ability of the licensee to practice medicine safely or more than one misdemeanor or any felony involving the use, consumption, or self-administration of any of the substances referred to in this section, or any combination thereof, constitutes unprofessional conduct. The record of the conviction is conclusive evidence of such unprofessional conduct.
- (b) A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section. . .

#### III.

#### **GENERAL BACKGROUND**

- 8. On April 8, 2003, without a valid California driver's license, Respondent was driving while under the influence of alcohol, and was arrested. His Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) at the time of the arrest was .28%.
- 9. Due to the driving without a driver's license and under the influence of alcohol (April 8, 2003), on May 14, 2003, the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office filed a criminal complaint against Respondent, in the case entitled, *People v. Michael Joseph Cosgrove*, Case No. 03T02896. The criminal complaint alleged the following violations against Respondent: (1) Vehicle Code § 23152(b) [driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage]; (2) Vehicle Code § 11359 [driving while under the influence of alcohol with a BAC of .15% or more]; and (3) Vehicle Code § 12500(a) [driving a motor vehicle without holding a valid California license].

- 10. On May 21, 2003, in the case entitled, *People v. Michael Joseph Cosgrove*, Case No. 03T02896, Respondent pled nolo contendere to a violation of Vehicle Code section 23152, and the other two counts were dismissed.
- 11. On March 5, 2007, at circa 9:20 p.m., Respondent was driving while under the influence of alcohol, and was involved in a collision in front of 882 Messick Road, Yuba City, California. After the collision, Respondent attempted to leave the scene. When questioned by the police, Respondent initially misrepresented that he was not involved in the collision. The police ran a registration check and discovered one of the cars in the collision was registered to Respondent. Respondent failed the field sobriety tests and was arrested. At the time of the arrest, Respondent's BAC was .16%.
- 12. On March 28, 2007, the Sutter County District Attorney's Office filed a criminal complaint against Respondent, in the case entitled, *People v. Michael Joseph Cosgrove*, Case No. CRTR-0918, based upon his March 5, 2007 arrest. The criminal complaint alleged the following violations against Respondent: (1) Vehicle Code § 23152(b) [driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage]; (2) Vehicle Code § 11359 [driving while under the influence of alcohol with a BAC .15% or more]; and (3) Vehicle Code § 20002(a) [hit & run].
- 13. On May 30, 2007, Respondent pled guilty in the case, *People v. Michael Joseph Cosgrove*, (Case No. CRTR-0918), to violating Vehicle Code section 23152, and the other two counts were dismissed. Respondent was placed on probation for 60 months; ordered to pay restitution; a \$2,250 fine, 17 days of jail; and pay Sutter County Fire Department \$124.67.

IV.

#### STATUTORY VIOLATIONS

#### FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Misuse of Alcohol)
[Bus. & Prof. Code § 2239(a)]

14. Complainant realleges paragraphs 8 through 13 above, as if fully set forth at this point. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Business & Professions Code section 2239 for unprofessional conduct in that Respondent has suffered two misdemeanor convictions for violating Vehicle Code section 23152 [driving under the influence of alcohol].

Respondent is also subject to discipline under Business & Professions Code section 2239(a) in that on March 5, 2007, he misused alcohol in such a manner of being dangerous or injurious to himself and others.

# SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct/Criminal Convictions)
[Bus. & Prof. Code §2234/§2236]

15. Complainant realleges paragraphs 9 through 14 above, as if fully set forth at this point. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct under Bus. & Prof. Code Section 2234 for violating the following sections of the Medical Practice Act: Bus. & Prof. § 2236 [criminal convictions], and Bus. & Prof. § 2239 [misusing alcohol in a manner dangerous to the public].

The violation of Bus. & Prof. § 2239 is set forth in paragraph 14. Respondent violated Bus. & Prof. § 2236, due to his following criminal convictions:

- a. criminal conviction on May 21, 2003, *People v. Michael Joseph Cosgrove*, (Case No. 03T02896) for violating Vehicle Code § 23152 [driving under the influence of alcohol]; and
- b. criminal conviction on May 30, 2007, *People v. Michael Joseph Cosgrove*, Case No. CRTR-0918, for violating Vehicle Code § 23152.

As a physician and a health care professional, Respondent is entrusted with the health, safety and welfare of patients. Driving under the influence of alcohol over the legal limit jeopardizes the public health, safety, and welfare of the public and is therefore substantially related to the practice of medicine.

#### IV.

#### PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board issue a decision:

Revoking or suspending Physician and Surgeon's Certificate No. G62191,
 issued to Michael J. Cosgrove, M.D.;

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- 11				
1	2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Michael J. Cosgrove,			
2	M.D.'s authority to supervise physician's assistants, pursuant to section 3527 of the Code;			
3	3. Ordering Michael J. Cosgrove, M.D. to pay, the costs of probation			
4	monitoring, if placed on probation;			
5	4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper			
6	DATED: January 5, 2009			
7				
8	BARBARA JOHNSTON			
9	Executive Director			
10	Medical Board of California Department of Consumer Affairs			
11	State of California Complainant			
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