

STATE OF COLORADO

STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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VIA CERTIFIED MAIL #7001 0360 0001 5989 0313

January 15, 2004

Case Number 5101023390

Case Number 5101023290

Robert W. Lawrence, M.D.

Dear Dr. Lawrence:

Inquiry Panel B of the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners has concluded its inquiry regarding your care and treatment of Patient A. It was the Panel's decision not to commence with formal proceedings against your license to practice medicine. However, the Panel did vote to administer disciplinary action to you in the form of this letter of admonition.

Board records reflect that you practice as a biological psychiatrist. You treated Patient A from the middle of 1999 through the middle of 2001 for sleep quality impairment associated with a recurrent biodepression. You stated several times that you could "set [Patient A] up with" another of your patients. The Panel finds that your offer to "set up" your patient with someone else while that patient was involved in active treatment crossed the boundary defining the professional role of a psychiatrist and confused the therapeutic relationship, and constituted substandard practice. Additionally, during Patient A's final appointment with you, you asked her to sign a form authorizing you to release her medical information to her therapist. Patient A refused to sign the form. Despite Patient A's refusal to sign the authorization form, you released some of your office notes for Patient A to Patient A's therapist. The office notes did not contain information of a crisis or emergent nature. This breach of confidentiality also failed to meet generally accepted standards of medical practice. Finally, the Panel is concerned about your tendency to respond to patients and their advocates in a somewhat petty and unprofessional manner, and the Panel believes your practice would benefit from greater discretion in this area. Toward that end, the Panel strongly recommends but does not require that you attend a professional boundaries course and that you obtain coaching in interpersonal communication skill development.

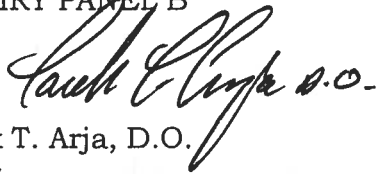
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By this letter, the Panel hereby admonishes you and cautions you that complaints disclosing any repetition of such practice may lead to the commencement of formal disciplinary proceedings against your license to practice medicine, wherein this letter of admonition may be entered into evidence as aggravation.

Pursuant to agreement with the Panel, you have agreed to waive the right provided by § 12-36-118(4)(c)(III), C.R.S. to contest this letter of admonition.

Very truly yours,

FOR THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
INQUIRY PANEL B

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tarek T. Arja D.O.", is written over the typed name and title.

Tarek T. Arja, D.O.
Chair

cc: Tom Metier, Esq.