

**GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD**

BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

DEC 07 2012

STATE OF GEORGIA

DOCKET NUMBER

1011-0044

IN THE MATTER OF:

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RONNIE BLOUNT, MD
License # 39735
Respondent.

Docket No. 1011-0044

PUBLIC ORDER TERMINATING PROBATION

WHEREAS, the Georgia Composite Medical Board ("Board") entered a Public Consent Order in the above-styled matter on October 11, 2011, which placed on probation Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Respondent has petitioned to have the probation terminated; and

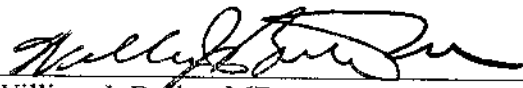
WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the Respondent has complied with all the terms and conditions of the probation.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the probation of Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Georgia be **TERMINATED**.

SO ORDERED, this 7th day of December 2012.

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

BY:



William J. Butler, MD,
Chairperson

(Board Seal)

ATTEST:



LASHARN HUGHES
Executive Director

**GEORGIA COMPOSITE
BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD**

STATE OF GEORGIA

OCT 07 2011

IN THE MATTER OF:

RONNIE BLOUNT, M.D.,
License No. 39735,

Respondent.

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DOCKET NUMBER

DOCKET NO. _____ 10110044

PUBLIC CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Chaps. 1 and 34, Title 43, by agreement of the Georgia Composite Medical Board ("Board") and Ronnie Blount, M.D. ("Respondent"), the following disposition of this matter is entered pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, codified as O.C.G.A. § 50-13-13(a)(4), as amended.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

Respondent is licensed to practice as a physician in the State of Georgia and was so licensed at all times relevant to the matters asserted herein.

2.

On or about May 10, 2011, Respondent was ordered to undergo a mental/physical evaluation at a Board-approved facility based on Respondent's history of drug and alcohol abuse and Respondent's presentment to the Board.

3.

On or about May 23, 2011, Respondent underwent a 96-hour mental/physical evaluation at a Board-approved facility. The facility concluded that Respondent was unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety at that time. The facility recommended Respondent

have a full neuropsychiatric evaluation of Respondent's cognitive and memory functions, that Respondent abstain from benzodiazepines or other mood altering substances, that Respondent enter a substance abuse treatment program and increase his participation in a 12-step program, that Respondent successfully complete a prescription writing course, and that upon return to active practice, Respondent be monitored by another physician.

4.

Based upon the results of the evaluation described in paragraph three, on or about June 27, 2011, the Board summarily suspended Respondent's license.

5.

On or about June 21, 2011, on his own accord, Respondent underwent a second 96-hour mental/physical evaluation at a different Board-approved facility. This facility recommended that Respondent refrain from the practice of medicine until he re-invigorated his participation in a 12-step program, developed a healthier lifestyle, performed further neuro-cognitive function testing, and re-enrolled in a five-year monitoring program sanctioned by the Board. Respondent had the additional neuropsychological testing performed while at this facility. The results of that testing showed that Respondent did not suffer from any disabling neuro-cognitive impairment.

6.

On or about August 26, 2011, Respondent entered a residential, in-patient treatment program at Tangu Counseling and Treatment Services. Respondent underwent a substance abuse and mental health evaluation during a two week stay at the program. The Tangu program recommended Respondent attends an additional four weeks of an intensive outpatient treatment program three times per week. The Tangu program also concluded Respondent is not

psychologically impaired, is not a threat to the public health, safety, or welfare, and had re-invigorated his participation in a 12-step program.

7.

Respondent admits to the above findings of fact and waives any further findings of fact with respect to the above-styled matter.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's conduct constitutes sufficient grounds for disciplinary action under O.C.G.A. Chs. 1 and 34, T. 43, as amended. Respondent hereby waives any further conclusions of law with respect to the above-styled matter.

ORDER

The Board, having considered all the facts and circumstances surrounding this case, hereby orders and Respondent hereby agrees to the following conditions:

1.

Upon Board approval of this consent order, Respondent's license is hereby reinstated to active status subject to the terms and conditions contained herein, and the summary suspension of Respondent's license is hereby lifted.

2.

Respondent's license to practice as a physician is hereby placed on probation for a period of five (5) years and until discharged in accordance with paragraph (m), under the following terms and conditions of probation:

(a) Further Neuro-Cognitive Testing or Work Sample Evaluation. At the discretion of Respondent's monitoring physician, or at the order of the Board should the Board receive information indicating Respondent may be cognitively impaired, Respondent may at any time

during the period of probation be required to perform any further neuro-cognitive function testing or a work sample evaluation at a facility approved by the Board to ensure that he is not cognitively compromised. Upon completion of the evaluation, Respondent shall submit documentation thereof to the Board including the results of the evaluation and any recommendations made based upon those results. Respondent agrees to follow any recommendations made as a result of the evaluation. Failure to do so, or should the results of the evaluation suggest that Respondent is unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety to patients, may result in further disciplinary action including the summary suspension of Respondent's license, pending further proceedings, pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act O.C.G.A. § 50-13-18(c)(1), or any other statute authorizing emergency action;

(b) Continuing Education. Prior to the end of the period of probation, Respondent shall attend and successfully complete at his own expense the mini-residency entitled "Appropriate Prescribing of Controlled Substances" sponsored by The Mercer University Southern School of Pharmacy in Atlanta or another prescribing course approved in writing by the Board. Upon successful completion of the mini-residency or such other course, Respondent shall submit documentation thereof to the Board. This requirement shall be in addition to the continuing education requirements for renewal of Respondent's license as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 43-34-11;

(c) Treatment/Aftercare. Respondent shall remain in treatment or aftercare with a designated monitoring physician that is acceptable to the Board. Respondent shall provide a copy of this Order to his aftercare provider. Respondent agrees that if at any time in-patient or residential treatment is recommended, Respondent will promptly abide by such recommendation,

will immediately cease practicing as a physician until successful completion of such in-patient or residential treatment, and shall not return to practicing medicine until receipt of the written approval of both his monitoring physician and the Board. Respondent shall obtain prior Board approval through the Executive Director for any change in monitoring physician;

(d) Participation in Support Group. Respondent shall affiliate with and regularly participate in meetings of a support group in accordance with his aftercare contract. Respondent shall participate in such meetings as directed by his monitoring physician;

(e) Monitoring Physician. Respondent shall provide a copy of this Order to his monitoring physician, who shall sign a statement to be submitted as having read and understood same. Respondent shall provide the signed statement from his monitoring physician to the Board within ten (10) days of the docketing of this Order;

(f) Monitoring Physician Quarterly Reports. During the probationary period, Respondent shall submit or cause to be submitted quarterly reports from his monitoring physician regarding his mental/physical condition by March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31. All reports and submissions required under this Order shall be sent to the Georgia Composite Medical Board, Attn: Executive Director, 2 Peachtree Street, NW, 36th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Failure to submit or have such reports submitted in a timely manner shall be deemed a violation of this Consent Order. It is expected that said monitoring physician will immediately report any change in Respondent's condition which would render Respondent unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety to patients. By executing this Order, Respondent specifically consents to such monitoring physician and any other therapist, counselor, program, or facility where Respondent obtains medical treatment or aftercare reporting upon Respondent's condition, notwithstanding any privilege provided by state or federal law;

(g) Random Drug/Alcohol Screens. The Board or its representative or Respondent's monitoring physician or therapist or counselor or representative shall have the authority at any time to order Respondent to undergo random witnessed and immediate drug/alcohol urine, biological fluid, blood screen or hair analysis at Respondent's expense. Respondent's monitoring physician shall ensure that said random witnessed and immediate testing is performed as required by the monitoring physician to confirm Respondent's sobriety, and shall order said testing immediately upon the request of the Board. A copy of the results of all such tests showing any use of any mood-altering substances, including alcohol or prescribed medications, shall be delivered to the Board within ten (10) days of the receipt of the results by his monitoring physician. Copies of all tests, regardless of test results, shall be made available to the Board at its request. Respondent hereby agrees that documentation of the results of all such tests, including copies thereof, evidencing use of mood altering substances, including alcohol, shall be admissible without further authentication in any administrative proceeding in which Respondent is alleged to have violated a term or condition of this Order;

(h) Further Evaluation. At any time during the period of monitoring, the Board shall also have the authority to order Respondent to undergo a physical or mental evaluation by physicians designated by the Board. Respondent shall execute such releases as may be required for the Board to obtain the results of such evaluations;

(i) Quarterly Self-Reports. Respondent shall provide the Board quarterly self reports to include any changes of address, monitoring physician, employment, aftercare treatment, support group, or any relapses of drug or alcohol use, or other information concerning Respondent's compliance or non-compliance with this Order. Respondent shall submit these self

reports quarterly to the Board by March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 commencing on the first reporting date after the docketing of this Order;

(j) Periods of Residency Outside Georgia. In the event Respondent should leave Georgia to reside or practice outside of Georgia for periods longer than thirty (30) consecutive days, Respondent shall notify the Board in writing of the dates of departure and return. Periods of residency or practice outside of Georgia as well as periods when Respondent is not actively engaged in the practice of medicine or is on inactive licensure status will not apply to the reduction of Respondent's probationary period, except as authorized by the Board. Respondent shall advise the Board of any change in address of record or employment status;

(k) Abide By Laws, Rules and Terms. Respondent shall abide by all State and Federal laws regulating the practice of medicine or relating to drugs, the Rules and Regulations of the Board, and the terms of this Order and monitoring. If Respondent shall fail to abide by such laws, rules or terms, or if it should appear from monitoring reports submitted to the Board that Respondent is otherwise unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients, Respondent's license shall be subject to further discipline, including revocation, upon substantiation thereof, and shall not be subject to reinstatement. Respondent further agrees that any violation of this Order shall be deemed sufficient to authorize the Board to order summary suspension of Respondent's license, pending further proceedings, pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-13-18©(1), or any other statute authorizing emergency action;

(l) Disclosure. Within ten (10) days of the receipt of the docketed Order, the Respondent shall provide a copy of this Order to anyone with whom Respondent maintains or

initiates an employee/employer or independent contracting relationship during the duration of the probationary period;

(m) Termination. Respondent shall be bound by the terms and conditions of this Consent Order until the Board issues a notification of termination. Not sooner than thirty (30) days prior to the end of the period of probation, Respondent may petition for termination by certifying under oath before a notary public that he has complied with all conditions of this consent order, by providing documentation supporting discharge, and by providing a statement from his monitoring physician supporting discharge. The Board shall review and evaluate the practice of Respondent and the Board, in its sole discretion, shall be authorized to restore all rights and privileges incident to the license of Respondent. Upon notification by the Board of their intention to maintain or extend the duration of the probation, Respondent may respond to the Board in writing or request an appearance before the Board or its representative as in a non-contested case. This Order shall remain in effect pending a final determination by the Board and notification that the probationary period has terminated.

2.

Approval of this Consent Order by the Board shall in no way be construed as condoning Respondent's conduct, and shall not be construed as a waiver of any of the lawful rights possessed by the Board.

3.

Respondent understands that pursuant to O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapter 34A, the contents of this order shall be placed on Respondent's Physician Profile. Furthermore, by executing this Consent Order, Respondent hereby agrees to permit the Board to update the Physician's Profile reflecting this Consent Order.


4.

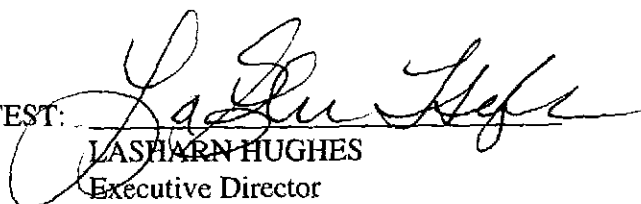
Respondent acknowledges that he has read this Consent Order and understands its contents. Respondent understands that he has the right to a hearing in this matter and freely, knowingly and voluntarily waives that right by entering into this Consent Order. Respondent understands and agrees that a representative of the Department of Law may be present during the Board's consideration of this Consent Order and that the Board shall have the authority to review the investigative file and all relevant evidence in considering this Consent Order. Respondent further understands that this Consent Order will not become effective until approved and docketed by the Board. Respondent understands that this Consent Order, once approved and docketed, shall constitute a public record, evidencing disciplinary action by the Board that may be disseminated as such. However, if this Consent Order is not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding, or prejudice the right of the Board to adjudicate this matter. Respondent hereby consents to the terms and sanctions contained herein.

Approved this 7th day of October, 2011.

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

(BOARD SEAL)

BY: 
CHARLES L. WHITE, D.O.
President

ATTEST: 
LASHARN HUGHES
Executive Director

(signatures continued on following page)

CONSENTED TO: Ronnie Blount M.D.
RONNIE BLOUNT, M.D.
Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me,
by RONNIE BLOUNT, M.D., the Respondent,
this 27 day of September, 2011.

Carol A. Hester

NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires:

(SEAL)

Notary Public, Cobb County, Georgia
My Commission Expires March 2, 2013

**BEFORE THE COMPOSITE STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
STATE OF GEORGIA**

Composite State Board
of Medical Examiners

SEP 01 2005

DOCKET NUMBER

Docket No. 99-731

IN THE MATTER OF:

**Ronnie Blount, MD
License No. 39735
Respondent**

PUBLIC CONSENT ORDER TERMINATING PROBATION

WHEREAS, the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") entered a Consent Order in the above styled matter on June 9, 2000, which placed Respondent's license to practice medicine in Georgia on probation; and

WHEREAS, Respondent has petitioned to have the probation terminated; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the Respondent has complied with all the terms and conditions of the probation,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the probation of Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Georgia be TERMINATED.

SO ORDERED, this 14 day of September 2005.

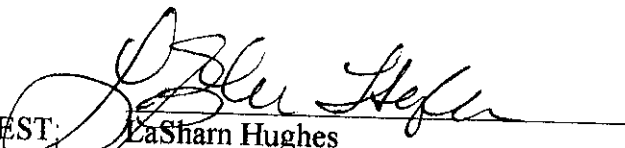
COMPOSITE STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL EXAMINERS



M. VINAYAK KAMATH, MD
President

(BOARD SEAL)

ATTEST:



LaSharn Hughes
Executive Director

BEFORE THE COMPOSITE STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
STATE OF GEORGIA

Composite State Board
of Medical Examiners

IN THE MATTER OF:

RONNIE BLOUNT, M.D.
License No. 039735

Respondent

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DOCKET NO. 99-731

DOCKET NUMBER

JUL 13 2001

99-731

AMENDMENT TO PUBLIC ORDER LIFTING SUSPENSION

WHEREAS, on or about June 9, 2000, Ronnie Blount, M.D., Respondent, entered into a Public Order Lifting Suspension with the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board"), Docket Number 99-731, which limited his practice of medicine, limited his right to have a DEA registration, and placed his license on probation with terms and conditions.

WHEREAS, on or about June 7, 2001, Respondent met with a committee of the Board to request that his Consent Order be amended to permit him to have DEA privileges and to lift the practice restriction.

WHEREAS, in support of his petition, Respondent submitted letters from his treating physicians supporting changes in his Consent Order as well as a recent psychological evaluation.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board hereby amends the PUBLIC ORDER LIFTING SUSPENSION as follows:

1.

Order, Paragraph 1 on Page 3 of the PUBLIC ORDER LIFTING SUSPENSION, imposing a practice restriction on Respondent's practice of medicine, is deleted in its entirety.

Order. Paragraph 2 of Page 4 of the PUBLIC ORDER LIFTING SUSPENSION, restricting Respondent's right to possess a DEA Certificate of Registration, is deleted in its entirety and a new Paragraph 2 is inserted in lieu thereof to read as follows:

"Respondent's authority to prescribe, administer, order or dispense any controlled substances shall be restricted as follows:

(a) Triplicate Prescriptions. Respondent shall utilize a triplicate prescriptions system for all controlled substances prescribed by him. Each prescription for such a controlled substance written by Respondent shall be sequentially numbered and the copies distributed as follows: original to patient, one copy to the Board, and one copy to the patient's chart. Respondent shall not begin renumbering when he reaches 1000, but shall continue to number sequentially. The copies for the Board shall be mailed or delivered to the Board by Respondent once per quarter. A copy of Respondent's dispensing records shall be provided to the Board upon request for all controlled substances dispensed by him or on his order.

(b) Prescription Log. Respondent shall personally maintain for inspection a contemporaneous log (separate from his clinical records or the clinical records of other health care providers) of all controlled substances prescribed, administered, dispensed, or ordered by him. The log shall include the date, patient name, drug, strength, quantity, and refill status, on a form approved by the Board. The log shall also include the diagnosis and the reasons for prescribing, administering, dispensing, or ordering each drug. The Board shall be authorized to inspect Respondent's prescription log. If Respondent's prescription log fails to

(Signatures continued from previous page.)

ATTEST: *Karen A. Mason*
KAREN A. MASON
Executive Director

CONSENT TO AMENDMENT TO PUBLIC ORDER LIFTING SUSPENSION

Respondent, Ronnie Blount, acknowledges that Respondent has read this Amendment to Public Order Lifting Suspension and understands its contents. Respondent consents to the terms and conditions contained herein.

Ronnie Blount
RONNIE BLOUNT, M.D.
Respondent



Sworn to and subscribed
before me this 27 day
of June, 2001.

Karen Patterson
NOTARY PUBLIC
My commission expires:
My Commission Expires May 15, 2004

BEFORE THE COMPOSITE STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

STATE OF GEORGIA

Composite State Board
of Medical Examiners
JUN 09 2000 3:19

IN THE MATTER OF:

RONNIE BLOUNT, M.D.,
License No. 039735,

Respondent.

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DOCKET NUMBER
DOCKET NO. 99-731

PUBLIC ORDER LIFTING SUSPENSION

By agreement of the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") and Ronnie Blount, M.D. (the "Respondent"), the following disposition of this matter replaces and supersedes any and all prior orders of the Board relative to the Respondent, including, but not limited to, the Consent Order, In the Matter of Ronnie Blount, M.D., Docket No. 99-731 effective June 2, 1999, and is entered pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 50-13-13(a)(4). The Board, in its discretion, having considered the Respondent's petition to lift the suspension of his license to practice medicine in the State of Georgia, hereby LIFTS THE SUSPENSION OF RESPONDENT'S LICENSE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN GEORGIA and in conjunction therewith, the Board hereby enters its Findings Of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and ORDERS as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

On or about June 2, 1999, Respondent entered into a Public Consent Order with the Board, Docket No. 99-731, which provided, among other terms, that Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Georgia be placed on indefinite suspension until further order of the Board.

2.

Respondent has a history of cocaine and alcohol abuse.

3.

Respondent admitted patient Y.S. to a hospital in Macon, Georgia, and was unavailable to care for her during the period of April 10-15, 1999.

4.

On April 15, 1999, Respondent's privileges at the Medical Center of Central Georgia were suspended.

5.

Respondent received inpatient treatment at River Edge Behavioral Health Center, in Macon, Georgia, from June 30, 1999, through July 19, 1999. Respondent has professional advocacy supporting his return to the practice of medicine in the State of Georgia.

6.

At the request of the Board, a neuropsychological evaluation of the Respondent was performed by the Ingwell Psychological Institute, in Indianapolis, Indiana, in December 1999. The neuropsychological evaluation recommended that the Respondent's medical practice be limited to medicine which is not clinical in nature. The evaluation indicated that Respondent may be able to function in other areas of medicine which do not require direct patient relations.

7.

Respondent waives any further findings of fact with respect to the above matter. However, Respondent shall be allowed to submit a supplemental statement for the investigative file in explanation and mitigation of the matters stated herein for consideration by the Board prior to its review of this Consent Order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's prior conduct and/or condition constitutes sufficient grounds for the imposition of sanctions upon Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Georgia under O.C.G.A. Chs. 1 and 34, T. 43, as amended. Respondent hereby waives any further conclusions of law with respect to the above-styled matter.

ORDER

The Composite State Board of Medical Examiners, having considered the particular facts and circumstances of this case, hereby orders, and Respondent hereby agrees, to the following terms of discipline:

1.

Commencing on the effective date of this Public Order Lifting Suspension (the "Order"), the Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Georgia is restricted and limited and Respondent shall not provide direct medical care to patients. This paragraph shall not be construed to limit the Respondent's ability to work in the medical field in an administrative capacity. In the event the Respondent petitions to have this restriction lifted, the Board, in its sole discretion, may grant or deny said petition, without a hearing. Any petition to have this restriction lifted shall include the results of a neuropsychological evaluation performed within sixty (60) days of the date of the petition, evidencing that the Respondent is able to engage in the clinical practice of medicine with reasonable skill and safety to the public. In any event, this restriction shall remain in effect pending the entry of a written order of the Board modifying or lifting this restriction.

2.

Respondent may not possess a DEA Certificate of Registration. In the event Respondent petitions to have this restriction lifted, the Board, in its sole discretion, may grant permission to Respondent to apply for a DEA Certificate of Registration, subject to any conditions the Board may deem appropriate, or may deny said petition, without a hearing. In any event, the restriction set forth in this paragraph shall remain in effect pending the entry of a written order of the Board modifying or lifting this restriction.

3.

Beginning on the effective date of this Order, Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Georgia shall be placed on indefinite probation until further order from the Board, with the following terms and conditions:

(a) Treatment/Aftercare. Respondent shall provide the Board with a copy of his continuing aftercare contract in conjunction with this Order. Respondent shall abide by all terms of his continuing aftercare contract.

(b) Participation in Support Group. Respondent shall affiliate with and regularly participate in meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Caduceus Club or another similar support group acceptable to the Board in accordance with his aftercare contract or as otherwise required by the Board.

(c) Abstain from Mood Altering Substances. Respondent shall continue to completely abstain from the consumption of alcohol. Respondent shall also continue to completely abstain from the consumption of mood altering substances, except as prescribed by a duly licensed practitioner for a legitimate medical purpose. **If such treatment entails the use of narcotics or other potentially addictive substances, Respondent shall have the prescribing physician obtain a**

consultation with his Board approved monitoring physician, who shall notify the Medical Coordinator within ten (10) days of the event.

(d) Supervision and Monitoring. Respondent shall designate an acceptable workplace ("supervising") physician, who will supervise his work, and an acceptable treating ("monitoring") physician with whom he will continue therapeutic care and who will monitor any medications he is prescribed. Respondent shall provide a copy of this Order to both physicians. Such physicians shall sign a statement in substantially the form as Attachment A to be submitted in conjunction with this Order, as evidence of having read and understood same and having agreed to serve as Respondent's supervising and monitoring physicians. Respondent shall obtain prior Board approval through the Medical Coordinator or Executive Director for any change in supervising or monitoring physicians. In the event that Respondent is not planning to practice medicine in the State of Georgia upon the effective date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall submit a statement signed by an acceptable supervising physician indicating that he or she has read the Consent Order and agrees to serve as the Respondent's supervising physician at least ten (10) days prior to practicing medicine in the State of Georgia in any capacity.

(e) Quarterly Reports. Respondent shall submit or cause to be submitted quarterly reports from his supervising and monitoring physicians regarding his performance, mental/physical condition and recovery by March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31 of each calendar year, including a report on any medication being prescribed to Respondent. Failure to submit or have such reports submitted in a timely manner shall be considered a violation of this Order. It is expected that said supervising and monitoring physicians shall be in communication with each other and will immediately report any change in Respondent's condition, which would render Respondent unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety to patients. By executing this Order, Respondent specifically consents to such supervising and monitoring physicians or any

facility where Respondent obtains medical treatment reporting upon Respondent's condition, notwithstanding any privilege provided by state or federal law.

(f) Random Drug/Alcohol Screens. The Board or its representative or Respondent's supervising or monitoring physicians shall have the authority at any time to order Respondent to undergo random witnessed and immediate drug/alcohol urine, biological fluid or blood screen analysis at Respondent's expense. Proper chain of custody shall be maintained and positive results shall be confirmed by such means as may be required to ensure the validity of such screening.

(g) Further Evaluation. At any time during the period of probation, the Board shall also have the authority to order Respondent to undergo a physical or mental evaluation by physicians designated by the Board. Respondent shall execute such releases as may be required for the Board to obtain the results of such evaluations.

(h) Periods of Residency Outside Georgia. In the event Respondent should leave Georgia to reside or practice outside of Georgia for periods longer than thirty (30) consecutive days, Respondent shall notify the Board in writing of the dates of departure and return. Periods of residency or practice outside of Georgia as well as periods when Respondent is not actively engaged in practicing as a physician will not apply to the reduction of Respondent's probationary period, except as authorized by the Board. **Respondent shall advise the Board of any change in address of record or employment status.**

(i) Abide By Laws, Rules and Terms. Respondent shall abide by all State and Federal laws regulating his practice as a physician or relating to drugs, the Rules and Regulations of the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners and the terms of this Order and probation. If Respondent shall fail to abide by such laws, rules or terms, or if it should appear from monitoring reports submitted to the Board that Respondent is otherwise unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety to patients, or should Respondent violate the criminal laws of this

state, including any term of probation. Respondent's license shall be subject to further discipline, including revocation, upon substantiation thereof after notice and hearing, and if revoked, the Board in its discretion may determine that the license should be permanently revoked and not subject to reinstatement. Respondent further agrees that any violation of this Order shall be deemed to be sufficient to authorize the Board to order summary suspension of Respondent's license, pending further proceedings, pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-13-18(c)(1), or any other statute authorizing emergency action, but Respondent understands that Respondent shall be entitled to an expedited hearing to substantiate such violation(s), if the Board exercises such right.

(j) Disclosure. In addition to other disclosures required by this Order, Respondent shall supply a copy of this Order, once approved and docketed by the Board, and within ten (10) days from receipt of the docketed copy by Respondent, to any person or entity for whom Respondent is employed as a physician in the State of Georgia. Respondent shall also be required to disclose the existence of and provide a copy of this Order to such individuals or entities in connection with any future for employment as a physician in the State of Georgia while this Order is in effect. By executing this Order, Respondent specifically consents to any such individuals or entities reporting to the Board information which would affect Respondent's ability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients, notwithstanding any privilege provided by state or federal law. Respondent shall document compliance with this condition of probation utilizing the form attached hereto as Attachment B, or a substantially similar form.

(k) Termination of Probation. Respondent shall not be eligible to petition for termination of probation until five (5) years from the effective date of this Order. At such time, Respondent may petition for termination by certifying under oath before a notary public that he has complied with all conditions of probation and by providing documentation supporting discharge from

probation, including, but not limited to, a written statement from Respondent's monitoring and supervising physicians that said monitoring and supervising physicians agree with the probation termination. The Composite State Board of Medical Examiners shall review and evaluate the practice of Respondent prior to lifting the probation. At such time, the Board shall be authorized, but is not required, to restore all rights and privileges incident to the Respondent's license, with the exception of the practice restrictions set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Consent Order. Should the Board determine that reasonable cause exists for maintaining Respondent's license on a probationary status, the Board shall notify Respondent of its intent to extend the probationary status and Respondent may respond to such notification, in writing, or request an appearance before the Board or its representative as in a non-contested case. If the Board denies the Respondent's petition for termination of probation, Respondent may petition for termination of probation on an annual basis thereafter. In any event, this Order shall remain in effect pending a final determination by the Board and notification that the probationary period has terminated.

4.

This Order and dissemination thereof shall serve as a PUBLIC REPRIMAND to the Respondent for his conduct.

5.

Respondent acknowledges that Respondent has read this Order and understands its contents. Respondent understands that he has a right to appear before the Board, and freely, knowingly, and voluntarily waives that right. Respondent understands that this Order will not become effective until approved by the Board and docketed by the Executive Director of the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners. Respondent further understands and agrees that a representative of the Department of Law may be present during the presentation of this Order to

the Board and that the Board shall have the authority to review the investigative file and all relevant evidence in considering this Order. Respondent further understands that this Order, once approved, shall constitute a public record that may be disseminated as a disciplinary action of the Board. Respondent acknowledges that his license to practice medicine in the State of Georgia will remain suspended until further order from the Board. Respondent consents to the terms and conditions contained herein.

Approved, this 9th day of June, 2000.

COMPOSITE STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL EXAMINERS

(BOARD SEAL)

BY: *Philip G. Wiltz, Jr.*
PHILIP G. WILTZ, Jr., M.D. *Wm. H. Woolley 2*
vice President

ATTEST: *Karen A. Mason*
KAREN A. MASON
Executive Director

CONSENTED TO: *Ronnie Blount*
RONNIE BLOUNT, M.D.
Respondent

Sworn to and Subscribed
before me this 10 day
of July, 2000.

NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires 1/31/2000

BETTY DIAMOND
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York
No. 24-0241444
Qualified in Kings County
Commission Expires Jan 31, 2002

BEFORE THE COMPOSITE STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
STATE OF GEORGIA

JUN 02 1999

IN THE MATTER OF:

Ronnie Blount, M.D.,

License No. 039735,
Respondent.

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DOCKET NUMBER

99-731

DOCKET NO. 99-731

CONSENT ORDER

By agreement of the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners and Ronnie Blount, M.D., Respondent, the following disposition of this matter is entered pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 50-13-13(a)(4).

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

Respondent is licensed to practice as a physician in the State of Georgia, and was so licensed at all times relevant to the matters asserted herein.

2.

In or about April 10-15, 1999 Respondent displayed signs of impairment:

3.

On or about May 5, 1999, the Board received information that Respondent had a diagnosis of cocaine and alcohol abuse. Respondent called to say that he would enter Ridgeview for evaluation and treatment. The results of that evaluation have not been sent to the Board.

4.

Respondent admitted patient YS (name omitted from public copy) to the hospital in Macon and was unavailable to care for her during the period April 10-15, 1999.

5.

Respondent waives any further findings of fact with respect to the above matter.

Board shall have the discretion following such meeting to reinstate Respondent's privilege to practice as a physician, to place upon Respondent's license any conditions that the Board may deem appropriate, or to deny reinstatement if the Board determines that Respondent needs further rehabilitation.

5.

This Consent Order constitutes a PUBLIC REPRIMAND and may be disseminated by the Board as a public disciplinary action.

6.

Respondent acknowledges that he has read and understands the contents of this Consent Order. Respondent understands that he has the right to a hearing in this matter, and Respondent freely, knowingly and voluntarily waives such right by entering into this Consent Order. Respondent understands that this Consent Order will not become effective until approved by the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners and docketed by the Joint Secretary. Respondent further understands and agrees that a representative of the State Department of Law may be present during the presentation of this Consent Order and that the Board shall have the authority to review the investigative file and all relevant evidence in considering this Consent Order. Respondent further understands that this Consent Order, once approved, shall constitute a public record which may be disseminated as a disciplinary action of the Board. If this Consent Order is not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding, or prejudice the ability of the Board to adjudicate this matter. Respondent consents to the terms and sanctions contained herein.

Approved, this 2nd day of June, 1999.

COMPOSITE STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL
EXAMINERS

BY:

Sheila Smith D.O.
SHEILA SMITH D.O.