

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION  
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION**

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION of the State of Illinois,	)	
	)	
	)	
v.	Complainant,	No. 2021-10874
	)	
	)	
Sandeep Gaonkar, M.D., License No. 036.099362,	Respondent.	
	)	

**ORDER**

This matter comes before the Acting Director of the Division of Professional Regulation of the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation of the State of Illinois (“Department”), following Sandeep Gaonkar, M.D.’s (“Respondent”) Motion to Vacate.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Camile Lindsay, Acting Director of the Division of Professional Regulation of the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation of the State of Illinois, after having reviewed the record in this matter, do hereby find that:

1. I have jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter herein.
2. Respondent presently holds a Certificate of Registration as a Physician and Surgeon License No. 036.099362. Said license is in suspended status.
3. On September 13, 2023, the Department filed a Complaint against Respondent alleging a violation of 225 ILCS 60/22(A), subsections (4), (5), (17), (33), (37), and (41); 68 Ill. Admin. Code 1285.240; 720 ILCS 570/304; and 20 ILCS 2105/2105-130. The Preliminary Hearing was scheduled for October 30, 2023. The notice of the Complaint and Preliminary Hearing were sent to Respondent’s email address of record at [REDACTED]
4. On October 30, 2023, Respondent failed to answer the complaint within twenty days, and also failed to appear by himself or by counsel at the Preliminary Hearing.

5. On October 30, 2023, Chief Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), Donald W. Seasock ordered the matter to be continued to January 8, 2024, and ordered Respondent to file an Answer or otherwise plead to the Complaint on or before December 11, 2023.
6. The Court's Order of October 30, 2023, was served to Respondent at his email address of record, and advised him that failure to attend or to file an answer shall result in Default.
7. Respondent did not attend the status hearing on January 8, 2024, and he also failed to answer or otherwise plead to the Department's Complaint by December 11, 2023.
8. On January 8, 2024, the ALJ ordered that Respondent be held in Default and deemed admitted the allegations in the Complaint and transferred this matter to the Illinois State Medical Board ("Board") for its deliberations on the pleadings.
9. On January 22, 2024, the Board presented its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation to the Director. The Board recommended that Respondent's license be indefinitely suspended for a minimum of one year.
10. On January 22, 2024, the Department sent a copy of the Twenty-Day Notice to Respondent's email address of record: [REDACTED]
11. On March 2, 2024, the Director signed an Order of Default indefinitely suspending Respondent's Physician and Surgeon license.
12. On March 20, 2024, Respondent filed a motion to Vacate the Order of Default and restore license on the basis that he did not have notice of the proceedings because the Complaint was sent to an email that he does not check daily.
13. Notice was indeed sent to Respondent's email address on file, [REDACTED] Respondent has since updated his email address on file to [REDACTED]
14. Respondent is reminded of his obligation to keep current an email address of record with the Department and inform the Department of any change of email address of record within 14 days after such change in accordance with 225 ILCS 60/2.5.
15. After a review of the record, substantial justice has not been done in this case.

16. This matter shall be remanded to the ALJ to allow for Respondent to participate in the proceedings.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Camile Lindsay, Acting Director of the Division of Professional Regulation of the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation of the State of Illinois. DO HEREBY ORDER that the March 2, 2024, Order of Default is vacated.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the matter is remanded to the ALJ for further proceedings.

Respondent is commanded to Answer Department's complaint by April 29, 2024. A status hearing is set for May 13, 2024 at 9:30 am. at 555 W. Monroe St. 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Chicago, Illinois 60601 or by telephone. To appear by telephone, dial (312) 535-8110 and enter the access code of 2461 735 6836.

Additionally, in order to enter the building, you may be required to comply with COVID-19 safety measures imposed at the time by Central Management Services, such as observing social distancing, wearing a face covering, and having your temperature taken. If appearing by telephone, call and enter the access code no later than five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled hearing and check in with the system administrator. You may be placed on hold until your case is called, and you must be immediately available when your case is called.

DATED THIS 22nd DAY OF March, 2024.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND  
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION of the  
State of Illinois; Mario Treto Jr., Secretary  
Division of Professional Regulation

  
CAMILLE LINDSAY  
Acting Director

License No. 036.099362  
Case No. 2021-10874