

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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In The Matter Of	:	No. 14-I-648
:	:	:
KYLE KRISTEN RUNNELS SR, M.D.	:	CONSENT ORDER
(Certificate No. MD.201837),	:	FOR REINSTATEMENT
:	:	:

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The above-entitled proceeding was docketed for investigation by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") following receipt of information indicating that Kyle Kristen Runnels Sr., M.D. ("Dr. Runnels"), a physician licensed by the Board to engage in the practice of medicine in the state of Louisiana, as evidenced by Certificate No. MD.201837, and engaged in the practice of psychiatry, had been treating patients with hormone replacement therapy and other patients for chronic pain without the appropriate training and experience. During the investigation concerns arose over Dr. Runnel's health and the Board issued an Order for Evaluation of Medical Professionals.¹ Subsequently, the Board issued a summary suspension of Dr. Runnels' license to practice medicine in this state.²

Predicated upon the foregoing information, the Investigating Officer assigned by the Board with respect to this matter determined that reasonable cause existed such that a formal Administrative Complaint could be filed against Dr. Runnels, charging him with violation of the Louisiana Medical Practice Act (the "Act") pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285A (6) (13) and (26).³

¹ March 31, 2015 Order for Evaluation of Medical Professionals, *In the Matter of Kyle Kristen Runnels Sr., M.D.*, No. 14-I-648, La. State Bd. Med. Exam.

² April 20, 2015 Notice of Summary Suspension of Medical License, *In the Matter of Kyle Kristen Runnels Sr., M.D.*, No. 14-I-648, La. State Bd. Med. Exam.

³The Board may refuse to issue, or may suspend or revoke any license or permit, or impose probationary or other restrictions on any license or permit issued under this Part for the following reasons: (6) Prescribing, dispensing, or administering legally controlled substances or any dependency-inducing medication without legitimate medical justification therefor or in other than a legal or legitimate manner.; ... (13) Unprofessional conduct, including but not limited to, conduct manifested as sexual misconduct, disruptive behavior, failing to cooperate with the board, failing to maintain independent medical judgment, improperly delegating or supervising, exercising undue influence, enabling the unauthorized practice of medicine, practicing or enabling practice by an impaired provider, failing to practice within the scope of education, training, and experience, intentionally falsifying or fraudulently altering records, or failing to create or maintain medical records.; and ... (26) Refusing to submit to the examinations and inquiry of an examining committee of physicians appointed or designated by the board to inquire into the physician's physical and mental fitness and ability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients."

In his defense, Dr. Runnels contends that it was his view that his practice was in compliance with evidence-based medicine and that he was not intentionally uncooperative with the Board. However, Dr. Runnels now recognizes that while no patient harm occurred, he did not provide the appropriate attention and oversight to his practice. Additionally, going forward, Dr. Runnels has committed to limiting his practice to psychiatry. Furthermore, an evaluation has confirmed that within a reasonable degree of medical certainty Dr. Runnels is fit to practice medicine. While denying any violation of the Act as specified herein or otherwise, Dr. Runnels, nevertheless, acknowledges that proof of such information upon administrative evidentiary hearing may establish grounds under the Act for the further suspension, revocation, or such other action as the Board might deem appropriate against his license to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285A (6) (13) and (26).

Recognizing his right to have notice of any allegation or charge asserted against him, to administrative adjudication of such allegation or charge pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §§49:951 *et. seq.* and to a subsequent final decision rendered upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law Dr. Runnels, nonetheless, hereby waives his right to formal charges and formal adjudication and pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D), consents to entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. By his subscription hereto Dr. Runnels acknowledges that he hereby waives any right to which he may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Practice Act, La. Rev. Stat. §§49:951 *et. seq.* or otherwise may be afforded to him by law to contest his agreement to or the force and effect of the Board's investigation or this document in any court. Dr. Runnels, furthermore, hereby authorizes the Investigating Officer designated by the Board with respect hereto to present this Consent Order to the Board for its consideration and to fully disclose to and discuss with the Board the nature and results of the investigation and he waives any objection to such disclosures under La. Rev. Stat. §49:960. Dr. Runnels expressly acknowledges that the disclosure of the information to the Board by the Investigating Officer shall be without prejudice to the Investigating Officer's authority to file a formal Administrative Complaint against him or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate such Complaint should the Board decline to approve this Consent Order. Based upon the information provided, accordingly, and on the recommendation of the Investigating Officer the Board has concluded that its responsibility to insure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this state, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §37:1261, will be effectively served by entry of the Order set forth hereinafter by consent. Accordingly, in consideration of the foregoing, and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. Rev. Stat. §37:1285 and La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D);

IT IS ORDERED that the license of Kyle Kristen Runnels Sr., M.D., to engage in the practice of medicine in the state of Louisiana, as evidenced by Certificate No. MD.201837, is hereby **REINSTATED**, and hereby placed **ON PROBATION**, on the effective date of this Order, for two (2) years, provided, however, that such license and Dr. Runnels' continuing exercise of rights and privileges thereunder shall be conditioned upon his acceptance of and strict compliance with the following terms, conditions and restrictions:

(1) Limitations on Prescribing – Use of Controlled Substances in the Treatment of Chronic Pain, Obesity and Bioidentical Hormone Replacment Therapy. Dr. Runnels shall not prescribe controlled substances to patients for the treatment of chronic pain or obesity or prescribe medications for bioidentical hormone replacement therapy. Until and unless otherwise modified by the Board,

in its sole discretion, the restrictions contained in this provision shall survive the probationary period and remain in effect so long as Dr. Runnels shall hold any form of license or permit to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana.

(2) Collaboration with Nurse Practitioners, Supervision of Physician Assistants. Throughout the probationary term Dr. Runnels shall neither enter into nor continue in a collaborative or supervisory practice agreement with a mid-level provider *e.g.*, a nurse practitioner or physician assistant. This restriction shall not preclude Dr. Runnels from employing nurses or other medical personnel to assist in his practice, as long as he is present and directing their activities appropriate to their level of expertise and ability. If Dr. Runnels has remained compliant with all of the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Order, then on or after one year from the effective date of this Order, Dr. Runnels may petition the Board for a modification of some or all of the clauses contained in this condition, and the granting of such petition shall be within the sole discretion of the Board.

(3) Course on Proper Prescribing. Within six (6) months of the effective date of this Order, Dr. Runnels shall attend and successfully complete a course (or courses) on the proper prescribing of controlled substances. The course shall be approved in advance by the Board. On or before the expiration of six (6) months from the effective date of this Order Dr. Runnels shall cause to be submitted to the Board written certification of satisfaction of the requirements of this provision.

(4) Continuing Medical Education. Dr. Runnels shall obtain not less than fifty (50) credit hours per year during his probationary term through attendance at and participation in continuing medical education programs ("CME") accredited by the American College of Physicians, the American Medical Association, or such other national accrediting association or organization as the Board may approve in writing. On or before the anniversary of the effective date of this Order, Dr. Runnels shall cause to be submitted to the Board written certification of the CME programs and credits completed by him during the preceding twelve (12) months.

(5) Absence from State/Practice/Effect on Probation. Should Dr. Runnels at any time during the period of probation ordered herein be absent from the state of Louisiana, relocate to and/or take up residency in another state or country or discontinue practicing medicine for a period of thirty (30) days or more, or should he fail to renew his license to practice medicine in this state, he shall advise the Board in writing. In such instance, the probationary period ordered herein and all terms, conditions and restrictions thereof shall be deemed interrupted and extended and shall not commence to run until Dr. Runnels notifies the Board in writing that he has returned to, relocated or taken up residency in, resumed the practice of medicine in this state, or renewed his Louisiana medical license. In such instance, Dr. Runnels shall not receive credit toward completion of the probationary period for the time during which he was absent from the State of Louisiana or while he was not engaged or licensed to practice medicine in this state.

(6) **Certification of Compliance with Probationary Terms.** At least sixty (60) days prior to the conclusion of the probationary term imposed herein, Dr. Runnels shall provide the Board with an affidavit certifying that he has complied with each of the terms of probation imposed by this Order. The probationary period and all of its terms and conditions shall be, and shall be deemed to be, extended and continued in full force and effect pending Dr. Runnels' compliance with the requirements of this provision.

(7) **Cooperation with Board's Probation and Compliance Officer.** Dr. Runnels shall immediately notify the Board's Probation and Compliance Officer of any change in his current home and professional addresses and telephone numbers and he shall direct all matters required pursuant to this Consent Order to the attention of the Probation and Compliance Officer, with whom he shall cooperate on all matters and inquiries pertaining to his compliance with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Order.

(8) **Probation Monitoring Fee.** For each year of the probationary term Dr. Runnels shall pay the Board a probation monitoring fee of Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars. Payment of the initial fee shall be due not later than sixty (60) days from the effective date of this Order. All subsequent annual payments shall be due on or before the anniversary date of the initial fee payment.

(9) **Payment of Fine.** Within one (1) year of the effective date of this Order, Dr. Runnels shall pay to the Board a fine in the amount of One Thousand and no/100 (\$1,000.00) Dollars.

(10) **Effective Date.** This Consent Order shall be effective the date it is proved and accepted by the Board as shown by the signature of its representative below.

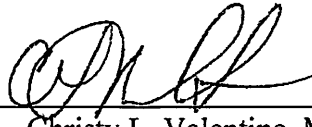
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms, conditions or restrictions set forth by this Order by Dr. Runnels shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for the revocation and cancellation of Dr. Runnels' license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana or for such other action as the Board may deem appropriate, as if such violations were enumerated among the causes provided in La. Rev. Stat. § 37:1285.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if Dr. Runnels has remained compliant with all of the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Order, then on or after one year from the effective date of this Order, Dr. Runnels may petition the Board for a reduction in the amount of time that his license to practice medicine in this state is on probation, and the granting of such petition shall be within the sole discretion of the Board.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Consent Order shall be, and shall be deemed to be, a public record.

Signed at New Orleans, Louisiana, and effective on this 8th day January, 2018.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

BY: 
Christy L. Valentine, MD
President

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*Acknowledgment and Consent
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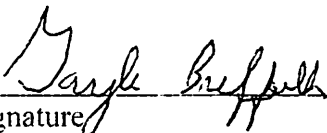
STATE OF Louisiana
PARISH OF Caddo

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT**

I, KYLE KRISTEN RUNNELS SR., M.D., hereby acknowledge, approve, accept and consent to entry of the above and foregoing Order, this 28th day of December, 2017.


KYLE KRISTEN RUNNELS SR., M.D.

WITNESSES:


Signature

Gayle Breffell
Typed Name

261 Lees Creek
Address

Shreveport, LA 71106
City/State/Zip Code

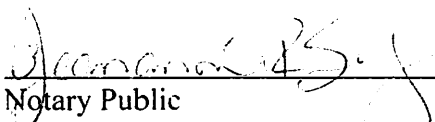

Signature

Rachel L. Payadon
Typed Name

431 Highland Ct.
Address

Bossier City, La 71111
City/State/Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day of December, 2017, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.


Notary Public

Jeannette R. Self LSBA 31539
Printed Name/Notary or Bar Number

