

BEFORE THE
NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

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| In re: |) | |
| |) | |
| Rodney Kevin Sessoms, M.D., |) | CONSENT ORDER |
| |) | |
| Respondent. |) | |

This matter is before the North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") regarding information provided to the Board concerning Rodney Kevin Sessoms, M.D. ("Dr. Sessoms"). Dr. Sessoms makes the following admissions, and the Board makes the following findings and conclusions:

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The Board is a body duly organized under the laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this proceeding under the authority granted to it in Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the rules and regulations promulgated thereto.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Dr. Sessoms was first issued a license to practice medicine by the Board on or about November 16, 1999, license number 33927.

At all times relevant, Dr. Sessoms practiced Internal Medicine in Clinton, North Carolina.

Between November 2021 and August 2022, the Board received two complaints regarding Dr. Sessoms related to disruptive behavior

that he displayed while providing patient care and while working at his medical office. As a result, the Board opened investigations related to these complaints. As part of these investigations, Dr. Sessoms was examined by the North Carolina Professionals Health Program ("NCPHP") in October 2022. This examination indicated a concern related to an occupational problem and possible burnout. This resulted in Dr. Sessoms receiving further examinations and therapy related to general physical and mental health issues. During the course of these examinations and therapy, there was never a concern that Dr. Sessoms had any type of alcohol use or substance use disorder. To date, Dr. Sessoms has complied with NCPHP's recommendations for treatment and therapy, has entered into a contract with NCPHP for ongoing monitoring and is in good standing with NCPHP.

During these investigations, it was discovered that Dr. Sessoms treated an immediate family member ("Family Member #1") on an ongoing basis from September 2014 to October 2021. In September 2020, Dr. Sessoms prescribed a controlled substance to Family Member #1. Dr. Sessoms also treated a second immediate family member ("Family Member #2") between June 2018 and November 2021. Dr. Sessoms also allowed an immediate family member to treat him from January 2012 to June 2021 and, during that time, this family member prescribed a controlled substance to Dr. Sessoms in March 2021.

Dr. Sessoms is now aware of the Board's Position Statement entitled, "Self-Treatment and Treatment of Family Members" that explains that as a general principle, with limited exceptions, the Board believes that its licensees should not treat themselves, their family members, or others with whom they have a significant emotional relationship. The occasions where Dr. Sessoms allowed a family member to treat him and where he treated Family Member #1 and Family Member #2 did not fall into any of these limited exceptions.

Dr. Sessoms is also now aware of Board rule 21 NCAC 32B .1001(c) prohibiting physicians from prescribing controlled substances for the use of the physician's immediate family. Dr. Sessoms violated this rule when he prescribed a single controlled substance to Family Member #1.

During these investigations, it was also discovered that Dr. Sessoms prescribed the controlled substance testosterone for administration to patients in his office and to patients he treated at an off-site location. While there is no indication that Dr. Sessoms misused the testosterone obtained from these prescriptions, he did not follow the proper administrative procedure for obtaining this medication for these uses. Once this was brought to Dr. Sessoms' attention, he remedied the administrative mistake and utilized the appropriate prescribing procedure.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Dr. Sessoms' conduct, as described above, constitutes unprofessional conduct within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6), which is grounds under that section of the North Carolina General Statutes for the Board to annul, suspend, revoke, condition or limit Dr. Sessoms' license to practice medicine or to deny any application he may make in the future.

PROCEDURAL STIPULATIONS

Dr. Sessoms acknowledges and agrees that the Board has jurisdiction over him and over the subject matter of this case.

Dr. Sessoms knowingly waives his right to any hearing and to any judicial review or appeal in this case.

Dr. Sessoms, with the advice of legal counsel, acknowledges that he has read and understands this Consent Order and enters into it voluntarily.

Dr. Sessoms desires to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings.

The Board has determined that it is in the public interest to resolve this case as set forth below.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, with Dr. Sessoms' consent, it is ORDERED that:

1. Dr. Sessoms is hereby REPRIMANDED.

2. Dr. Sessoms shall maintain his current contract with NCPHP and abide by its terms and conditions, including the timely payment of all fees required by NCPHP.

3. Dr. Sessoms shall obey all laws. Likewise, he shall obey all rules and regulations involving the practice of medicine.

4. Dr. Sessoms shall meet with the Board or members of the Board for an investigative interview at such times as requested by the Board.

5. Upon request, Dr. Sessoms shall provide the Board with any information the Board deems necessary to verify compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order.

6. If Dr. Sessoms fails to comply with any of the terms of this Consent Order, that failure shall constitute unprofessional conduct within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6) and shall be grounds, after any required notice and hearing, for the Board to annul, suspend or revoke his license to practice medicine and to deny any application he might make in the future or then have pending for a license to practice medicine.

7. This Consent Order shall take effect immediately upon its execution by both Dr. Sessoms and the Board, and it shall continue in effect until specifically ordered otherwise by the Board.

8. Dr. Sessoms hereby waives any requirement under any law or rule that this Consent Order be served on him.

9. Upon execution by Dr. Sessoms and the Board, this Consent Order shall become a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and shall be subject to public inspection and dissemination pursuant to the provisions thereof. Additionally, it will be reported to persons, entities, agencies and clearinghouses as required and permitted by law including, but not limited to, the Federation of State Medical Boards and the National Practitioner Data Bank.

By Order of the North Carolina Medical Board this the 16th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By:



Michaux R. Kilpatrick, M.D., Ph.D.
President

Consented to this the 10th day of August, 2023.


Rodney Kevin Sessoms, M.D.

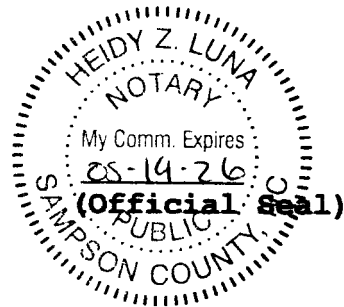
State of NC

County of Sampson

I, Heidy Z Luna, do hereby certify that Rodney Kevin Sessoms, M.D. personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal this the 10 day of August, 2023.

Heidy Z Luna
Notary Public



My Commission Expires: 08-14-26