

State of Rhode Island  
Department of Health  
Board of Medical Licensure & Discipline



**IN THE MATTER OF:**  
**John Sappington M.D.**  
**License Number MD 09034**  
**Case # C96-014**

**AMENDED CONSENT ORDER**

John Sappington, M.D. (hereinafter "Respondent") has applied for reinstatement of his license to practice medicine and a controlled substance registration in Rhode Island. Respondent surrendered his New York Physician license on December 23, 1995 admitting that his ability to practice medicine was impaired. Respondent specializes in psychiatry, his license in Rhode Island was suspended February 13, 1996 due to inaccurate statements made on the State of Rhode Island application for licensure and for actions in the states of New York and Rhode Island that constitute an immediate danger to the public health. Respondent voluntarily surrendered his Rhode Island license March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1996. The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline (hereinafter the "Board") makes the following:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Respondent graduated from University of Texas at Houston Medical School June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1989.
2. The respondent has presented substantial evidence of remediation. Respondent has been in recovery since 2012 without relapse.
3. Respondent is currently in an addiction medicine fellowship and is expected to successfully complete this fellowship in June of 2017.

4. Respondent has been evaluated by the Rhode Island Physician Health Committee who recommends continued monitoring for the next 5 years.
5. Respondent has been evaluated by Dr. Stuart Gitlow who submitted a letter strongly supporting respondent's reinstatement after completing a forensic psychiatry examination.
6. Respondent has submitted a favorable evaluation for reinstatement from his long-standing Counselor, George Conner, L.P.C.
7. Respondent submitted letters of support for licensure reinstatement from current addiction medicine faculty Dr Chris Marshall, Dr. Paul Hill and Dr Daniel Sumrock.
8. Respondent has provided evidence of clinical competence including attending CPEP who recommended a structured educational plan and CME.

**Based on the foregoing, the parties agree as follows:**

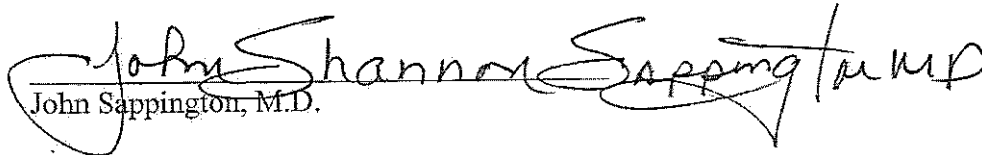
1. Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board.
2. Respondent has agreed to this Consent Order and understands that it is subject to final approval of the Board, and this Consent Order is not binding on Respondent until final ratification by the Board.
3. If ratified by the Board, Respondent hereby acknowledges and waives:
  - a. The right to appear personally or by counsel or both before the Board;
  - b. The right to produce witnesses and evidence on his behalf at a hearing;
  - c. The right to cross examine witnesses;
  - d. The right to have subpoenas issued by the Board;
  - e. The right to further procedural steps except for those specifically contained herein;

- f. Any and all rights of appeal of this Consent Order; and
  - g. Any objection to the fact that this Consent Order will be presented to the Board for consideration and review.
  - h. Any objection that this Consent Order will be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank, Federation of State Medical Boards as well as posted on the department's public web site.
9. Respondent agrees to pay an administrative fee to the Board for costs associating with investigating this application. Petitioner shall submit to the Board within sixty (60) days of ratification of this order, a check made payable to the Rhode Island General Treasury in the amount of \$850.00.
10. Respondent agrees to establish a relationship and follow recommendations with a local addiction medicine physician or addiction medicine psychiatrist and send quarterly reports to the Board for the next 5 years.
11. Respondent agrees to be monitored by the Rhode Island Medical Society Physician Health Committee and follow their recommendations for the next 5 years. Respondent understands the Rhode Island Physician Health Committee will notify the Board if there is a relapse or other breach in their agreement with him.
12. Respondent agrees to practice in a health care setting where there is at least one other physician as part of the group.
13. Respondent agrees to check the PDMP before prescribing any controlled substance.
14. If any term of this Consent Order is violated, after signed and accepted, the Director of the Department of Health shall have the discretion to summarily suspend the Respondent's license and/or impose further disciplinary action. If the Director suspends


the license and/or impose further disciplinary action, Respondent shall be given notice and shall have the right to request an administrative hearing within twenty (20) days of the suspension and/or further discipline. The Director of the Department of Health shall also have the discretion to request an administrative hearing after notice to the Petitioner of a violation of any term of this Consent Order. The Board may suspend Petitioner's license, or impose further discipline, for the remainder of Petitioner's licensing period if the alleged violation is proven by a preponderance of evidence.

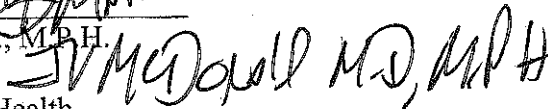
15. The Respondent's license shall be unrestricted, subject to full compliance and faithful adherence to the conditions established and approved herein by the Board.

Signed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016.

  
John Sappington, M.D.

Ratified by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline on the 14 day of JUNE 2017.

  
Nicole Alexander-Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director  
Rhode Island Department of Health  
3 Capitol Hill, Room 401  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

  
J. McDonald M.D., M.P.H.