

H-2677

IN THE MATTER OF  
THE LICENSE OF  
RONALD M. PENCE, M.D.

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BEFORE THE  
TEXAS STATE BOARD  
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

ORDER

On this the 15 day of October, 1999, came on to be heard before the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners ("the Board" or "the Texas Board"), duly in session the matter of the license of Ronald M. Pence, M.D. ("Respondent"). On September 30, 1999, Respondent appeared in person, without counsel, before representatives of the Board to petition the Board to terminate an Order entered on August 9, 1997 pertaining to Respondent's Texas medical license H-2677.

The Board was represented at Respondent's appearance by R. Russell Thomas Jr., DO and David E. Garza, DO, both of whom are members of the Board. Upon recommendation of the Board's representatives, and with the consent and request of Respondent, the Board makes the following findings of fact and enters this Order as set forth herein:

FINDINGS OF FACT

A. On August 9, 1997, the Board entered an Agreed Order, whereby his license was suspended, suspension was stayed and he was placed on probation for four (4) years, under certain terms and conditions, based on the following Findings of Fact.

1. Respondent, Ronald M. Pence, M.D., holds Texas medical license H-2677.
2. The Board has jurisdiction over the subject matter and Respondent.

Respondent received all notice, which may be required by law and by the rules of the Board. All jurisdictional requirements have been satisfied.

3. Respondent is not certified by the American Board of Medical Specialties, but is primarily engaged in the practice of child and adolescent psychiatry.
4. Respondent has been licensed to practice medicine in Texas for approximately ten (10) years.
5. Respondent's practice involves psychiatric care and treatment of children, adolescents, and adults.
6. During 1993 and 1994, Respondent developed a romantic and sexual relationship with an adult female registered nurse.
7. During 1993 and 1994, Respondent also treated this adult female through initiation of prescription medications including Prozac and Klonopin.
8. During the period of this relationship, Respondent also modified the dosage of estrogen medications provided to this patient.
9. Respondent failed to maintain medical records on his care and treatment of this adult female patient.
10. On or about April 26, 1994, the patient ingested an overdose of medications and called Respondent from a local motel room.
11. Subsequently, Respondent drove to the motel and transported the patient to a local hospital emergency room. Respondent provided all information of which he was aware to hospital staff regarding the medications consumed by the patient.
12. Respondent has entered into this Agreed Order pursuant to the provisions of Sections 4.02(h) and (i) of the Medical Practice Act ("the Act"), V.A.C.S., article 4495b.
13. So as to avoid the expense and inconvenience of litigating the allegations, in lieu of further investigation or a hearing, Respondent agrees to the entry of this Agreed Order, and further agrees to comply with the terms and conditions set forth herein.
14. Respondent has not previously been the subject of disciplinary action by the Board.

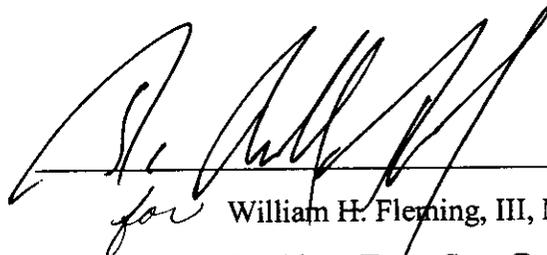
B. Based on information available on September 30, 1999, upon Respondent's history of compliance with the terms and conditions of the August 9, 1997 Order, and because Respondent has successfully completed over two (2) years of the required four (4) year term of probation, the Board's representatives recommend that Respondent's petition to terminate the August 9, 1997 Order be granted.

ORDER

Based on available information, the above Findings of Fact, and the recommendation of the Board's representatives, the Board ORDERS that Respondent's petition is GRANTED and the August 9, 1997 Order be hereby TERMINATED.

THIS IS A PUBLIC RECORD.

Signed and entered on this the 15 day of October, 1999.

  
for William H. Fleming, III, M.D.  
President, Texas State Board of  
Medical Examiners