

**BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF MEDICINE**

**IN RE:           ANDREW JOSEPH CHAMBERS, M.D.**  
**License Number:   0101-255675**  
**Case Number:       173002**

---

**CONSENT ORDER**

---

**JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

By Order entered August 23, 2016, the Virginia Board of Medicine (“Board”) summarily suspended the license of Andrew Joseph Chambers, M.D., and noticed Dr. Chambers for a formal administrative hearing to inquire into allegations that he violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of medicine and surgery in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In lieu of proceeding to this formal administrative hearing, the Board and Andrew Joseph Chambers, M.D., enter into the following Consent Order affecting Dr. Chambers’ license to practice Medicine & Surgery in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Andrew Joseph Chambers, M.D., was issued License Number #0101-255675 to practice medicine and surgery in the Commonwealth of Virginia on February 10, 2014. Dr. Chambers’ license was summarily suspended by the Board on August 23, 2016.

2. Dr. Chambers violated Virginia Code § 54.1-2915.A(3), (12), (13), (16), (18) and (19) and 18 VAC 85-20-100 of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Medicine, Osteopathy and Chiropractic, in that, from approximately November 2014 through April 2015, while providing psychotherapy and medication management to Patient A, he engaged in romantic involvement/sexual contact with her, concurrent with and by virtue of the practitioner-patient relationship. Further, by his own admission, Dr. Chambers chose to continue Patient A’s psychotherapy despite their ongoing

personal/sexual relationship, after considering “how disclosing [their] developing feelings to another provider would impact [his] profession.” Moreover, when Dr. Chambers terminated the practitioner-patient relationship, in or about April 2015, he failed to refer Patient A for appropriate care and treatment. Further, at or about this time, Patient A moved her residence to a location closer to Dr. Chambers’ practice and they began cohabiting.

3. After confirming Dr. Chambers’ inappropriate relationship with Patient A, Dr. Chambers’ employer terminated his employment and on March 29, 2016, contacted the Virginia Department of Health Professions (“DHP”) to file a complaint.

4. On April 11, 2016, Dr. Chambers, prior to being notified by DHP of the complaint, reported to DHP his practitioner-patient boundary violation with Patient A.

5. On April 20, 2016, Dr. Chambers enrolled in the course, “Maintaining Proper Boundaries,” at the Center for Professional Health at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, scheduled for October 5 – 7, 2016.

6. Dr. Chambers stated that on April 23, 2016, he and Patient A were “joined as husband and wife” in a “civil commitment” ceremony.

7. Dr. Chambers stated that on April 25, 2016, he began counseling with Douglas M. Thorpe, Ph.D., M.Div, L.P.C., at the Virginia Institute of Pastoral Care, to address the emotional issues he claims contributed to his boundary violation with Patient A.

8. During an interview with the DHP investigator on April 26, 2016, Dr. Chambers acknowledged that he was aware of his professional boundary violation and that he should have sought counseling when his feelings for Patient A developed; and stated he was accepting responsibility for his actions and moving forward with therapy.

9. Dr. Chambers stated to the DHP investigator that in his current professional position, he does not provide psychotherapy services.

10. According to Dr. Chambers, on April 28, 2016, he disclosed to his current employer that he was under investigation by the Board for a boundary violation.

11. On May 11, 2016, Patient A stated to the DHP investigator that both Dr. Chambers and she knew what they were doing was wrong, but that she never had any negative impact from their relationship.

12. Dr. Chambers reported that on August 28, 2016, he was legally married to Patient A.

### CONSENT

Andrew Joseph Chambers, M.D., by affixing his signature to this Consent Order, agrees to the following:

1. I have been advised to seek advice of counsel prior to signing this document, and am represented by Alexander M. Macauley, Esquire and Lindsay M. Walton, Esquire;

2. I am fully aware that without my consent, no legal action can be taken against me or my license except pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act, Virginia Code § 2.2-4000 *et seq.*;

3. I acknowledge that I have the following rights, among others: the right to a formal administrative hearing before the Board; the right to representation by counsel; and the right to cross-examine witnesses against me;

4. I waive my right to a formal hearing;

5. I admit to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained herein and waive my right to contest such Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and any sanction imposed hereunder in any future judicial or administrative proceeding in which the Board is a party; and

6. I consent to the entry of the following Order affecting my right to practice Medicine & Surgery in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Virginia Board of Medicine hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. The license of Andrew Joseph Chambers, M.D., is hereby SUSPENDED for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of this Order.

2. Said SUSPENSION shall be STAYED upon the Board's receipt of evidence satisfactory to the Board that Dr. Chambers has completed the "Maintaining Proper Boundaries" continuing medical education ("CME") course provided by the Center for Professional Health at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Any CME hours obtained in compliance with this term shall not be used toward compliance with the Board's continuing education requirements for license renewal.

The Board FURTHER ORDERS that for a period of 12 months, Dr. Chambers' license shall be on the following TERMS and CONDITIONS:

1. Dr. Chambers shall establish treatment with a psychotherapist approved by the Board, who shall submit quarterly patient reports to the Board; with subsequent reports to be submitted quarterly by the last day of September, December, March and June.

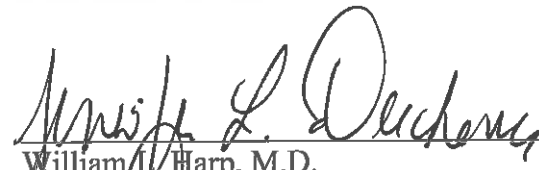
2. Dr. Chambers shall not engage in the practice of psychotherapy.

3. Dr. Chambers shall not train and/or supervise individuals participating in any medical residency program(s) or otherwise engage in consultation with clinical colleagues regarding patients' psychotherapy.

The stay of suspension granted hereunder may be rescinded at such time as the Board is notified that Dr. Chambers is not in compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order.

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4023 and 54.1-2400.2, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

FOR THE BOARD

*For*   
\_\_\_\_\_  
William L. Harp, M.D.  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Medicine

ENTERED: 9/9/16

SEEN AND AGREED TO:

Andrew Joseph Chambers, M.D.  
Andrew Joseph Chambers, M.D.

COMMONWEALTH OF ~~VIRGINIA~~ <sup>Montana</sup>  
COUNTY/CITY OF Billings - Yellowstone, TO WIT:

Subscribed and sworn to me, a notary public in and for the Commonwealth of Virginia at large, on this  
1 day of September, 2016.

Tayler Reichert  
Notary Public

My commission expires:

June 7, 2020

Registration No.:

