

BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

IN THE MATTER OF THE PHYSICIAN'S LICENSE

OF

IKECHUKWU HYGINUS OKORIE, M.D.

AMENDED DETERMINATION AND ORDER

THIS MATTER came on regularly for hearing on September 20, 2018, before the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure (hereinafter "Board") in response to the request of Ikechukwu Hyginus Okorie, M.D. (hereinafter "Licensee") for authorization to return to the practice of Medicine.

Licensee was present without counsel. Complaint Counsel for the Board was Honorable Stan T. Ingram. Sitting as legal advisor to the Board was Honorable Heather Wagner, Special Assistant Attorney General. Board members present for all proceedings were Claude D. Brunson, M.D.; Charles D. Miles, M.D.; Charles K. Lippincott, M.D.; William D. McClendon, Jr., M.D.; Jeanne Ann Rea, M.D.; It is noted that Allen Gersh, M.D.; and Kirk L. Kinard, D.O., recused themselves and did not participate in the proceedings. Michelle Y. Owens, M.D. was absent.

Based upon the evidence and testimony presented, the Board renders the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Licensee has been the subject of multiple disciplinary actions by the Board. Following an evidentiary hearing on November 12, 2015, the Board entered a Determination and Order finding Licensee guilty of multiple counts of violation of the Mississippi Medical Practice Law. The Board placed restrictions on Licensee's certificate to practice medicine for the ultimate purpose to protect the public. Specifically, the Order required Licensee to successfully complete

continuing medical education in the areas of controlled substances, record keeping, medical ethics and boundaries. The order then provided:

“Licensee shall refrain from taking any new chronic pain and/or addiction medicine patients and shall, within six (6) months from the date of this Order, cease managing any chronic pain and/or addiction medicine patients in his practice.”

Licensee appealed the November 12, 2015 Determination and Order to the Chancery Court of the First Judicial District of Hinds County which ultimately affirmed the Board's order.

Licensee violated the terms and conditions imposed by the November 12, 2015, Determination and Order inasmuch as he failed to cease managing existing chronic pain and/or addiction medicine patients within the time proscribed and continued to take new chronic pain and/or addiction medicine patients. Licensee was thereafter charged with violation of a Board order, wherein a full evidentiary hearing was conducted on March 22, 2018. The Board found Licensee guilty and rendered a Determination and Order suspending Licensee's certificate to practice medicine for a period of one (1) year with the suspension stayed after a minimum of six (6) months, provided Licensee (1) completes certain Continuing Medical Education courses in the areas of prescribing of controlled substances and professional ethics, and (2) after expiration of the six (6) month period of suspension to personally appear before the Board to request lifting of the suspension. The March 22, 2018, Determination and Order then provided:

“Upon return to the practice of medicine, Licensee shall be indefinitely prohibited from taking any new chronic pain and/or addiction medicine patients or managing any chronic pain and/or addiction medicine patients in his practice.”

Licensee appealed the March 22, 2018, Determination and Order to the Chancery Court of the First Judicial District of Hinds County which ultimately affirmed the Board's order.

Licensee now submits documentary proof of completion of the aforementioned Continuing Medical Education. He also requests return of privileges to treat patients for chronic pain and/or addiction. While the Board finds Licensee's request to return to practice to be well

taken, the above indefinite prohibition against treating chronic pain and/or addiction as clearly enumerated in the March 22, 2018, Determination and Order shall remain intact.

IT IS THEREFORE, ORDERED that effective September 22, 2018, Licensee is hereby authorized to return to the practice of medicine, provided that until otherwise ordered by the Board, Licensee shall be indefinitely prohibited from treating or managing patients for chronic pain and/or addiction.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Section 73-25-27, a copy of this Determination and Order shall be sent by registered mail, or personally served upon Ikechukwu Hyginus Okorie, M.D.

SO ORDERED, this the 4th day of October, 2018.

**MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL LICENSURE**

BY: Claude D. Brunson (in)
CLAUDE D. BRUNSON, M.D.
PRESIDENT