

BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

IN THE MATTER OF THE PHYSICIAN'S LICENSE

OF

GREGORY PEARCE NORWOOD, D.O.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF HINDS

AMENDED AFFIDAVIT

I, Leslie Ross, Director of Investigations, Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, hereinafter referred to as the "Board," do hereby make oath that I have reason to believe and do believe:

1. That GREGORY PEARCE NORWOOD, D.O., hereby referred to as "Licensee," currently holds Mississippi Medical License Number 21158, and said number is valid until June 30, 2019.
2. That Licensee lists his practice location as 7600 Airways Blvd., Suite A, Southaven, Mississippi and his specialty as an Obstetrics and Gynecology.
3. That on July 7, 2016, The Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, hereinafter referred to as the "Board," received a complaint from a patient who alleged sexual misconduct against Licensee. Specifically, the patient advised that on June 29, 2016, she presented to Licensee at his office, which at the time was located at 401 Southcrest Circle, Suite 202, Southaven, MS, for a complaint of abdominal pain and that she was sexually assaulted (sexual misconduct) during this visit.

4. On August 2, 2016, Affiant interviewed this patient (Patient No. 1) who stated that Licensee began the examination by pressing between her ribs, pressing on her abdomen, using a stethoscope to listen to bowel sounds, pressing on her hip bones and then moving downward to her pelvic area. She then stated that at this time Licensee placed his left hand, later followed by his right hand, into her scrub pants and rubbed her labia and clitoris *"in a circular motion"* with his thumb prior to placing his fingers inside of her vagina. She stated that Licensee then placed her (the patient's) hand into her pants, and under his hand, before she pulled her hand back and stated to Licensee that she was not sure what he was doing to her. She used the excuse that she needed to use the restroom as an opportunity to flee the clinic. She advised that she immediately began receiving phone calls and text messages from Licensee as to the incident that transpired.

Patient No. 1 stated that no one, including a chaperone, was present in the exam room when this incident occurred. She further stated that she was wearing scrubs and was not clothed in a gown and that Licensee was not wearing gloves when he conducted the exam.

5. That an investigation into Patient No. 1's complaint was conducted and led to an appearance before the Executive Committee of the Board on July 19, 2017, to discuss said investigation. It was the recommendation of the Board that no action be taken at the time, and that the investigation continue.

6. That further investigation was conducted as ordered; however, on or about December 20, 2017, the investigation was terminated due to the fact the allegations made by Patient No. 1 could not be substantiated at that time.

COUNT I

Based upon the foregoing, Licensee is guilty of unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, being guilty of any dishonorable or unethical conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public by virtue of his sexually inappropriate examinations of patients, all in violation of Miss. Code Ann., §73-25-29(8)(d) and §73-25-83(a).

7. That on or about July 10, 2018, a complaint was received from Baptist Memorial Hospital-Desoto, Southaven, Mississippi, on behalf of a patient. The allegations contained in the complaint described acts of sexual misconduct to a patient (Patient No. 2) and were extremely similar to the allegations made by Patient No. 1 in the 2016 complaint.

That on July 11, 2018, Affiant spoke with Patient No. 2 via telephone for the purpose of obtaining specific information regarding the patient's complaint. Patient No. 2 stated that she had been treated by Licensee in or around 2017, on approximately 3-4 occasions, inclusive of having ovarian cysts removed, and that aside from the fact that Licensee "*rubbed my legs the entire time,*" nothing else unusual occurred during those exams. She stated that she soon returned to see Licensee because she was experiencing abdominal pain and believed that she may have another ovarian cyst. She advised that it was on this visit that "*the incident*" occurred, but she could not provide a date.

She described "the incident" as her lying on the exam table and having a sheet draped across the lower half of her body. She stated that when Licensee conducted the pelvic exam, he inserted two (2) fingers into her vagina while using his thumb to rub her clitoris "in a circular motion." She said that she cried during the entire incident but did not confront Licensee during this time. She further advised that a nurse, who she could only identify as "Teresa," was present in the room but was unable to see what was occurring due to her (Teresa's) location and due to the fact that she (Patient No. 2) was covered by the sheet. (Affiant was later able to identify the nurse as Teresa Reed Hoofe, a Licensed Practical Nurse who is licensed by the state of Tennessee but works in Mississippi via a compact nursing license.)

Patient No. 2 advised that she became pregnant a couple of months later and returned to Licensee for confirmation of the pregnancy. She stated that she underwent several ultrasounds and found it odd that Licensee performed the ultrasounds himself as opposed to the ultrasounds being performed by a technician. She further advised that all of her visits with Licensee lasted longer than visits to other Ob/ Gyns.

COUNT II

Based upon the foregoing, Licensee is guilty of unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, being guilty of any dishonorable or unethical conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public by virtue of his sexually inappropriate examinations of patients, all in violation of Miss. Code Ann., §73-25-29(8)(d) and §73-25-83(a).

8. That after speaking with Patient No. 2, another investigation into Licensee began. During the course of this investigation, Affiant discovered additional patients, which brought the total to seven (7), and who stated a similar set of circumstances, all of which describe some version of a sexual misconduct by Licensee.
9. That on September 13, 2018, Affiant, accompanied by another Board Agent, interviewed a patient who advised that she initially sought treatment in the form of a wellness examination from Licensee on March 7, 2017. This patient (Patient No. 3) stated that during the exam Licensee repeatedly moved his finger from one side of her labia to another while asking if it hurt. She stated that Licensee *"went back and forth"* and that he *"stayed a long time in my stuff."* She then stated that Licensee *"rubbed the dangly thing"* for approximately one (1) minute (a reference to her clitoris as she stated that she did not know the proper medical terminology for such at the time). She estimated the time frame of the exam to be around 25-30 minutes, with approximately 10 (ten) minutes being spent in her pelvic region. She further advised that while Licensee was conducting the medical exam, he inquired as to whether the patient ever thought about men other than her husband. The patient stated that she felt as if Licensee *"was trying to entice me."*

COUNT III

Based upon the foregoing, Licensee is guilty of unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, being guilty of any dishonorable or

unethical conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public by virtue of his sexually inappropriate examinations of patients, all in violation of Miss. Code Ann., §73-25-29(8)(d) and §73-25-83(a).

10. That on September 13, 2018, Affiant obtained an Incident Report from the Southaven Police Department (SPD) after discovering that a patient (Patient No. 4) filed a complaint with the SPD on July 12, 2016, wherein she alleged sexual battery against Licensee. Again, the allegations made by this patient and reported to the SPD are very similar to the allegations made by the three (3) aforementioned patients.

The Incident Report lists the offense reported by Patient No. 4 as sexual battery {Mississippi Code Ann. §97-3-95(2)}. The report reflects that on July 12, 2016, Patient No. 4 had an appointment with Licensee for a routine examination and ultrasound in reference to her ninth (9) month of pregnancy. The report reflects that the patient claims to have been violated by Licensee during a vaginal exam when Licensee asked her to *"manipulate her nipples in order to stimulate herself."* The report further states that Licensee told her that having orgasms would help her uterus contract for the purpose of inducing labor. The patient reported to the SPD Officer that Licensee *"was trying to make me come."* The patient stated that Licensee was trying to make her have an orgasm and asked her *"whether or not she like (sic) it and was enjoying herself."* She stated that the Licensee asked if he could place his mouth on her nipple and kiss her neck. The patient reported that there was not a nurse in the room and that she used the excuse of needing to use the

restroom so she could leave the clinic. The patient then contacted SPD and reported the incident.

Although the police responded to Licensee's practice location at 7601 Southcrest Parkway, Southaven, Mississippi, and spoke with him, Licensee was not charged and/ or arrested.

COUNT IV

Based upon the foregoing, Licensee is guilty of unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, being guilty of any dishonorable or unethical conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public by virtue of his sexually inappropriate examinations of patients, all in violation of Miss. Code Ann., §73-25-29(8)(d) and §73-25-83(a).

11. That on October 10, 2018, Affiant was provided the name and contact information for a patient (Patient No. 5) who filed a formal complaint with the Southaven Police Department. Affiant phoned Patient No. 5 who stated that she had her baby in February 2018, and that her baby was delivered by Licensee. She was scheduled to return six (6) weeks later for a follow-up visit, but was unable to do so until the end of May 2018. She stated that she presented to the clinic on May 29, 2018 for an annual examination. During the examination Licensee, via the use of a speculum, obtained a pap smear. Contrary to entries in the medical record, Patient No. 5 denied she presented with any complaints of vaginal irritation. She stated that after removing the speculum, he inserted his fingers into her vagina and began pressing on her stomach. She then stated that he ceased pressing on her stomach and, while

his fingers were still inside of her, he used the thumb and pointing finger on his other hand to “*rub my clit.*” She stated that he continually told her that she had a scratch on her clitoris while she adamantly denied having a scratch or any other injuries. She stated that she felt as if Licensee was trying to justify to her why he was massaging her clitoris. She advised that Licensee was “*in there a long time.*” She estimated the entirety of the follow-up exam to be about twenty five (25) minutes, while what she described as the inappropriate portion (i.e. massaging the clitoris), lasted a little more than three (3) minutes. Patient No. 5 advised that her friend, Lamaesha McAdory (Moore), who is employed at the clinic, was present in the room during this exam and was positioned at the sink, which is located near the foot of the exam table. Affiant asked if Ms. McAdory’s (Moore’s) presence in the room was that of a friend or was she present as a chaperone for Licensee. The patient stated that Ms. McAdory’s (Moore’s) presence was on behalf of Licensee and in the capacity of a chaperone.

COUNT V

Based upon the foregoing, Licensee is guilty of unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, being guilty of any dishonorable or unethical conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public by virtue of his sexually inappropriate examinations of patients, all in violation of Miss. Code Ann., §73-25-29(8)(d) and §73-25-83(a).

12. That on October 1, 2018, Affiant was provided the name and contact information for a patient (Patient No. 6) who called the Board’s office. Affiant

phoned Patient No. 6 who reported that on November 23, 2016, she gave birth to a child, which was delivered by Licensee. On or about January 3, 2017, she presented to Licensee with complaints of cramping. She stated that Licensee performed an ultrasound and that they were alone in the room during this time. She advised that afterwards she was taken to an exam room where Licensee, who donned a latex glove on his right hand only, inserted his fingers into her vagina and began what she termed as "*fingering me*" at a rapid pace. She stated that Licensee then took his left hand, which was not gloved, and used it to "*rub my clitoris.*" She estimated that this portion of the exam lasted for approximately ten (10) minutes and that Licensee finally ceased this activity when she informed him that she was "*getting raw*" and that it "*just hurt.*" She then advised that Licensee "*checked my hips*" by pulling her legs up in the air and began pressing against her with his body. She stated that she immediately sat up, at which time a 'nurse,' who she could not identify by name, knocked on the door and asked if everything was alright while commenting that they had been "*in there for a while.*" The patient stated that she responded "yes" and at this time Licensee left the room. The patient advised that she then got dressed and departed the clinic.

COUNT VI

Based upon the foregoing, Licensee is guilty of unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, being guilty of any dishonorable or unethical conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public by virtue of his sexually inappropriate examinations of patients, all in violation of Miss. Code Ann., §73-25-29(8)(d) and §73-25-83(a).

13. That on October 16, 2018, Affiant returned a call to a patient (Patient No. 7) who reported that she worked for Licensee as a medical assistant for several months in 2017-2018. She stated that around the beginning of November 2017, while an employee, she spoke to Licensee about getting an ultrasound on her right breast after she discovered a lump. A couple of weeks passed and the ultrasound had yet to be performed. On November 14, 2017, Licensee asked if she had received the ultrasound yet, to which she replied "No." She stated that the clinic stayed open late into the evenings and on this particular occasion, they were alone in the clinic. She said that Licensee asked her if she wanted him to conduct the ultrasound to which she agreed. She said that while conducting the ultrasound on her right breast, Licensee began rubbing her left breast and nipple. She then said that he performed an ultrasound on her left breast and rubbed her right breast.

Patient No. 7 said that Licensee moved the ultrasound probe to her abdomen and began conducting an ultrasound there. According to the patient, she did not report any complaints or concerns that warranted an ultrasound on her abdomen. Licensee asked her if she knew the depth of her vaginal vault. She stated that she was shocked by his question and replied that she did not know. She said that he told her that he could find out for her and that it "*would not involve inserting anything into your vagina.*" She said that she reiterated that she did not care to know and then stated, "*No, I'm good.*"

Patient No. 7 related a second incident which she estimated to have occurred a few weeks later. She stated that she found a small bump on her abdomen and she asked Licensee to examine it. She said that her reason for doing so was because she previously had shingles, which originated on her abdomen, and she wanted to ensure that this was not the start of another outbreak. She said that Licensee told her to remove her shirt because he needed to check her breasts. She stated that she told him "No", but he insisted that she remove her shirt and her bra, and she eventually acquiesced. She stated that Licensee was present when she removed her shirt and bra and that she was not provided any items, such as a gown or sheet, for coverage. Instead, she used her hands to cover her breasts. She advised that Licensee removed her hands from her breasts, thereby exposing them. She advised that this incident took place in Licensee's office and not in an exam room after hours. . Further, she advised that he made comments to the effect that *"this was a professional setting so what are you worried about?"*

➤ Patient No. 7 stated that there was another incident wherein she witnessed Licensee with his thumb on the clitoris of a black female patient, whose name she could not recall. She stated that she only remembered that this exam took place in exam room #5 and that the patient was from Mound Bayou, Mississippi, a former practice location of Licensee.

COUNT VII

Based upon the foregoing, Licensee is guilty of unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, being guilty of any dishonorable or

unethical conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public by virtue of his sexually inappropriate examinations of patients, all in violation of Miss. Code Ann., §73-25-29(8)(d) and §73-25-83(a).

14. That Affiant consulted a physician in the field of obstetrics and gynecology to review the complaints against Licensee and render an opinion. Based on this review, this physician deemed Licensee an immediate threat and danger to the public.



Leslie Ross, Director of Investigations
Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, this the 29th day of October,
2018.



Notary Public

