

BEFORE THE
NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

In re:)
)
Sherry Leigh Hill, M.D.,) CONSENT ORDER
)
Applicant.)

This matter is before the North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") on the application of Sherry Leigh Hill, M.D. ("Dr. Hill") for reinstatement of her license to practice medicine in the state of North Carolina. Dr. Hill makes the following admissions, and the Board makes the following findings and conclusions:

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The Board is a body duly organized under the laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this proceeding under the authority granted to it in Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the rules and regulations promulgated thereto.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Dr. Hill was first issued a license to practice medicine by the Board on or about April 9, 2012, license number 200100696. At all times relevant, Dr. Hill practiced emergency medicine in Tennessee.

In June 2020, while on duty at a Tennessee hospital, Dr. Hill was observed by hospital staff in what appeared to be an impaired state. The Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners ("Tennessee Board") investigated the June 2020, incident and summarily suspended Dr. Hill's Tennessee medical license on October 2, 2020. These actions by the Tennessee Board caused the Board to open an investigation.

On October 13, 2020, Dr. Hill voluntarily went to the North Carolina Professionals Health Program ("NCPHP"). NCPHP conducted an initial evaluation, determined it could not support Dr. Hill as safe to practice medicine at that time, and recommended further evaluation related to substance use and mental health concerns.

On October 29, 2020, Dr. Hill inactivated her North Carolina medical license.

On December 7, 2020, Dr. Hill entered into a Monitoring Agreement with NCPHP.

On June 29, 2021, Dr. Hill applied for reinstatement of her license to practice medicine in North Carolina.

On December 22, 2021, Dr. Hill entered into a Consent Order with the Board that indefinitely suspended her inactive North Carolina medical license, retroactive to the date she made it inactive, which was October 29, 2020. This retroactive indefinite suspension resolved the Board case that was opened after the Tennessee Board summary suspension.

Dr. Hill is an ongoing participant with NCPHP and is in compliance with her NCPHP agreement. NCPHP supports Dr. Hill as safe to practice medicine as well as the reinstatement of her medical license.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

When consuming alcohol, Dr. Hill is unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of such use within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(5) and grounds exist under that section of the North Carolina General Statutes for the Board to deny her application for reinstatement of her license. Because of her sustained compliance with and support from NCPHP and other mitigating factors noted in this Consent Order, Dr. Hill can safely resume the practice of medicine subject to the conditions set forth herein.

PROCEDURAL STIPULATIONS

Dr. Hill acknowledges and agrees that the Board has jurisdiction over her and over the subject matter of this case.

Dr. Hill knowingly waives her right to any hearing and to any judicial review or appeal in this case.

Dr. Hill, with the advice of legal counsel, acknowledges that she has read and understands this Consent Order and enters into it voluntarily.

Dr. Hill desires to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings.

The Board has determined that it is in the public interest to resolve this matter as set forth below.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, with Dr. Hill's consent, it is ORDERED that:

1. The Board shall reinstate Dr. Hill's license to practice medicine.

2. Dr. Hill shall maintain her current agreement with NCPHP and abide by all its terms, including the timely payment of all fees required by NCPHP.

3. Unless lawfully prescribed for her by someone other than herself, Dr. Hill shall refrain from the use or possession of alcohol and all other mind- or mood-altering substances and all controlled substances including, but not limited to, sedatives, stimulants, and pain medication.

4. Upon request by the Board, Dr. Hill shall supply urine, blood, hair, or any other bodily fluid or tissue sample the Board might reasonably require for the purposes of analysis to determine if she has consumed any of the substances mentioned above.

5. Dr. Hill shall obey all laws. Likewise, she shall obey all rules and regulations involving the practice of medicine.

6. Dr. Hill shall meet with the Board or members of the Board for an investigative interview at such times as requested by the Board.

7. Upon request, Dr. Hill shall provide the Board with any information the Board deems necessary to verify compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order.

8. If Dr. Hill fails to comply with any of the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, that failure shall constitute unprofessional conduct within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6) and shall be grounds, after any required notice and hearing, for the Board to annul, suspend or revoke her license to practice medicine and to deny any application she might make in the future or then have pending for a license to practice medicine.

9. This Consent Order shall take effect immediately upon its execution by both Dr. Hill and the Board, and it shall continue in effect until specifically ordered otherwise by the Board.

10. Dr. Hill hereby waives any requirement under any law or rule that this Consent Order be served on her.

11. Upon execution by Dr. Hill and the Board, this Consent Order shall become a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and shall be subject to public inspection and dissemination pursuant to the provisions thereof. Additionally, it will be reported to persons, entities, agencies and clearinghouses as required and permitted by law including, but not limited to, the Federation of State Medical Boards and the National Practitioner Data Bank.

By Order of the North Carolina Medical Board this the 3rd day
of June, 2022.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By:


John W. Rusher, M.D., J.D.
President

Consented to this the 2 day of June, 2022.

SHill
Sherry Leigh Hill, M.D.

State of North Carolina

County of Buncombe

I, Sarah Cox, do hereby certify that Sherry Leigh Hill, M.D. personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal this the 2 day of June, 2022.

Sarah Cox
Notary Public

(Official Seal)

My Commission Expires: 11-11-26

