

BEFORE THE
NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

In re:)
)
Ogochukwu Okpala, M.D.,) CONSENT ORDER
)
Respondent.)

This matter is before the North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") regarding information provided to the Board concerning Ogochukwu Okpala, M.D. ("Dr. Okpala"). Dr. Okpala 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. Okpala was first issued a license to practice medicine by the Board on or about December 16, 2013, license number 2013-02426.

At all times relevant hereto, Dr. Okpala practiced obstetrics and gynecology in Harnett County, North Carolina.

Patient A presented to Dr. Okpala in June 2021 for a gynecological consult. In July 2021 Dr. Okpala performs a gynecological surgery on Patient A and seven days later sees Patient A for a routine follow-up postoperative care.

In late July 2021, Dr. Okpala engaged in an intimate relationship with Patient A's husband (Husband A). By Dr. Okpala's and Husband A's reports, the affair began sometime after Patient A's last visit with Dr. Okpala. Though Dr. Okpala never saw Patient A again after her relationship with Husband A began, Dr. Okpala never formally discharged Patient A as her patient.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Dr. Okpala's conduct, as described above, constitutes unprofessional conduct, within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6), including, but not limited to, a departure from, or the failure to conform to the ethics of the medical profession, or the committing of any act contrary to honesty, justice, or good morals, which is grounds under that section of the North Carolina General Statutes for the Board to annul, suspend, revoke, condition, or limit Dr. Okpala's license to practice medicine or to deny any application she may make in the future.

PROCEDURAL STIPULATIONS

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

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

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

Dr. Okpala 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 case as set forth below.

ORDER

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

1. Dr. Okpala's North Carolina license to practice medicine is hereby INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED effective September 30, 2022.

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

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


4. Upon execution by Dr. Okpala 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 25th day of July, 2022.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By:



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

Consented to this the 21ST day of JULY, 2022.

[Signature]
Ogochukwu Okpala, M.D.

State of Georgia
County of Fulton

I, Joseph Leavell, do hereby certify that Ogochukwu Okpala, 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 21 day of July, 2022.

[Signature]
Notary Public
My Commission Expires: 09/27/2024

JOSEPH LEAVELL
NOTARY PUBLIC
DeKalb County
State of Georgia
My Comm. Expires Sept. 27, 2024
(Official Seal)