

**STATE OF MAINE
BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC LICENSURE**

In Re: **TRUNG N. NGUYEN, D.O.**)
)
) **NOTICE OF SUSPENSION**

SUSPENSION OF LICENSE TO PRACTICE

On May 11, 2023, the Board of Osteopathic Licensure reviewed disciplinary documents from the Kentucky and Alabama licensing boards regarding TRUNG N. NGUYEN, D.O. (hereafter “Dr. NGUYEN”) as well as Dr. NGUYEN’s most recent license renewal application, submitted on December 30, 2022.

On the basis of its review of these materials, the Board concludes that the continued ability of Dr. NGUYEN to practice as an Osteopathic physician in the State of Maine constitutes an immediate jeopardy to the health and physical safety of the public who might receive his medical services, and that it is necessary to immediately suspend his ability to practice medicine in order to adequately respond to this risk.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

The Kentucky Order indicates Dr. NGUYEN were only prescribing controlled substances for weight loss. After a review of patient medical records, a consultant found the records to be completely inadequate, in terms of patient information, treatment records, and documentation. And a review of Maine Prescription Monitoring Plan data shows that Dr. NGUYEN has been prescribing similar medications to patients in Maine.

On December 30, 2022, Dr. NGUYEN applied for renewal of his license to practice osteopathic medicine in Maine. He answered “No” to Question 5, which is “Been notified of the existence of allegations involving you, filed with or by ANY licensing authority (including the State of Maine) and which allegations are open as of the date of THIS application?” The Kentucky Order states on or about September 14, 2022, Dr. NGUYEN responded to the Kentucky OIG report. And on November 30, 2022, a consultant for the Kentucky Board issued a report after review of records. Dr. NGUYEN responded to that report on or about January 4, 2023.

For the purposes of this Immediate Suspension, the Board has deemed that that conduct constitutes violations of:

- A. 32 M.R.S. § 2591-A(2)(A) for fraud or deceit in in obtaining a license under this chapter.

- B. 32 M.R.S. § 2591-A(2)(E) for incompetence. A licensee is considered incompetent in the practice if the licensee has engaged in conduct that evidences a lack of ability or fitness to discharge the duty owed to a patient or the public, or engaged in conduct that evidences a lack of knowledge, or inability to apply principles or skills to carry out the practice of medicine.
- C. 32 M.R.S. § 2591-A(2)(F) for unprofessional conduct. A licensee is considered to have engaged in unprofessional conduct if the licensee violates a standard of professional behavior that has been established in the practice of medicine, including but not limited to violations of the American Osteopathic Association Code of Ethics and/or the American Medical Association Code of Medical Ethics.
- D. 32 M.R.S. § 2591-A(2)(N) for restriction of a license to practice medicine or other disciplinary action following the institution of disciplinary action by another state or a territory of the United States if the conduct resulting in the disciplinary or other action involving the license would, if committed in this State, constitute grounds for discipline under the laws or rules of this State.

ORDER OF IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION

Therefore, the Board hereby ORDERS THE IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF THE LICENSE OF DR. NGUYEN TO PRACTICE OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE IN MAINE WHICH INCLUDES PRESCRIBING.

This suspension is issued pursuant to 5 M.R.S. §10004(3). The Maine license of DR. TRUNG N. NGUYEN is suspended immediately today for a 30-day period ending at 11:59 p.m. on June 18, 2023, pending further board action at an adjudicatory hearing.

Dr. NGUYEN must immediately cease practicing osteopathic medicine in Maine and arrange for the care of patients by another medical provider. Dr. NGUYEN is not authorized to act as supervising physician for any physician extender.

Copies of the referenced statutes are attached.

Date: May 18, 2023

STATE OF MAINE
BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC LICENSURE

By: *Bethany L. Vieta*
Executive Secretary

§2591-A. Disciplinary actions

1. Disciplinary proceedings and sanctions. The board shall investigate a complaint, on its own motion or upon receipt of a written complaint filed with the board, regarding noncompliance with or violation of this chapter or of rules adopted by the board.

The board shall notify the licensee of the content of a complaint filed against the licensee as soon as possible, but, absent unusual circumstances justifying delay, not later than 60 days from receipt of this information. The licensee shall respond within 30 days. The board shall share the licensee's response with the complainant, unless the board determines that it would be detrimental to the health of the complainant to obtain the response. If the licensee's response to the complaint satisfies the board that the complaint does not merit further investigation or action, the matter may be dismissed, with notice of the dismissal to the complainant, if any.

If, in the opinion of the board, the factual basis of the complaint is or may be true, and the complaint is of sufficient gravity to warrant further action, the board may request an informal conference with the licensee. The board shall provide the licensee with adequate notice of the conference and of the issues to be discussed. The complainant may attend and may be accompanied by up to 2 individuals, including legal counsel. The conference must be conducted in executive session of the board, pursuant to Title 1, section 405, unless otherwise requested by the licensee. Before the board decides what action to take at the conference or as a result of the conference, the board shall give the complainant a reasonable opportunity to speak. Statements made at the conference may not be introduced at a subsequent formal hearing unless all parties consent.

When a complaint has been filed against a licensee and the licensee moves or has moved to another state, the board may report to the appropriate licensing board in that state the complaint that has been filed, other complaints in the licensee's record on which action was taken and disciplinary actions of the board with respect to that licensee.

When an individual applies for a license under this chapter, the board may investigate the professional record of that individual, including professional records that the individual may have as a licensee in other states. The board may deny a license or authorize a restricted license based on the record of the applicant in other states.

If the board finds that the factual basis of the complaint is true and is of sufficient gravity to warrant further action, it may take any of the following actions it considers appropriate:

- A. With the consent of the licensee, enter into a consent agreement that fixes the period and terms of probation best adapted to protect the public health and safety and to rehabilitate or educate the licensee. A consent agreement may be used to terminate a complaint investigation, if entered into by the board, the licensee and the Attorney General's office; [PL 1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §181 (AMD).]
- B. In consideration for acceptance of a voluntary surrender of the license, negotiate stipulations, including terms and conditions for reinstatement, that ensure protection of the public health and safety and that serve to rehabilitate or educate the licensee. These stipulations may be set forth only in a consent agreement signed by the board, the licensee and the Attorney General's office; [PL 1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §181 (AMD).]
- C. If the board concludes that modification or nonrenewal of the license is in order, the board shall hold an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with the provisions of Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter IV; or [PL 1997, c. 680, Pt. B, §2 (AMD).]
- D. If the board concludes that suspension or revocation of the license is in order, the board shall file a complaint in the District Court in accordance with Title 4, chapter 5. [PL 1999, c. 547, Pt. B, §64 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 547, Pt. B, §80 (AFF).]

[PL 1999, c. 547, Pt. B, §64 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 547, Pt. B, §80 (AFF).]

2. Grounds for discipline. The board may suspend or revoke a license pursuant to Title 5, section 10004. The following are grounds for an action to refuse to issue, modify, restrict, suspend, revoke or refuse to renew the license of an individual licensed under this chapter:

- A. The practice of fraud or deceit in obtaining a license under this chapter or in connection with service rendered within the scope of the license issued; [PL 1983, c. 378, §38 (NEW).]
- B. Misuse of alcohol, drugs or other substances that has resulted or may result in the licensee performing services in a manner that endangers the health or safety of the licensee's patients; [PL 2013, c. 105, §6 (AMD).]
- C. A professional diagnosis of a mental or physical condition that has resulted or may result in the licensee performing the licensee's duties in a manner that endangers the health or safety of the licensee's patients; [PL 1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §181 (AMD).]
- D. Aiding or abetting the practice of osteopathic medicine by an individual not duly licensed under this chapter and who claims to be legally licensed; [PL 1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §181 (AMD).]
- E. Incompetence in the practice for which the licensee is licensed. A licensee is considered incompetent in the practice if the licensee has:
 - (1) Engaged in conduct that evidences a lack of ability or fitness to discharge the duty owed by the licensee to a client or patient or the general public; or
 - (2) Engaged in conduct that evidences a lack of knowledge, or inability to apply principles or skills to carry out the practice for which the licensee is licensed; [PL 1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §181 (AMD).]
- F. Unprofessional conduct. A licensee is considered to have engaged in unprofessional conduct if the licensee violates a standard of professional behavior that has been established in the practice for which the licensee is licensed; [PL 1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §181 (AMD).]
- G. Subject to the limitations of Title 5, chapter 341, conviction of a crime that involves dishonesty or false statement or that relates directly to the practice for which the licensee is licensed, or conviction of a crime for which incarceration for one year or more may be imposed; [PL 1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §181 (AMD).]
- H. A violation of this chapter or a rule adopted by the board; [PL 1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §181 (AMD).]
- I. Engaging in false, misleading or deceptive advertising; [PL 1983, c. 378, §38 (NEW).]
- J. Advertising, practicing or attempting to practice under a name other than one's own; [PL 1983, c. 378, §38 (NEW).]
- K. [PL 1997, c. 680, Pt. B, §4 (RP).]
- L. Division of professional fees not based on actual services rendered; [PL 1997, c. 680, Pt. B, §5 (AMD).]
- M. Failure to comply with the requirements of Title 24, section 2905-A; [PL 2015, c. 488, §14 (AMD).]
- N. Revocation, suspension or restriction of a license to practice medicine or other disciplinary action; denial of an application for a license; or surrender of a license to practice medicine following the institution of disciplinary action by another state or a territory of the United States or a foreign country if the conduct resulting in the disciplinary or other action involving the license would, if committed in this State, constitute grounds for discipline under the laws or rules of this State; [PL 2019, c. 165, §9 (AMD).]

O. Failure to comply with the requirements of Title 22, section 7253; or [PL 2019, c. 165, §10 (AMD).]

P. A violation of section 2600-D. [PL 2019, c. 165, §11 (NEW).]
[PL 2019, c. 165, §9-11 (AMD).]

3. Report. By March 1st of each year, the board shall submit to the Legislature a report consisting of statistics on the following for the preceding year:

A. The number of complaints against licensees received from the public or filed on the board's own motion; [PL 1989, c. 462, §7 (NEW).]

B. The number of complaints dismissed for lack of merit or insufficient evidence of grounds for discipline; [PL 1989, c. 462, §7 (NEW).]

C. The number of cases in process of investigation or hearing carried over at year end; and [PL 1989, c. 462, §7 (NEW).]

D. The number of disciplinary actions finalized during the report year as tabulated and categorized by the annual statistical summary of the Physician Data Base of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, Inc. [PL 1989, c. 462, §7 (NEW).]
[PL 1989, c. 462, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 378, §38 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 291, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 462, §7 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 600, §A181 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 680, §§B2-7 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 547, §B64 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 547, §B80 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 105, §6 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 488, §§14-16 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 165, §§9-11 (AMD).

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§10003. Right to Hearing

1. Opportunity for hearing. Subject to the provisions of section 10004, an agency may not amend or modify any license unless it has afforded the licensee an opportunity for hearing in conformity with subchapter IV, nor may it refuse to renew any license unless it has afforded the licensee either an opportunity for an agency hearing in conformity with subchapter IV or an opportunity for a hearing in the District Court. In any such proceeding determined by the agency to involve a substantial public interest, an opportunity for public comment and participation must also be given by public notice in conformity with subchapter IV.

[PL 1999, c. 547, Pt. B, §17 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 547, Pt. B, §80 (AFF).]

2. Proceeding. In any proceeding involving a proposed modification or amendment of a license which was the subject of an earlier hearing, the agency shall give notice thereof to all parties to the earlier proceeding and in any other manner required by section 9052, and may reopen the earlier proceeding for consideration of the proposed amendment or modification.

[PL 1977, c. 551, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 551, §3 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 694, §37 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 547, §B17 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 547, §B80 (AFF).

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