STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

3

1

2

5

In Re: PROVIDER SUSPENSION

JENNIFER THOMAS

6

7

9

10

11

12 13

14

15

16

17 18

19

20

2122

23

24

25

26

27.

28

Case No. AD PS-18-05

DETERMINATION AND ORDER RE: SUSPENSION

Respondent.

The Administrative Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation is required to suspend any physician, practitioner, or provider from participating in the workers' compensation system as a physician, practitioner, or provider if the individual or entity meets any of the express criteria set forth in Labor Code section 139.21(a)(1).

Based upon a review of the record in this case, including the December 5, 2018 recommended Determination and Order re: Suspension of the designated Hearing Officer, the Administrative Director finds that Respondent Jennifer Thomas meets the criteria for suspension set forth in Labor Code section 139.21(a) and shall be suspended from participating in the workers' compensation system as a physician, practitioner, or provider. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 8, section 9788.3(d), the Administrative Director hereby adopts and incorporates the December 5, 2018 recommended Determination and Order re: Suspension of the designated Hearing Officer, attached hereto, as the Administrative Director's Determination and Order re: Suspension.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Jennifer Thomas is hereby suspended from participating in the workers' compensation system as a physician, practitioner, or provider.

Date: December _______, 2018

GEÓRGE PARISOTTO Administrative Director

Division of Workers' Compensation

In Re: PROVIDER SUSPENSION

Respondent.

JENNIFER THOMAS,

Case No. AD PS-18-05

DETERMINATION AND ORDER RE: SUSPENSION

A hearing was held in the above captioned matter on November 29, 2018 pursuant to Labor Code section 139.21(a)(1)(C). The Acting Director of the Administrative Director's, Antifraud Unit, appeared and presented evidence. Provider Jennifer Thomas did not appear. The issue was submitted for a decision to the undersigned, who acted as the hearing officer designated by the Administrative Director pursuant to Labor Code § 139.21(b)(3). The suspension is upheld.

FACTS

- Labor Code section 139.21(a)(1)(C) requires the Administrative Director to suspend from
 participation in the Workers' Compensation system any physician, practitioner or
 provider who's "license, certificate or approval to provide health care has been
 surrendered or revoked."
- Pursuant to <u>Exhibit 1</u>, Jennifer Thomas stipulated in a proceeding before the Board of Registered Nursing – Department of Consumer Affairs to the surrender of her Nurse Practitioner's License on May 5, 2017.

- Pursuant to <u>Exhibit 2</u>, the above stipulation was affirmed and adopted by the Board of Registered Nursing effective May 19, 2017.
- Based on the forgoing, the Administrative Director issued a Notice of Provider Suspension dated July 20, 2018.
- Jennifer Thomas objected to the Notice of Provider Suspension on or about August 6,
 2018 and a hearing on the issue was set for September 4, 2018.
- At the request of Jennifer Thomas, that hearing was delayed due to complications arising from the 2018 wildfires in Lake County. The hearing was continued until September 1, 2018,
- 7. At the hearing on November 1, 2018, the Acting Chief of the Administrative Director's Anti-Fraud Unit appeared, however, Jennifer Thomas failed to appear without explanation.
- 8. The hearing was continued a second time to November 29, 2018.
- 9. At the hearing held November 29, 2018, Jennifer Thomas again failed to appear without explanation.

DERTERMINATION

Pursuant to Labor Code § 139.21 the Administrative Director shall promptly suspend from participating on the workers' compensation system, any medical provider who's license to provide health care has been surrendered or revoked. Jennifer Thomas' license to provide health care services was surrendered effective May 19, 2018, triggering application of Labor Code § 139.21(a)(1)(C). Accordingly, Jennifer Thomas' ability to participate in the workers' compensation system must be revoked.

IT IS ORDERED that Jennifer Thomas, a/k/a Jennifer Lee Thomas, is hereby suspended from participating in the workers' compensation system as a physician, practitioner, or provider.

JASON E. SCHAUMBERG

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

Please see attached Certificate of Service