

1 KAMALA D. HARRIS
Attorney General of California
2 JANE ZACK SIMON
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 State Bar No. 116564
4 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000
San Francisco, CA 94102-7004
Telephone: (415) 703-5544
5 Facsimile: (415) 703-5480
E-mail: Janezack.simon@doj.ca.gov

6 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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8 **BEFORE THE**
9 **MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2014-007344

12 **KARLA LASHUN CLARK, M.D.**
11252 S. Longwood Drive
13 Chicago, IL 60643-4126

ACCUSATION

14 Physician's and Surgeon's
15 Certificate No. G89213

16 Respondent.

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18 The Complainant alleges:

19 1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board
20 of California, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board), and brings this Accusation solely in her
21 official capacity.

22 2. On September 5, 2012, Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G89213 was issued
23 by the Medical Board of California to Karla Lashun Clark, M.D. (Respondent.) The certificate
24 will expire on March 31, 2016, but is SUSPENDED based on an Order issued by the Board on
25 September 30, 2014 pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2310(a).

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JURISDICTION

3. This Accusation is brought before the Medical Board of California (Board) under the authority of the following sections of the California Business and Professions Code (Code) and/or other relevant statutory enactment:

A. Section 2227 of the Code provides in part that the Board may revoke, suspend for a period not to exceed one year, or place on probation, the license of any licensee who has been found guilty under the Medical Practice Act, and may recover the costs of probation monitoring.

B. Section 2305 of the Code provides, in part, that the revocation, suspension, or other discipline, restriction or limitation imposed by another state upon a license to practice medicine issued by that state, that would have been grounds for discipline in California under the Medical Practice Act, constitutes grounds for discipline for unprofessional conduct.

C. Section 141 of the Code provides:

“(a) For any licensee holding a license issued by a board under the jurisdiction of a department, a disciplinary action taken by another state, by any agency of the federal government, or by another country for any act substantially related to the practice regulated by the California license, may be ground for disciplinary action by the respective state licensing board. A certified copy of the record of the disciplinary action taken against the licensee by another state, an agency of the federal government, or by another country shall be conclusive evidence of the events related therein.

“(b) Nothing in this section shall preclude a board from applying a specific statutory provision in the licensing act administered by the board that provides for discipline based upon a disciplinary action taken against the licensee by another state, an agency of the federal government, or another country

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FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Discipline, Restriction, or Limitation Imposed by Another State)

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3 4. On July 14, 2014, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
4 Division of Professional Regulation (Illinois Division) issued an Order suspending Respondent's
5 license to practice medicine in the State of Illinois. The Order was based on a Petition for
6 Temporary Suspension alleging: Respondent was arrested on at least one occasion for driving
7 while intoxicated; on August 31, 2013, Respondent was arrested for driving under the influence
8 of alcohol, reckless driving, possession of cannabis and possession of drug paraphernalia;
9 Respondent received inpatient treatment for psychiatric issues on at least five occasions in the
10 past five years. In May 2014, Respondent underwent a psychiatric evaluation ordered by the
11 Illinois Medical Disciplinary Board, which concluded that Respondent's ability to safely practice
12 medicine was compromised by her lack of insight into her mental illness, lack of treatment of
13 mental illness, misuse of psychoactive substances, her lack of insight in to her substance use
14 problem and her lack of participation in active substance abuse program. These factors placed
15 her at risk of having extended periods of time of being either intoxicated or in withdrawal, and
16 markedly impaired her ability to make safe and sound clinical decisions for patients under her
17 care. Copies of the Order and Petition for Temporary Suspension issued by the Illinois Division
18 are attached as Exhibit A.

19 5. Respondent's conduct and the action of the Illinois Division as set forth in
20 paragraph 4, above, constitute unprofessional conduct within the meaning of section 2305 and
21 conduct subject to discipline within the meaning of section 141(a).

PRAYER

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23 **WHEREFORE**, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein
24 alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board issue a decision:

- 25 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number G89213
26 issued to respondent Karla Lashun Clark, M.D.;
- 27 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent's authority to supervise
28 physician assistants;

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3. Ordering Respondent, if placed on probation, to pay the costs of probation monitoring; and

4. Taking such other and further action as the Board deems necessary and proper.

DATED: November 6, 2014


KIMBERLY KIRCHMEYER
Executive Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California

Complainant

EXHIBIT A

STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
of the State of Illinois, Complainant

v

Karla L. Clark, M.D.
License No. 036-090494, Respondent

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) No. 2014-04113
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ILL. DEPT. OF FINANCIAL AND
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
14 JUL -1 AM 10:01
CLERK OF THE COURT

ORDER

This matter having come before the Director of the Division of Professional Regulation of the State of Illinois, on a Petition filed by the Chief of Medical Prosecutions of the Division, which requested Temporary Suspension of the Illinois Physician and Surgeon License No. 036-090494 of Respondent, Karla L. Clark, M.D., and the Director, having examined the Petition, finds that the public interest, safety and welfare imperatively require emergency action to prevent the continued practice of Karla L. Clark, M.D., Respondent, in that Respondent's actions constitute an immediate danger to the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAY STEWART, DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION of the State of Illinois, hereby ORDER that the Illinois Physician and Surgeon License, License No: 036-090494 of Respondent, Karla L. Clark, M.D., to practice medicine as a Physician and Surgeon in the State of Illinois be SUSPENDED, pending proceedings before an Administrative Law Judge at the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and the Medical Disciplinary Board of the State of Illinois.

I FURTHER ORDER that Respondent shall immediately surrender all indicia of licensure to the Department:

DATED THIS 1st DAY OF July, 2014.

**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION of the State of
Illinois
Division of Professional Regulation**



JAY STEWART
Director

Ref: IDFPR Case No. 2014-04113/License No. 036-090494

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION**

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND)
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION)
of the State of Illinois, Complainant)

v)
Karla L. Clark, M.D.)
License No. 036-090494, Respondent)

No. 2014-04113

CLERK OF THE COURT

14 JUN - 1 AM 10: 01

ILL. DEPT. OF FINANCIAL AND
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

PETITION FOR TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

NOW COMES the Complainant, by its Chief of Medical Prosecutions, Laura E. Forester, and Petitions JAY STEWART, Director of the Division of Professional Regulation, Department of Financial and Professional Regulation of the State of Illinois, pursuant to 225 ILCS 60/37 to issue an Order for Temporary Suspension of the Illinois Physician and Surgeon License and Illinois Controlled Substance License of Karla L. Clark, M.D. Respondent. In support of said Petition, Petitioner alleges as follows:

1. Respondent is presently the holder of a Certificate of Registration as a Physician and Surgeon in the State of Illinois, License No. 036-090494 issued by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation of the State of Illinois. Said Illinois Physician and Surgeon License is currently in active status.
2. The Department received information that Respondent has received in-patient treatment for psychiatric illness and/or condition on several occasions in the past and has been arrested for driving while intoxicated.
3. In May 2014, Brian Zachariah, M.D., Chief Medical Coordinator of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, submitted a Petition to

Compel a psychiatric evaluation of Respondent (Department's Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part of this Petition) based on the following information:

- a. Information has come to the Department that Respondent has been arrested on at least one occasion for driving while intoxicated;
 - b. Specifically, on 8/31/13, Respondent was arrested by the Joliet Police Department for driving under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving, possession of cannabis and possession of drug paraphernalia;
 - c. Information has come to the attention of the Department that Respondent has received inpatient treatment for psychiatric issues on at least five (5) occasions in the past five years.
4. On or about May 7 2014, the Illinois Medical Disciplinary Board subsequently issued an Order to Compel a psychiatric evaluation/examination of Respondent. See Department's Exhibit B, attached hereto and made a part of this Petition.
 5. On or about May 23, 2014, Respondent presented herself to Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation, Division of Psychiatry & Law, located at Chicago, Illinois, for a Board-ordered Examination with Ashraf M. Helmy, M.D., who is a Board-certified psychiatrist, with certifications in Geriatric Psychiatry and Forensic Psychiatry.
 6. Said Board-ordered Examination revealed the following clinical information regarding Respondent, Karla L. Clark, M.D.:
 - a. Dr. Clark's ability to practice medicine with reasonable judgment, skill or safety, in compliance with acceptable and prevailing standards is

compromised by her lack of insight into her mental illness, lack of treatment of mental illness, and her misuse of psychoactive substances;

b. Dr. Clark's lack of insight into her substance use problem and her lack of participation in active substance abuse program place Dr. Clark at risk of having extended periods of time of being either intoxicated or in withdrawal.

Both conditions would markedly impair her ability to make safe and sound clinical decisions for patients under her care;

c. Dr. Clark should not be allowed to practice medicine at this time. See Department's Exhibit C, attached hereto and made a part of this Petition.

7. John Zander, M.D., Deputy Chief Medical Coordinator of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations, has been consulted in this matter and believes that the continued practice of medicine by Respondent, Karla L. Clark, M.D., presents an immediate danger to the safety of the public in the State of Illinois. See Department Exhibit D, attached hereto and made a part of this Petition.

8. Petitioner further alleges that the public interest, safety and welfare imperatively require emergency action, in that Respondent's continued practice of medicine constitutes an immediate danger to the public.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays that the Illinois Physician and Surgeon License and Illinois Controlled Substance License of Karla L. Clark, M.D., be **TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED** pending proceedings before the Medical Disciplinary Board of the State of Illinois.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION, DIVISION OF
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION, of the State of
Illinois

By:

Laura E. Forester (V.L.)

Laura E. Forester

Chief of Medical Prosecutions

Vladimir Lozovskiy
Staff Attorney, Medical Prosecution Unit
Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
Division of Professional Regulation
100 West Randolph, 9-300
Chicago, Illinois 60601
312/814-1691

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**BEFORE THE
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

KARLA LASHUN CLARK, M.D.

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G89213

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2014-007344

**DEFAULT DECISION
AND ORDER**

[Gov. Code, §11520]

11 On November 6, 2014, an employee of the Medical Board of California (Board) sent by
12 certified mail a copy of Accusation No. 800-2014-007344, Statement to Respondent, Notice of
13 Defense in blank, copies of the relevant sections of the California Administrative Procedure Act
14 as required by sections 11503 and 11505 of the Government Code, and a request for discovery,
15 to Karla Lashun Clark, M.D. (Respondent) at her address of record with the Board, 11252 S.
16 Longwood Drive, Chicago, IL 60643-4126. The package was returned to the Board marked
17 "return to sender attempted not known unable to forward." The Accusation package was
18 reserved, by certified mail, at an address obtained from driving records, 420 William Street, River
19 Forest, IL 60305. The green certified mail receipt was signed on January 10, 2015 and returned;
20 however, the Board thereafter received the package (which appeared to have been opened)
21 marked "return to sender." (Accusation package, proofs of service and return notifications,
22 Exhibit Package, Exhibit 1¹.)

23 There was no response to the Accusation. On February 5, 2015, an employee of the
24 Attorney General's Office sent by certified mail addressed to Respondent at her address of record
25 and at the alternate address, a Courtesy Notice of Default, advising Respondent of the service
26 Accusation, and providing her with an opportunity to appear and contest the allegations of the

27 ¹ The evidence in support of this Default Decision and Order is submitted herewith as the
28 "Exhibit Package."

1 Accusation. Both certified mail packages were returned marked "return to sender unable to
2 forward" and "return to sender attempted not known unable to forward." (Exhibit Package,
3 Exhibit 2, Notices of Default, proofs of service, return envelopes.)

4 Respondent has not responded to service of the Accusation or to the Notice of Default.
5 She has not filed a Notice of Defense. As a result, Respondent has waived her right to a hearing
6 on the merits to contest the allegations contained in the Accusation.

7 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

8 **I.**

9 Kimberly Kirchmeyer is the Executive Director of the Board. The charges and
10 allegations in the Accusation were at all times brought and made solely in the official capacity of
11 the Board's Executive Director.

12 **II.**

13 On September 5, 2012, Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G89213 was issued by
14 the Board to Karla Lashun Clark, M.D. The certificate will expire on March 31, 2016, but is
15 SUSPENDED based on an Order issued by the Board on September 30, 2014 pursuant to
16 Business and Professions Code section 2310(a). (Exhibit Package, Exhibit 3, license
17 certification.)

18 **III.**

19 On November 6, 2014, Respondent was served with an Accusation, alleging causes for
20 discipline against Respondent. The Accusation and accompanying documents were duly served
21 on Respondent. A Courtesy Notice of Default was thereafter served on Respondent. Respondent
22 failed to file a Notice of Defense.

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1 IV.

2 The allegations of the Accusation are true as follows:

3 On July 14, 2014, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
4 Division of Professional Regulation (Illinois Division) issued an Order suspending Respondent's
5 license to practice medicine in the State of Illinois. The Order was based on a Petition for
6 Temporary Suspension alleging: Respondent was arrested on at least one occasion for driving
7 while intoxicated; on August 31, 2013, Respondent was arrested for driving under the influence
8 of alcohol, reckless driving, possession of cannabis and possession of drug paraphernalia;
9 Respondent received inpatient treatment for psychiatric issues on at least five occasions in the
10 past five years. In May 2014, Respondent underwent a psychiatric evaluation ordered by the
11 Illinois Medical Disciplinary Board, which concluded that Respondent's ability to safely practice
12 medicine was compromised by her lack of insight into her mental illness, lack of treatment of
13 mental illness, misuse of psychoactive substances, her lack of insight in to her substance use
14 problem and her lack of participation in active substance abuse program. These factors placed
15 her at risk of having extended periods of time of being either intoxicated or in withdrawal, and
16 markedly impaired her ability to make safe and sound clinical decisions for patients under her
17 care. Copies of the Order and Petition for Temporary Suspension issued by the Illinois Division
18 are attached to the Accusation, Exhibit Package, Exhibit 1.

19 **DETERMINATION OF ISSUES**

20 Pursuant to the foregoing Findings of Fact, Respondent's conduct and the action of the
21 Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation Division of Professional Regulation
22 constitute cause for discipline within the meaning of Business and Professions Code sections
23 2305 and 141(a).

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DISCIPLINARY ORDER

Physician's and Surgeon's certificate No. G89213 issued to Karla Lashun Clark, M.D. is hereby **REVOKED**.

Respondent shall not be deprived of making a request for relief from default as set forth in Government Code section 11520(c) for good cause shown. However, such showing must be made in writing by way of a motion to vacate the default decision and directed to the Medical Board of California at 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200, Sacramento, CA 95815 within seven (7) days of the service of this Decision.

This Decision will become effective April 23, 2015

It is so ordered on March 24, 2015

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

By 
KIMBERLY KIRCHMEYER
Executive Director