

RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

IN THE MATTER OF:

Joseph Desrosiers, II

License No.: PA01026

Complaint Nos.: C23-1252 and C24-0353

**CONSENT ORDER**

The Board of Licensure for Physician Assistants (“Board”) makes the following:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Joseph Desrosiers, II (“Respondent”) has been licensed as a physician assistant in the State of Rhode Island since April 6, 2018.

2. On or about December 14, 2023, the Department of Health (“DOH”) received a complaint alleging that while Respondent was on leave from his physician assistant practice with Stillwater Primary Care (“Stillwater”) he continued to write prescriptions for controlled substances, resulting in the duplication of prescriptions that had been written by other healthcare providers. On or about April 5, 2024, a separate complaint was filed with DOH alleging the same conduct.

3. The Board conducted an investigation, including a review of relevant medical records and the Rhode Island Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (“PDMP”), and, on May 7, 2024, interviewed several fact witnesses as well as Respondent. Based upon the evidence gathered through the investigation, the Board determined that Respondent left his physician assistant practice at Stillwater on or about October 2, 2023, for an indefinite period. Respondent did not return to Stillwater and did not inform Stillwater of his status of employment. From October 4, 2023 through April 9, 2024, Respondent continued to fill prescriptions to some of his former patients, including those who were prescribed opioids and other controlled substances for chronic pain management. During the same period, other healthcare providers filled

prescriptions for a number of the same patients. As a result, certain patients were provided duplicate prescriptions for controlled substances, including opioids.

4. The Board met on June 11, 2024 and made a finding of unprofessional conduct against Respondent, determining that Respondent failed to have both signed and executed pain management agreements in place for those patients receiving opioids, failed to check the PDMP between October 21, 2022 and March 2, 2024, failed to follow up with in-person patient visits for those prescribed controlled substances, and failed to document phone conversations and discussions with patients regarding the refilling of prescriptions for opioids and other controlled substances. The conduct constituted a violation of the standard of care and the applicable laws and regulations, including R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-45-2(11)(xvi) and (xix), *Licensure of Physician Assistants*, 216-RICR-40-05-24.15(25), and *Pain Management, Opioid Use and the Registration of Distributors of Controlled Substances in Rhode Island*, 216-RICR-20-20-4.4.

**Based upon the foregoing, the Parties agree as follows:**

1. Respondent admits to and agrees to remain under the jurisdiction of the Board.
2. Respondent agrees to this Consent Order and understands that it is subject to final approval by the Board and the Director of the Department of Health and is not binding on Respondent until final ratification.
3. Respondent hereby acknowledges and waives:
  - a) the right to appear personally or by counsel or both before the Board;
  - b) the right to produce witnesses and evidence on his behalf at a hearing;
  - c) the right to cross-examine witnesses;
  - d) the right to have subpoenas issued by the Board;
  - e) the right to further procedural steps, except for those specifically contained herein;

- f) any and all rights of appeal of this Consent Order; and
- g) any objection to the fact that this Consent Order will be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank and Federation of State Medical Boards and posted to the RI DOH public website.

4. Respondent is hereby issued an order of reprimand by the Board and shall pay administrative fee in the amount of \$825.00. The administrative fee must be paid within six (6) months of the entry of this Consent Order by the Director and shall be made payable to the Rhode Island General Treasurer, and delivered to the Rhode Island Department of Health, 3 Capitol Hill, Room 205, Providence, RI 02908, Attn. Jessica DeSanto. Respondent will send notice of compliance of this condition to [DOH.PRCCompliance@health.ri.gov](mailto:DOH.PRCCompliance@health.ri.gov) within thirty (30) days of submitting the above-referenced payment.

5. The Board suspends Respondent's CSR license under the Rhode Island Uniform Controlled Substances Act until satisfactory completion of the following terms:

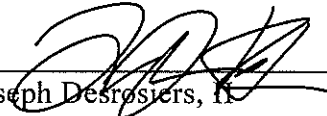
- a) Respondent must undergo and successfully pass an evaluation to be conducted by the Rhode Island Physician Health Program;
- b) Respondent shall attend and complete, within six (6) months of the entry of this Order, courses on prescribing controlled substances and documentation, which must first be first approved by the Board; and
- c) Respondent shall be monitored by a collaborating physician on a periodic basis regarding medical documentation, clinical decision-making and prescribing practice for a period of 6 months.

Upon successful completion of these conditions, Respondent shall be allowed to reapply for a CSR license with the Department of Health.

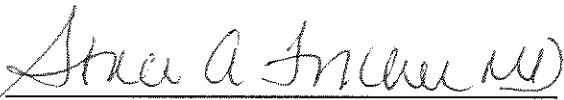
6. In the event that any term of this Consent Order is violated, after ratification and approval, the Board or the DOH Director shall have the discretion to impose further disciplinary action. If the Board or the DOH Director imposes further disciplinary action,

Respondent shall be given notice and shall have the right to request an administrative hearing within twenty (20) days of further discipline. The Board or the DOH Director shall also have the discretion to request an administrative hearing after notice to Respondent of a violation of any term of this Consent Order. Any administrative hearings, whether initiated by the Board or the Respondent, shall be conducted in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-54-13, the Rules and Regulations for Practices and Procedures Before the Rhode Island Department of Health (216-RICR-10-05-4), and applicable provisions of R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-1 *et seq.*

As Assented to and Signed this 08 day of October 2024.

  
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Joseph Desrosiers, R

Ratified by the Rhode Island Board of Licensure for Physician Assistants on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024.

 for Dr Larkin  
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Jerome Larkin, MD  
Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health