



JON S. CORZINE
Governor

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs
State Board of Chiropractic Examiners
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By Certified and Regular Mail

FILED

NOV 01 2006

October 10, 2006

Leonard Duarte, D.C.
Lifeline Wellness Center
1841 Hooper Avenue
Toms River, NJ 08753

**NEW JERSEY BOARD OF
CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS**

Re: Offer of Settlement In Lieu of Filing a Formal Disciplinary Complaint

Dear Dr. Duarte:

This letter is to advise you that the New Jersey State Board of Chiropractic Examiners (the "Board") has had an opportunity to review information concerning your care and treatment of patient J.T.C.

It appears from that review that you authorized the issuance of a note(s) which was (were) submitted to the patient's employer regarding a skin condition on the patient's face; which note(s) stated that the patient was being treated by you with NAET desensitizing procedure; and which note(s) advised that the patient was not to shave affected areas. You have given sworn testimony on June 22, 2006, in which you admit that the note(s) was (were) not correct. You testified that the note(s) stated that the patient was being treated for the condition in order that the patient be excused from shaving by his employer, but that the patient was not in fact being treated for the condition with NAET at the time the note(s) was (were) issued.

At this juncture, the Board has preliminarily concluded that probable cause exists to support a finding that you violated N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) by engaging in professional misconduct as determined by the Board when you intentionally authorized the issuance of the inaccurate note(s).

The above violation is sufficient to warrant the initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings against you. Notwithstanding that decision, however, the Board has determined that it will first offer you an opportunity to settle this matter, and thereby avoid the initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings, should you consent to:

1. cease and desist from issuing any inaccurate physician notes to patients;
2. pay a penalty in the amount of \$500.00 (to be paid immediately upon your signing of the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter by certified check or money order made payable to the State of New Jersey); and
3. pay costs incurred by the Board in the amount of \$288.00;

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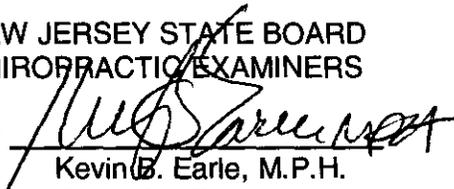
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If you are willing to settle this matter on the offered settlement terms, you may do so by signing the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter, and returning it to the Board office together with any required payment at the address set forth above. Upon your signature, this letter will be a matter of public record.

In the event you are unwilling to settle this matter on the offered terms, it will be referred to the Attorney General's office for the initiation of appropriate enforcement action. In such event, you will be afforded an opportunity to defend against the alleged violations. If an evidentiary hearing is deemed warranted, the Board will either conduct that hearing at a date and time to be scheduled or refer the matter to the Office of Administrative Law. You are advised, however, that in the event formal charges are filed, the Board may assess civil penalties in an amount greater than those herein offered in settlement should any charges against you be sustained. Additionally, the Board may, if the facts are found to so warrant, enter an order requiring you to reimburse certain monies and/or requiring you to pay the additional costs incurred by the Board. Should you have any questions concerning this letter or the settlement offer herein, I suggest that you contact Deputy Attorney General John D. Hugelmeyer, who may be reached at (973) 693-5056.

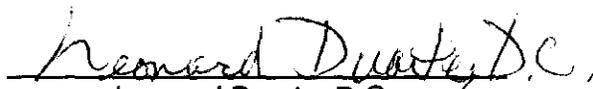
If you elect to settle this matter now you should sign the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter and return it to the Board within fifteen (15) days following your receipt of this letter. In the event that the Board receives no response from you within fifteen (15) days, the Board's settlement offer will be withdrawn, and the matter will be referred to the Attorney General's Office for the initiation of appropriate enforcement proceedings.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD
CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

By: 

Kevin B. Earle, M.P.H.
Executive Director

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I, Leonard Duarte, D.C., hereby acknowledge that I have read and reviewed the settlement proposal set forth in the above letter. I acknowledge the conduct which has been charged. I am aware that, by signing this acknowledgment, I am waiving any rights I may have to defend myself against any charges of wrongdoing at an administrative hearing. I am also aware that the action taken against me by the Board herein is a matter of public record, and that this letter is a public document. I hereby agree to pay a penalty in the amount of \$500.00 plus costs (to be paid upon signing of this acknowledgment), and to comply with all other requirements set forth in the settlement letter.


Leonard Duarte, D.C.

Dated:

cc: John D. Hugelmeyer, Deputy Attorney General