

PAULA T. DOW
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07101

By: Susan C. Berger
Deputy Attorney General
Tel. (973) 648-4876

FILED

FEBRUARY 25, 2011
**NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF

RUSSELL FERSTANDIG, M.D.
LICENSE NO. 25MA03504800

TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

**CONSENT ORDER
GRANTING RESTRICTED LICENSE**

This matter was most recently opened to the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") upon receipt of a petition from Russell Ferstandig, M.D. ("Respondent") seeking reinstatement of his license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey. Respondent signed a Consent Order, filed on August 3, 2009, wherein he voluntarily surrendered his license to practice medicine and surgery based upon a report from the Professional Assistance Program of New Jersey ("PAP") that respondent relapsed into substance abuse. Respondent previously signed an Interim Consent Order, filed on May 22, 2008, voluntarily surrendering his license until July 9, 2008. Respondent's license was reinstated with conditions and he was

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reprimanded in a Consent Order, filed on July 24, 2008. Respondent's license was also surrendered pursuant to a Consent Order, filed on December 17, 1987

On November 17, 2010 respondent appeared pro se before a Committee of the Board, accompanied by Dr. David Canavan, M.D. of the PAP. Respondent testified about his treatment, his compliance with the July 24, 2008, May 22, 2008 and August 3, 2009 Consent Orders and his fitness to return to the practice of medicine and surgery. The PAP submitted a statement in support of reinstatement of respondent's license to practice medicine and surgery subject to certain conditions, including continued therapy, urine screening and quarterly reporting by the PAP to the Board. In addition, Dr. Canavan testified in support of respondent's request for reinstatement.

The Board having reviewed respondent's testimony, reports from respondent's psychotherapists and the recommendations of the PAP in this case as well as all relevant documentation submitted, and respondent agreeing to the terms of the within Order and the Board finding that the within Order is adequately protective of the public health, safety, and welfare,

IT IS therefore on this 25TH day of February, 2011

ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent shall be reinstated to practice medicine and surgery with a restricted license upon fulfillment of all application requirements, including the payment of all licensing fees and subject to the terms and conditions of this Consent Order. In the event respondent seeks an amendment of the within Consent Order or an unrestricted license, respondent shall

appear before a Committee of the Board, if so requested by the Board. The burden shall be on respondent to demonstrate full compliance with the within Consent Order and that he is fit and competent to practice medicine and surgery without any restriction(s). The Board reserves the right to impose any conditions it deems appropriate to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

2. Respondent shall practice medicine and surgery solely in a hospital or institutional setting and/or a setting pre-approved by the Board. Respondent must receive pre-approval from the Board to work in any setting other than a hospital or institutional setting.

3. Respondent shall immediately notify the Board in writing of the name and address of each entity or practice where he is practicing medicine and surgery, including any change in employment, including periods when he is unemployed .

4. Respondent shall be monitored at all professional settings by a licensed health care professional who holds a valid and unencumbered license in the State of New Jersey and is pre-approved by the Board. The monitor shall have face-to-face contact with respondent on a minimum of a weekly basis and discuss respondent's progress, work schedule and patient interaction issues. The monitor shall have knowledge of respondent's relapse history, including the Consent Orders, filed on May 22, 2008, July 24, 2008 and August 3, 2009 and shall have the authority to require appropriate professional behavior of respondent. The monitor shall sign a copy of the within Consent Order confirming to the Board, in writing, that he or she has read and understands this Consent Order and the prior Consent Orders and agrees to monitor respondent and report to the Board. A copy of the Consent Order signed by the monitor shall be sent to the

Board no later than ten (10) days prior to respondent beginning practice in a hospital, institutional and/or other setting pre-approved by the Board.

5. The monitor shall report to the Board in writing on a quarterly basis all information in his or her possession concerning respondent's compliance with the terms of this Order, and concerning respondent's professional behavior and progress at work. The first quarterly report shall be due no later than three months after the monitor has been approved by the Board.

6. Respondent shall remain in weekly therapy with his current therapist(s), or with another therapist pre-approved by the Board. Respondent shall meet with therapist(s) for a minimum of one year. The treating therapist(s) shall file quarterly reports with the Board expounding upon respondent's progress in therapy and specifically discussing respondent's ability to deal with life and work pressures. After successful completion of one year of therapy and one year of return to the practice of medicine and surgery, frequency of the sessions may be decreased at the discretion of the treating therapist(s) upon written notification to the Medical Director of PAP detailing and explaining the basis for decreasing the number of sessions per month and receipt of approval by the Board. Unilateral cessation of therapy by respondent shall constitute a violation of this Order. The therapist shall immediately (within 3 days) report to the Board in writing if respondent unilaterally ceases therapy or if treatment ceases for any other reason. Only periods of time during which respondent is in active therapy shall be counted toward the minimum of one year of therapy. In the event respondent ceases therapy with his current therapist or a Board approved therapist, respondent shall notify the Board in writing within three (3) days of cessation of treatment with the reasons and shall submit the credentials

of an alternative therapist to the Board for pre-approval of the therapist within ten (10) days thereafter.

7. The therapist shall report to the Board in writing on a quarterly basis all information in his or her possession concerning respondent's compliance with the terms of this Order, and concerning respondent's ability to deal with life and work pressures.

8. The monitor and therapist shall immediately (within forty-eight [48] hours of awareness of occurrence) report to the Board orally and in writing, any violations of this Order or failure to cooperate with the monitoring or therapy requirement.

9. Respondent consents to his monitor, therapist and the Board providing each other with information concerning his professional behavior and progress.

10. Respondent shall maintain absolute abstinence from all psychoactive substances, including alcohol, unless prescribed by a treating physician for a documented medical condition with immediate written notification to the Medical Director of the PAP. Respondent's associates or family members shall not be considered treating physicians for the purpose of prescribing psychoactive drugs.

11. Respondent shall attend a support group of Alcoholics Anonymous and/or Narcotics Anonymous at least three times per week and shall submit proof of attendance to the Medical Director of the PAP.

12. Respondent shall submit to twice-weekly random urine monitoring for the first year of his return to practice, then on a random weekly basis until a subsequent order is filed. After completion of one year of twice-weekly random urine screening the frequency of the urine

monitoring may be decreased at the discretion of the Medical Director of the PAP upon written notification detailing and explaining the basis for decreasing the number of urine tests per month and approval by the Board. The initial screen will utilize the EMIT technique and all confirming tests and/or secondary tests will be performed by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry. The testing procedure shall include a forensic chain of custody protocol to ensure sample integrity and to provide documentation thereof.

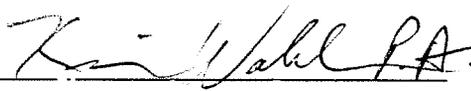
13. Respondent shall participate in monthly face-to-face visits with a representative of the PAP for a minimum of six months following reinstatement of his license, followed by face-to-face meeting every two months for the next year. Thereafter, the frequency of the visits may be decreased at the discretion of the Medical Director of the PAP upon written notification to the Board detailing and explaining the basis for decreasing the monthly visits and approval by the Board.

14. The PAP shall submit quarterly reports to the Board outlining respondent's participation in his recovery program, with immediate notification (within 48 hours of awareness of occurrence) of evidence of a relapse or non-compliance.

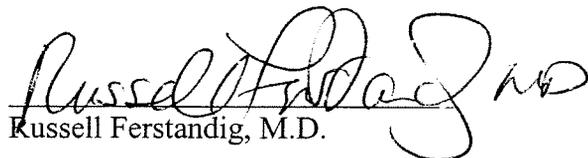
15. Any deviation from the terms of this Order without the prior written consent of the Board shall constitute a failure to comply with the terms of this Consent Order. Upon receipt of any reliable information indicating respondent has violated any term of this Consent Order, Dr. Ferstandig's license may be automatically suspended by the Board. Respondent, upon five (5) days notice, may request a hearing to contest the entry of such an order. At any such hearing

the sole issue shall be whether any of the information received regarding Dr. Ferstandig was materially false. In addition, the Board reserves the right to bring further disciplinary action.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL EXAMINERS

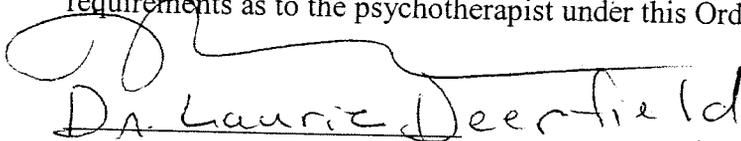
By: 
Kevin Walsh, P.A.
Vice President

I have read and understand the above Order
and I agree to be bound by its terms. I hereby
consent to entry of this Order.


Russell Ferstandig, M.D.

Dated: January 18, 2011

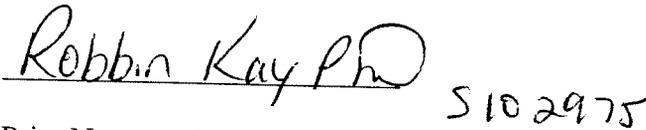
I have read all four Consent Orders and agree to
comply with the monitoring and reporting
requirements as to the psychotherapist under this Order


Dr. Laurie Deertfield
MB 074191

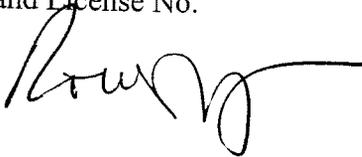
Print Name and License Number DO
Psychotherapist

Dated: 1/18/11

I have read all four Consent Orders and agree to
comply with the monitoring and reporting
requirements as to the supervisor under this Order

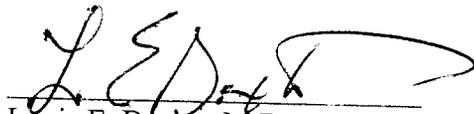

Robbin Kay PhD
S102975

Print Name and License No.
Monitor



Dated: 1-14-11

Consent to on behalf of the PAP-NJ


Louis E. Baxter, M.D.
Executive Medical Director

Dated: 1/14/11