

TSBPME Case No. 15-034

**IN THE MATTER OF
CHRISTI L. LAURENCE, D.P.M.**

AGREED ORDER

LICENSE No. 1913

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**BEFORE THE TEXAS STATE
BOARD OF PODIATRIC
MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

SITTING IN AUSTIN,

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

AGREED ORDER

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the date approved and entered below came to be considered the allegations against Christi L. Laurence, DPM. By letter dated June 13, 2015 the staff of the Texas State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (the "Board") gave preliminary notice to Dr. Laurence of its intent to investigate complaints, concerns or reports filed against her. Dr. Laurence was duly notified of the allegations against her. Dr. Laurence has cooperated with the staff of the Board and was given the opportunity to present information in rebuttal.

By her signature on this Order, and upon acceptance and entry of this Order by the Board, Dr. Laurence does hereby waive her right to an administrative hearing before the State Office of Administrative Hearings, and judicial review of this Order. Dr. Laurence understands that she has the option, before signing this Agreed Order, to participate in a contested case hearing under the Administrative Procedure Act.

The Board and Dr. Laurence, in order to avoid the expense, delay and uncertainty of a hearing, have agreed to the entry of an Order dispensing with the need for further action in this matter. Dr. Laurence agrees to this Order for the purpose of resolving this proceeding only.

The Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and enters this Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Dr. Laurence is licensed as a podiatric physician in the State of Texas (License Number 1913) to practice podiatric medicine and is therefore subject to the jurisdiction of the Board, the Podiatric Medical Practice Act of Texas and the rules of the Board.
2. A complaint was filed against Dr. Laurence, and she was provided with notice of the complaint and with an opportunity to respond to the complaint and to show compliance with the law.
3. On March 9, 2015 Dr. Laurence presented to the residence of a 92-year old female patient for a home visit. Dr. Laurence was intoxicated and disruptive in the 92-year old female patient's residence for which the 92-year old female patient, her family and the Corpus Christi Police Department intervened.

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**TEXAS PODIATRIC
MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

4. On March 9, 2015 Dr. Laurence was arrested by the Corpus Christi Police Department at the 92-year old female patient's residence for "Liquor Violation – Class C Misdemeanor".
5. On June 17, 2015 the "Liquor Violation – Class C Misdemeanor" case (Cause No. NT00903533) was dismissed on the State's motion in the Municipal Court, City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas due to the arresting officer's failure to appear in court.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Dr. Laurence is required to follow the provisions of the Podiatric Medical Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code, §202.001, et seq., and the associated Rules of the Board, 22 Tex. Administrative Code § 371.1, et seq..
2. Texas Occupations Code §202.253(a)(3) provides that: "The Board may refuse to issue a license to practice podiatry to a person, for engaging in habits of intemperance or drug addiction that in the Board's opinion would endanger the health, well-being, or welfare of patients."
3. Texas Occupations Code §202.253(a)(4) provides that: "The Board may refuse to issue a license to practice podiatry to a person, for engaging in grossly unprofessional or dishonorable conduct of a character that in the Board's opinion is likely to deceive or defraud the public."
4. Texas Occupations Code §202.253(a)(5) provides that: "The Board may refuse to issue a license to practice podiatry to a person, for directly or indirectly violating or attempting to violate this chapter or a rule adopted under this chapter as a principal, accessory, or accomplice."
5. Texas Occupations Code §202.253(a)(15) provides that: "The Board may refuse to issue a license to practice podiatry to a person, for being unable to practice podiatry with reasonable skill and safety to a patient because of age, illness, drunkenness, or excessive use of drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or other substances or as a result of a mental or physical condition."
6. Texas Occupations Code §202.253(a)(16) provides that: "The Board may refuse to issue a license to practice podiatry to a person, for failing to practice podiatry in an acceptable manner consistent with public health and welfare."
7. Texas Occupations Code §202.501(a) provides that: "The Board shall revoke or suspend a license; place on probation a person whose license has been suspended, or reprimand a license holder for violating the law regulating the practice of podiatry or a rule adopted by the Board."
8. Texas Occupations Code §202.5015 provides that: "A license holder who engages in conduct described by Section 202.253 violates this chapter."
9. 22 Texas Administrative Code, §375.3 provides that: "(a) The health and safety of patients shall be the first consideration of the podiatric physician. The principal objective to the podiatric profession is to render service to humanity. A podiatric physician shall continually strive to improve his medical knowledge and skill for the benefit of his patients and colleagues. The podiatric physician shall administer to patients in a professional manner and to the best of his ability. Secrets and personal information entrusted to him shall be held inviolate unless disclosure is necessary to

protect the welfare of the individual or the community. A podiatric physician shall be temperate in all things in recognition that his knowledge and skill are essential to public health, welfare, and human life. (b) A licensed podiatric physician shall conduct his practice on the highest plane of honesty, integrity, and fair dealing and shall not mislead his patients as to the gravity of such patient's podiatric medical needs. A podiatric physician shall not abandon a patient he has undertaken to treat. He may discontinue treatment after reasonable notice has been given to the patient by the podiatric physician of his intention to discontinue treatment and the patient has had a reasonable time to secure the services of another podiatric physician or all podiatric medical services actually begun have been completed and there is no contract or agreement to provide further treatment."

10. 22 Texas Administrative Code, §376.3(a) provides that: "A podiatric physician who violates a Board rule, order, or any provision of the Act shall be subject to the following disciplinary action: (1) suspension or revocation of the license to practice podiatric medicine."
11. The Findings Of Fact numbers 1 through 5 establish that Dr. Laurence violated: Texas Occupations Code, §202.253(a)(3)(4)(5)(15)(16) and 22 Texas Administrative Code, §375.3(a)(b).

ORDER

1. Dr. Laurence's license no. 1913 to practice Podiatric Medicine is hereby Suspended for a term of five (5) years from the date of approval of this Agreed Order by the Board. The entire Suspension is Probated, conditioned upon compliance with and the successful completion of the provisions set forth below.

During the 5-year Probated Suspension:

2. Dr. Laurence shall attend regular Alcoholics Anonymous peer/support meetings no less often than weekly and shall report to the Board by the second Tuesday of each month her status in regard to participation and progress with Alcoholics Anonymous. The mandatory reports to the Board shall be in the form of a written, dated and signed letter to the Board by Dr. Laurence.
3. Dr. Laurence shall identify to the Board, within thirty (30) calendar days after accepting an offer of employment to provide podiatric services or entering into any agreement to provide podiatric services, all places where she is providing or will provide podiatric services, and will provide to the Board the contact information (name, address, telephone number) of the supervisor/employer at those places..
4. Dr. Laurence shall notify the Board within ten (10) calendar days after any change to her contact information (address, telephone, e-mail).
5. Dr. Laurence shall remain in compliance with the Board's rules relating to Continuing Medical Education (CME), contained in 22 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 378. The total number of fifty (50) required hours of CME for each reporting period (i.e. "November 1, 2015 – October 31, 2017" and "November 1, 2017 – October 31, 2019") must be completed and reported to the Board by November 30th of each biennium for the calendar years 2017 and 2019.

6. Failure to meet Continuing Medical Education requirements will subject Dr. Laurence to an administrative penalty up to \$5,000.00 (Five Thousand Dollars and no/100). Upon notification by Board staff of any failure to meet Continuing Medical Education requirements warranting the issuance of an administrative penalty, Dr. Laurence's payment of the administrative penalty shall be made by cashier's check or money order made payable to the order of the Texas State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners and shall be either delivered to the Board's offices in Austin, Texas, or mailed to the Board at P. O. Box 12216, Austin, Texas 78711-2216.
7. Dr. Laurence's failure to make payment to the Board as set forth in this Agreed Order or to otherwise comply with any other term of this Agreed Order constitutes a violation of the Act, Board rules, and this Order.
8. Dr. Laurence shall attend the first Board meeting of each calendar year (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021) to briefly report about her progress during the probation. Board staff shall inform Dr. Laurence of the meeting date, time and location prior to each meeting. If she is unable to attend a particular meeting as required, Dr. Laurence shall inform Board staff and make alternative arrangements with Board approval.
9. Dr. Laurence shall abide by all federal or state laws and rules regulating Podiatric Medicine in the State of Texas.
10. Dr. Laurence shall permit a Board representative or staff member to periodically enter her place of business, the location at which she provides podiatric services, and/or the facility at which she previously maintained an office, announced or unannounced, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on any weekday that is not a federal holiday, to ensure compliance with this Order and to ensure proper medical records are maintained, including applicable billing records.
11. If Dr. Laurence fails to comply with the terms of this Agreed Order the Board shall rescind the probation, resulting in the immediate non-probated suspension of Dr. Laurence's license. The Board may seek judicial relief to enforce the terms of this Agreed Order.
12. The terms of this Agreed Order become effective upon Board approval.
13. If Dr. Laurence fully complies with the terms of the Agreed Order, the Board agrees not to bring any further disciplinary action regarding the facts that are the subject of this Order.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Effective Date. This Agreed Order shall take effect and become binding upon the approval by the Board.
2. No Waiver. No waiver of any of the terms of this Agreed Order shall be valid unless in writing. No waiver of default of any terms of the Agreed Order shall be deemed a waiver of any subsequent breach or default of the same or similar nature.
3. Governing Law. This Agreed Order is entered into pursuant to and shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, except for its provisions on conflicts of laws.

4. **Acknowledgment of Entire Agreement.** Dr. Laurence acknowledges that she has carefully read this instrument, including all documents or exhibits, if any, to which it refers, that this instrument expresses the entire agreement between the parties concerning the subjects it purports to cover, and that she has executed this instrument freely and of her own accord.
5. **Notice.** Any notice to be given under the terms of this Agreed Order by either party to this order shall be in writing and shall be delivered by personal delivery or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the following addresses:

Christi L. Laurence, DPM 13958 Fortuna Bay Drive Apt. #H Corpus Christi, TX 78418	Texas State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners P.O. Box 12216 Austin, TX 78711-2216
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6. Upon approval of this Agreed Order by the Board, the Presiding Officer and the Executive Director are authorized to sign the Order on the Board's behalf.

I, CHRISTI L. LAURENCE, DPM, HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING ORDER. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING, I WAIVE THE RIGHT TO A HEARING BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND TO JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THE AGREED ORDER. I SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY. I UNDERSTAND THE AGREED ORDER CONTAINS THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND THERE IS NO OTHER AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND, ORAL, WRITTEN OR OTHERWISE.

Christi L. Laurence, DPM 10-27-15
 Christi L. Laurence, DPM Date

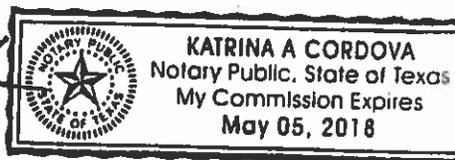
IN THE STATE OF TEXAS §
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 COUNTY OF Nueces §

BEFORE ME, on this day personally appeared Christi L. Laurence known to me, who first, being duly sworn, signed the foregoing Agreed Order in my presence.

SIGNED on this the 27th day of October, 2015.

Katrina A Cordova
 (Printed Name of Notary Public)

Katrina A Cordova
 Notary Public, in and for the State of Texas



APPROVED AND ENTERED by the Texas State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners on this the 29th day of February, 2016, after a Board vote.

Travis A. Motley
 Travis A. Motley, DPM
 Board President

Hemant Makan
 Mr. Hemant Makan
 Executive Director