

**STATE OF VERMONT
SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS**

IN RE:)
LAUREN M. TESSIER) **Docket No. D-2023-24**
License No. 099.0090782)
)

Pre-Charge Stipulation and Consent Order

The matter captioned above arises from a complaint made to the Office of Professional Regulation. The parties to the case hereby agree to an expedited resolution of the matter as follows:

Stipulated Facts and Violations

1. Lauren M. Tessier (the "Respondent") of Waterbury, Vermont, is registered in the State of Vermont as a Naturopathic Physician under license number 099.0090782. This license was first issued on October 12, 2012 and expires on September 30, 2024.
2. At all relevant times, Respondent worked as a Naturopathic Physician at her practice, "Life After Mold," located in Waterbury, Vermont.
3. At all relevant times, the Complainant ("Patient AK") was a patient treated by Respondent at her practice.
4. Between May 2020 and July 2020 Patient AK had two visits with the Respondent to address health-related issues. At the July 2020 visit, Respondent adjusted A.K.'s medication in response to her clinical presentation.
5. On August 20, 2020, Patient AK contacted the Respondent reporting that her symptoms had not improved.
6. Respondent ordered blood tests and based on the results of these tests, asked Patient AK to adjust the medication she was taking at the time.
7. On September 23, 2020, Patient AK contacted Respondent via Life After Mold's patient portal stating her symptoms had worsened. She asked Respondent if taking other supplements could have affected her lab results and whether Respondent had experience treating the health condition for which she was seeking treatment.
8. Later that day, given their exchange, Respondent replied stating that the therapeutic relationship had been disrupted and that she was terminating Patient AK's care, effective immediately due to Respondent's concern over disruption in their therapeutic relationship.

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Prosecuting Attorney
Office of
Professional Regulation
89 Main Street
3rd Floor
Montpelier, VT
05620-3402

9. Respondent made three provider recommendations to Patient AK, all of whom had appropriate expertise and offices close to AK's residence. Respondent did not communicate any plan to continue prescribed medications or to ensure continued medical care with another provider, other than advising Patient AK that she could return to her original prescribing physician for medication management. It was three weeks before Patient AK was able to secure an appointment with another provider.
10. These acts constitute grounds for discipline because Respondent committed unprofessional conduct in violation of 26 (V.S.A § 4132(a)(5)(Abandonment of a patient).

Understandings

11. Respondent admits the facts above are true and the penalty set forth below is necessary to protect the public.
12. Respondent understands that this Pre-Charge Stipulation and Consent Order will be reviewed and the Administrative Law Officer (ALO) may accept or reject the Order set forth below. If the tribunal rejects all or any portion of the Order, then this entire document shall be null and void.
13. Respondent specifically waives any claim that any disclosures made to the ALO during its review of this agreement prejudice Respondent's right to a fair and impartial hearing if this agreement is not accepted and proceeds to a merits hearing before the same tribunal.
14. Respondent has read this document fully and agrees it contains the entire agreement between the parties.
15. This Pre-Charge Stipulation and Consent Order is entered into voluntarily by Respondent after the opportunity to consult with legal counsel. Respondent has not been coerced by anyone into signing this Pre-Charge Stipulation and Consent Order.
16. Respondent voluntarily waives the right to a contested hearing and waives any right to appeal this Pre-Charge Stipulation and Consent Order.
17. Respondent is of sound mind and is not under the influence of drugs or alcohol when signing this Pre-Charge Stipulation and Consent Order.
18. Respondent agrees the Order set forth below may be entered, will be a binding Order upon Respondent, and will be made public.
19. Respondent understands that Respondent is responsible for all compliance costs associated with this Pre-Charge Stipulation and Consent Order and any violation of this Order may result in additional disciplinary action.

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ORDER

Based on the Stipulation above, it is **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** as follows:

- A. Respondent's license is hereby **REPRIMANDED**. This reprimand will be attached to the license indefinitely.
- B. An **ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY OF ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00)** is assessed against Respondent. Respondent shall remit payment within six (6) months of the date of entry of this Order. Payment of the penalty may be made on a payment plan if needed.
- C. Violation of this Order. Any violation of this Order may be a basis for additional disciplinary action. If a complaint of unprofessional conduct is made against Respondent during the term of this Order, this Order shall be automatically extended until the unprofessional conduct matter is concluded.
- D. This Stipulation and Consent Order is a matter of public record and may be reported to other licensing authorities as provided in 3 V.S.A. §129(a).
- E. This Stipulation and Consent Order will remain part of Respondent's licensing file and may be used for purposes of determining sanctions in any future disciplinary matter.

AGREED TO:

Dated: 2/6/2023

Dated: 2/2/2023

AGREED AS TO FORM:

Dated: 2/2/2023

STATE OF VERMONT
SECRETARY OF STATE

DocuSigned by:
Ulta Doyle
2B74044DC6ED4E0...
By: Ulta Doyle, Esq.
State Prosecuting Attorney

RESPONDENT

DocuSigned by:
Lauren M. Fessler
59C7EF65E8133441...
By: Lauren M. Fessler

ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENT

DocuSigned by:
Nicole Anderson
702C04F11002D4C0...
By: Nicole Anderson, Esq.

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Prosecuting Attorney
Office of
Professional Regulation
89 Main Street
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APPROVED AND ORDERED:



Administrative Law Officer

Dated: March 2, 2023

Date of Entry: 3/6/2023



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