

BEFORE THE
DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation)
Against:)
)
 VIRGINIA A. COOKE, M.D.) Case No. 11-95-56245
 Certificate No. G-71137)
)
) Respondent.)

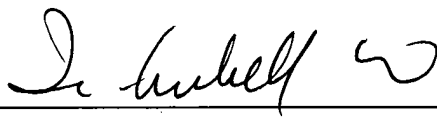
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DECISION

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Division of Medical Quality as its Decision in the above-entitled matter.

This Decision shall become effective on February 20, 1998.

IT IS SO ORDERED January 21, 1998.

By: 
IRA LUBELL, M.D.
Chairperson, Panel A
Division of Medical Quality

1 DANIEL E. LUNGREN, Attorney General
of the State of California
2 RICHARD D. MARINO,
Deputy Attorney General, State Bar No. 90471
3 California Department of Justice
300 South Spring Street
4 Los Angeles, California 90013
Telephone: (213) 897-8644

5 Attorneys for Complainant
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8 **BEFORE THE**
9 **DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY**
10 **MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

11 In the Matter of the Accusation) Case No. 11-95-56245
Against:) OAH No. L-1997090053

12 **VIRGINIA A. COOKE**)
13 33191 Sea Knoll)
Dana Point, CA 92629)

STIPULATED SETTLEMENT
AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER

14 Physician and Surgeon's Certificate)
15 No. G71137,)
16 Respondent.)

17
18 **IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED** by and between the
19 parties to the above-entitled proceedings that the following
20 matters are true:

21 1. An Accusation in case number 11-95-56245 was filed
22 with the Division of Medical Quality, Medical Board of
23 California, Department of Consumer Affairs (the "Division") on
24 June 19, 1997, and is currently pending against Virginia A. Cooke
25 (the "respondent").

26 2. The Accusation, together with all statutorily
27 required documents, was duly served on the respondent on or about

1 July 23, 1997, and respondent filed her Notice of Defense
2 contesting the Accusation on or about July 28. A copy of
3 Accusation No. 11-95-56245 is attached as Exhibit "A" and hereby
4 incorporated by reference as if fully set forth.

5 3. The Complainant, Ron Joseph, is the Executive
6 Director of the Medical Board of California and brought this
7 action solely in his official capacity. The Complainant is
8 represented by the Attorney General of California, Daniel E.
9 Lungren, by and through Deputy Attorney General Richard D.
10 Marino.

11 4. The respondent is represented in this matter by
12 Gary W. Patton, Esq., whose address is 500 South Corona Mall,
13 Corona, California 91719.

14 5. The respondent and her attorney have fully
15 discussed the charges contained in Accusation Number 11-95-56245,
16 and the respondent has been fully advised regarding her legal
17 rights and the effects of this stipulation.

18 6. At all times relevant herein, respondent has been
19 licensed by the Medical Board of California under Physician and
20 Surgeon's Certificate No. G71137.

21 7. Respondent understands the nature of the charges
22 alleged in the Accusation and that, if proven at hearing, the
23 charges and allegations would constitute cause for imposing
24 discipline upon her Physician and Surgeon's Certificate.
25 Respondent is fully aware of her right to a hearing on the
26 charges contained in the Accusation, her right to confront and
27 cross-examine witnesses against her, her right to the use of

1 subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the
2 production of documents in both defense and mitigation of the
3 charges, her right to reconsideration, appeal and any and all
4 other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure
5 Act and other applicable laws. Respondent knowingly, voluntarily
6 and irrevocably waives and give up each of these rights.

7 8. Respondent agrees that if the matter proceeded to
8 hearing, complainant would be able to present a *prima facie* case
9 that respondent committed gross negligence or repeated negligent
10 acts or both in the care, treatment and management of nine (9)
11 different patients, and respondent agrees that she has thereby
12 subjected her Physician and Surgeon's Certificate to disciplinary
13 action for unprofessional conduct, in violation of Business and
14 Professions Code section 2234, subdivisions (b) and (c), as
15 charged in paragraphs 4 and 5 of Accusation No. 11-9556425.
16 Respondent agrees to be bound by the Division's Disciplinary
17 Order as set forth below.

18 9. The admissions made by respondent herein are for
19 the purpose of this proceeding and any other proceedings in which
20 the Division of Medical Quality, Medical Board of California, or
21 other professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be
22 admissible in any other criminal or civil proceedings.

23 10. Based on the foregoing admissions and stipulated
24 matters, the parties agree that the Division shall, without
25 further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the
26 following order:

27

1 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

2 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Physician and Surgeon's
3 Certificate number G71137 issued to Virginia A. Cooke is revoked.
4 However, the revocation is stayed and respondent is placed on
5 probation for three (3) years on the following terms and
6 conditions.

7 1. **Education Course** Within 90 days from the
8 effective date of this decision, and on an annual basis
9 thereafter, respondent shall submit to the Division or its
10 designee for its prior approval an educational program or course
11 to be designated by the Division, which shall not be less than 40
12 hours per year, for each year of probation. This program shall
13 be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education requirements
14 for re-licensure. Following the completion of each course, the
15 Division or its designee may administer an examination to test
16 respondent's knowledge of the course. Respondent shall provide
17 proof of attendance for 65 hours of continuing medical education
18 of which 40 hours were in satisfaction of this condition and were
19 approved in advance by the Division or its designee.

20 1a. **Ethics Course** Within 60 days of the
21 effective date of this decision, respondent shall enroll in a
22 course in Ethics approved in advance by the Division or its
23 designee, and shall successfully complete the course during the
24 first year of probation. Completion of the Ethics Course may be
25 applied toward the 65 hours of continuing medical education
26 respondent must complete during her the year of probation.

27 2. **PACE** Within 90 days from the effective date

1 of this decision, respondent, at her own expense, shall
2 successfully complete a 40 hour intensive training program
3 specifically designed for respondent by the Physician Assessment
4 and Clinical Education Program, University of California, San
5 Diego (hereinafter "PACE"). Respondent further agrees to cause a
6 Certification Of Successful Completion of this program to be
7 forwarded to the Division.

8 3. **Obey All Laws** Respondent shall obey all federal,
9 state and local laws, all rules governing the practice of
10 medicine in California, and remain in full compliance with any
11 court ordered criminal probation, payments and other orders.

12 4. **Quarterly Reports** Respondent shall submit
13 quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided
14 by the Division; stating whether there has been compliance with
15 all the conditions of probation.

16 5. **Probation Surveillance Program Compliance** Respondent
17 shall comply with the Division's probation surveillance program.
18 Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Division informed of his
19 or her addresses of business and residence which shall both serve
20 as addresses of record. Changes of such addresses shall be
21 immediately communicated in writing to the Division. Under no
22 circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of
23 record.

24 Respondent shall also immediately inform the Division,
25 in writing, of any travel to any areas outside the jurisdiction
26 of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than
27 thirty (30) days.

1 6. **Interview With The Division, Its Designee Or Its Designated**

2 **Physicians** Respondent shall appear in person for interviews
3 with the Division, its designee or its designated physician(s)
4 upon request at various intervals and with reasonable notice.

5 7. **Tolling For Out-Of-State Practice, Residence Or In-State Non-**
6 **Practice**

7 In the event respondent should leave California to
8 reside or to practice outside the State or for any reason should
9 respondent stop practicing medicine in California, respondent
10 shall notify the Division or its designee in writing within ten
11 days of the dates of departure and return or the dates of non-
12 practice within California. Non-practice is defined as any
13 period of time exceeding thirty days in which respondent is not
14 engaging in any activities defined in Sections 2051 and 2052 of
15 the Business and Professions Code. All time spent in an
16 intensive training program approved by the Division or its
17 designee shall be considered as time spent in the practice of
18 medicine. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or
19 practice outside California or of non-practice within California,
20 as defined in this condition, will not apply to the reduction of
21 the probationary period.

22 8. **Completion Of Probation** Upon successful
23 completion of probation, respondent's certificate shall be fully
24 restored.

25 9. **Violation Of Probation** If respondent violates
26 probation in any respect, the Division, after giving respondent
27 notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and
carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an

1 accusation or petition to revoke probation is filed against
2 respondent during probation, the Division shall have continuing
3 jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of
4 probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

5 10. **Cost Recovery** The respondent is hereby
6 ordered to reimburse the Division the amount of \$10,000.00 for
7 its investigative and prosecution costs. The amount is payable
8 in eight equal installments of \$1,125.00. The first installment
9 is due 90 days from the effective date of this decision and each
10 subsequent installment is due every 90 days thereafter. Failure
11 to reimburse the Division's cost of its investigation and
12 prosecution shall constitute a violation of the probation order,
13 unless the Division agrees in writing to payment by an
14 alternative installment plan because of financial hardship. The
15 filing of bankruptcy by the respondent shall not relieve the
16 respondent of her responsibility to reimburse the Division for
17 its investigative and prosecution costs.

18 11. **Probation Costs** Respondent shall pay the costs
19 associated with probation monitoring each and every year of
20 probation, which are currently set at \$2,304.00 but may be
21 adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the
22 Division of Medical Quality at the beginning of each calendar
23 year. Failure to pay costs within 30 days of the due date shall
24 constitute a violation of probation.

25 12. **License Surrender** Following the effective date
26 of this decision, if respondent ceases practicing due to
27 retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the

1 terms and conditions of probation, respondent may voluntarily
2 tender her certificate to the Board. The Division reserves the
3 right to evaluate the respondent's request and to exercise its
4 discretion whether to grant the request, or to take any other
5 action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances.
6 Upon formal acceptance of the tendered license, respondent will
7 no longer be subject to terms and conditions of probation.

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CONTINGENCY

1
2 This stipulation shall be subject to the approval of
3 the Division. Respondent understands and agrees that Board staff
4 and counsel for complainant may communicate directly with the
5 Division regarding this stipulation and settlement, without
6 notice to or participation by respondent or her counsel. If the
7 Division fails to adopt this stipulation as its Order, the
8 stipulation shall be of no force or effect, it shall be
9 inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the
10 Division shall not be disqualified from further action in this
11 matter by virtue of its consideration of this stipulation.

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ACCEPTANCE

I have read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I have fully discussed the terms and conditions and other matters contained therein with my attorney, Gary W. Patton, Esq. I understand the effect this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order will have on my Physician and Surgeon's Certificate, and agree to be bound thereby. I enter this stipulation freely, knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily.

DATED: 12/10/97.

Virginia A. Cooke, MD
VIRGINIA A. COOKE
Respondent

I have read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and approve of it as to form and content. I have fully discussed the terms and conditions and other matters therein with respondent Virginia A. Cooke.

DATED: 12/11/97

Gary W. Patton
GARY W. PATTON, Esq.
Attorney for Respondent

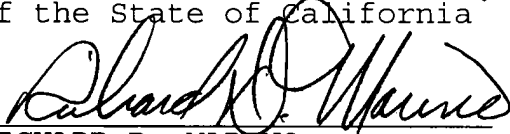
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ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for the consideration of the Division of Medical Quality, Medical Board of California Department of Consumer Affairs.

DATED: December 11, 1997.

DANIEL E. LUNGREN, Attorney General
of the State of California



RICHARD D. MARINO
Deputy Attorney General

Attorneys for Complainant

EXHIBIT A

1 DANIEL E. LUNGREN, Attorney General
of the State of California
2 RICHARD D. MARINO,
Deputy Attorney General
3 California Department of Justice
300 South Spring Street, Suite 5212
4 Los Angeles, California 90013-1233
Telephone: (213) 897-8644

5 Attorneys for Complainant
6
7

FILED
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO June 19 19 97
BY John Johnson ANALYST

8 **BEFORE THE**
9 **DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY**
10 **MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

11 In the Matter of the Accusation) Case No. 11-95-56245
Against:)
12)
13 VIRGINIA A. COOKE) **ACCUSATION**
33191 Sea Knoll)
14 Dana Point, CA 92629)
Physician and Surgeon's Certificate)
15 No. G71137,)
16 Respondent.)

17
18 The Complainant alleges:

19 **PARTIES**

20 1. Ron Joseph (hereinafter the "Complainant") brings
21 this accusation solely in his official capacity as the Executive
22 Director of the Medical Board of California (hereinafter the
23 "Board").

24 2. On or about April 22, 1991, Physician and Surgeon's
25 Certificate No. G71137 was issued by the Board to Virginia A. Cooke
26 (hereinafter the "respondent"). At all times relevant to the
27 charges brought herein, this license has been in full force and

1 effect. Unless renewed, it will expire on January 31, 1999.

2 JURISDICTION

3 3. This accusation is brought before the Division of
4 Medical Quality of the Medical Board of California, Department of
5 Consumer Affairs (hereinafter the "Division"), under the authority
6 of the following sections of the Business and Professions Code
7 (hereinafter "Code"):

8 A. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a
9 licensee who is found guilty under the Medical Practice Act
10 may have her license revoked, be suspended for a period not to
11 exceed one year, be placed on probation and required to pay
12 the costs of probation monitoring, or have such other action
13 taken in relation to discipline as the Division deems proper.

14 B. Section 2234 of the Code provides that
15 unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the
16 following:

17 "(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or
18 indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or
19 conspiring to violate, any provision of this chapter.

20 "(b) Gross negligence.

21 "(c) Repeated negligent acts.

22 "(d) Incompetence.

23 "(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty
24 or corruption which is substantially related to the
25 qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and
26 surgeon.

27 "(f) Any action or conduct which would have

1 warranted the denial of a certificate.

2 C. Section 2261 of the Code provides:

3 "Knowingly making or signing any certificate or
4 other document directly or indirectly related to the
5 practice of medicine or podiatry which falsely represents
6 the existence or nonexistence of a state of facts,
7 constitutes unprofessional conduct."

8 D. Section 2262 of the Code provides:

9 "Altering or modifying the medical record of
10 any person, with fraudulent intent, or creating any false
11 medical record, with fraudulent intent, constitutes
12 unprofessional conduct.

13 ". . . ."

14 E. Section 2266 of the Code provides:

15 "The failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain
16 adequate and accurate records relating to the provision
17 of services to their patients constitutes unprofessional
18 conduct."

19 F. Section 125.3 which provides, in part,
20 that the Board may request the administrative law judge
21 to direct any licentiate found to have committed a
22 violation or violations of the licensing act, to pay the
23 Board a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the
24 investigation and enforcement of the case.

25 G. Section 16.01 of the 1996/1997 Budget Act of
26 the State of California provides, in pertinent part, that:

27 "(a) No funds appropriated by this act may be

1 expended to pay any Medi-Cal claim for any service performed
2 by a physician while that physician's license is under
3 suspension or revocation due to disciplinary action of the
4 Medical Board of California.

5 "(b) No funds appropriated by this act may be
6 expended to pay any Medi-Cal claim for any surgical services
7 or other invasive procedure performed on any Medi-Cal
8 beneficiary by a physician if that physician has been placed
9 on probation due to a disciplinary action of the Medical Board
10 of California related to the performance of that specific
11 service or procedure on any patient, except in any case where
12 the board makes a determination during its disciplinary
13 process that there exist compelling circumstances that warrant
14 continued Medi-Cal reimbursement during the probationary
15 period.

16 ". . . ."

17 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

18 (Gross Negligence)

19 4. Respondent Virginia A. Cooke is subject to
20 disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivision (b) of the Code
21 in that between 1993 and 1994 while a staff member of St. Mary's
22 Medical Center, located in Long Beach, California, respondent
23 committed acts of gross negligence during the care and treatment of
24 patients T.R., M.S., B.W., R.E., P.D., H.D., D.O., R.D., and P.D.^{1/}
25

26 1. All patient references in this pleading shall be by
27 initials only. The true names of the patients shall be disclosed
to respondent upon his written request for discovery pursuant to
Government Code section 11507.6.

1 The circumstances are as follows:

2 (Patient T.R.)

3 A. On or about March 15, 1993, T.R., then 69 years
4 old, was admitted at St. Mary's Medical Center for
5 arteriosclerotic occlusion of multiple arteries resulting in
6 claudication (lameness due to improper blood flow to the
7 legs). T.R. was placed under the care and treatment of
8 respondent. Respondent did not take, or caused to be taken,
9 a patient history. Respondent did not include or record the
10 patient's history in the patient's medical records.

11 B. While caring for and treating T.R., respondent
12 did not obtain an ultrasound or CAT scan to evaluate the
13 patient's aorta for possible abdominal aortic aneurysm.
14 Indeed, T.R. had an abdominal aorta aneurysm at or about the
15 time of his admission.

16 C. While caring for and treating T.R., respondent
17 devised a surgical plan which included an extremely complex
18 reconstruction despite the fact that T.R. had only
19 claudication. Respondent did not confer with anyone else
20 prior to surgery. Respondent's surgical plan that was carried
21 out consisted of a resection and repair with an aorta-
22 bifemoral bypass graft, ligation bilateral iliac artery
23 aneurysms and repair umbilical hernia.

24 D. Respondent's failure to obtain an ultrasound or
25 CAT scan to evaluate the patient's aorta for abdominal aortic
26 aneurysm and her plan to perform an extremely complex
27 reconstruction for a patient with only claudication are both

1 extreme departures from the standard of care.

2 E. Respondent's failure to take or record the
3 patient's history and physical or preoperative consultation is
4 a simple departure from the standard of care.

5 (Patient M.S.)

6 F. On or about June 8, 1993, MS. , then 31 years
7 old, was admitted at St. Mary's Medical Center for removal of
8 an abdominal mass. M.S. was placed under the care and
9 treatment of respondent.

10 G. On or about June 9, 1993, respondent performed
11 an exploratory laparotomy, left oophorectomy and
12 retroperitoneal dissection with periaortic lymph node
13 dissection and biopsy. The aforementioned surgical procedures
14 are gynecological and were carried out by respondent
15 notwithstanding her lack of gynecological surgical privileges
16 at the time.

17 H. In carrying out the above-described surgical
18 plan, respondent did not first consider a percutaneous needle
19 biopsy of the retroperitoneal mass. Her failure to do so is
20 an extreme departure from the standard of care.

21 I. Respondent's failure to obtain a gynecological
22 consultation or to record the fact that respondent referred
23 the patient to a gynecology or similar specialist is an
24 extreme departure from the standard of care.

25 J. Respondent's failure to obtain gynecological
26 operative assistance and respondent's carrying out of the
27 gynecological surgical procedures in the absence of her

1 privileges to perform such procedures, singularly and
2 collectively, is an extreme departure from the standard of
3 care.

4 (Patient B.W.)

5 K. On or about May 25, 1994, B.W. , then 56 years
6 old, was admitted at St. Mary's Medical Center for a partial
7 mastectomy. B.W. signed a surgical consent for a lumpectomy.
8 B.W. had a history of breast carcinoma and had had an
9 excisional biopsy performed two years previously.

10 L. Respondent performed a modified radical
11 mastectomy and axillary lymph node dissection without first
12 obtaining a tissue diagnosis.

13 M. Respondent's preoperative diagnosis for the
14 patient was right breast carcinoma. The pathology report
15 prepared following surgery revealed a benign breast carcinoma.
16 Respondent's failure to obtain a tissue diagnosis to determine
17 whether the tumor was malignant prior to performing a modified
18 radical mastectomy and axillary lymph node dissection or to
19 record that a tissue diagnosis was obtained is an extreme
20 departure from the standard of care.

21 (Patient R.E.)

22 N. On or about August 10, 1993, R.E., then 61
23 years old, was admitted at St. Mary's Medical Center for
24 staphylococcal septicemia.

25 O. According to the patient's record, respondent
26 consulted on the patient, on August 12, 1993, for the
27 placement of a venous line. R.E. initially refused to have

1 the line placed; however, the patient later agreed and
2 respondent placed a triple lumen CV catheter.

3 P. Following respondent's placement of the
4 catheter, a chest x-ray was taken. Although the x-ray
5 revealed a pneumothorax, respondent did not recognize it as
6 such and, for that reason, did not correct the problem by
7 installing a chest tube.

8 Q. Respondent's failure to recognize a
9 pneumothorax on the patient's chest x-ray is a simple
10 departure from the standard of care.

11 R. Respondent's failure to correct the
12 pneumothorax by installing a chest tube is a simple departure
13 from the standard of care.

14 (Patient P.D.)

15 S. On or about November 5, 1993, P.D., then 49
16 years old, was admitted at St. Mary's Medical Center for a
17 Groshong catheter malfunction. P.D. was placed under the care
18 and treatment of respondent.

19 T. Respondent placed a right internal jugular dual
20 lumen Groshong catheter with intraoperative image. A chest x-
21 ray was taken showing evidence of a pneumothorax was taken in
22 the operating room. The x-ray showed an identifiable
23 pneumothorax which respondent did not observe or did not
24 record its existence in the patient's chart. Respondent did
25 not install a chest tube. Fifteen minutes later, after P.D.
26 began experiencing severe chest pain in the recovery room,
27 another chest x-ray was taken which showed a pneumothorax that

1 respondent was able to identify as such and treat by
2 installing a chest tube.

3 U. Respondent's failure to recognize a
4 pneumothorax on the patient's chest x-ray is a simple
5 departure from the standard of care.

6 (Patient H.D.)

7 V. On or about August 24, 1993, H.D., then 74
8 years old, was admitted at St. Mary's Medical Center. H.D.
9 had a left axillary mass and a history of malignant lymphoma.

10 W. Respondent performed a biopsy of the lymphoma
11 but did not wait for the results of the tissue biopsy
12 examination before proceeding with an extensive dissection of
13 the tumor. H.D. lost approximately 600 cubic centimeters of
14 blood during the biopsy and dissection.

15 X. A blood loss in the amount of 600 cubic
16 centimeters during an excisional biopsy for lymphoma is
17 excessive and a simple departure from the standard of care.

18 Y. Respondent's preoperative and postoperative
19 documentation of the patient was lacking and below the
20 standard of care.

21 (Patient D.O.)

22 Z. On or about April 28, 1994, D.O., then 52 years
23 old and obese, was admitted at St. Mary's Medical Center.
24 D.O. had a ventral incisional hernia.

25 AA. Although respondent labeled the surgery as a
26 "ventral hernia repair" in the patient's chart, respondent,
27 instead and in fact, performed an abdominoplasty (a procedure

1 more commonly known as a "tummy tuck").

2 AB. At the time of the surgery, respondent lacked
3 the necessary privileges and credentials to perform cosmetic
4 surgical procedures at the facility.

5 AC. Performing a cosmetic surgical procedure such
6 as an abdominoplasty without correctly documenting the
7 procedure is an extreme departure from the standard of care.

8 AD. Performing a surgical procedure such as
9 abdominoplasty tuck without having obtained the necessary
10 surgical privileges from the facility is an extreme departure
11 from the standard of care.

12 (Patient R.D.)

13 AE. On or about April 28, 1994, R.D., then 62 years
14 old and obese, was admitted at St. Mary's Medical Center for
15 the repair of an incarcerated inguinal hernia and a ventral
16 hernia.

17 AF. Although respondent labeled the surgery as a
18 "ventral hernia repair" in the patient's chart, respondent,
19 instead and in fact, performed an abdominoplasty.

20 AG. At the time she performed the surgical
21 procedure, respondent lacked the necessary privileges to
22 perform such a procedure at the facility.

23 AH. Performing a cosmetic surgical procedure such
24 as an abdominoplasty without correctly documenting the
25 procedure in the patient and the hospital's medical records
26 and charts is an extreme departure from the standard of care.

27 AI. Performing a surgical procedure such as an

1 abdominoplasty tuck without having obtained the necessary
2 surgical privileges from the facility is an extreme departure
3 from the standard of care.

4 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

5 (Repeated Negligent Acts)

6 5. Respondent Virginia A. Cooke is subject to
7 disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivision (c) of the Code
8 in that between 1993 and 1994, while a staff member of the St.
9 Mary's Medical Center, located in Long Beach, California,
10 respondent committed repeated acts of negligence during the care
11 and treatment of patients. The circumstances are as follows:

12 A. Complainant refers to and, by this reference,
13 incorporates herein, paragraph 4, subparagraphs A through AJ,
14 inclusive, above, as though fully set forth.

15 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

16 (Incompetence)

17 6. Respondent Virginia A. Cooke is subject to
18 disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivision (d) of the Code
19 in that between 1993 and 1994, while a staff member of the St.
20 Mary's Medical Center, located in Long Beach, California,
21 respondent demonstrated incompetence during the care and treatment
22 of patients and the inability to discharge the responsibilities of
23 her profession. The circumstances are as follows:

24 A. Complainant refers to and, by this reference,
25 incorporates herein, paragraph 4, subparagraphs A through AJ,
26 inclusive, above, as though fully set forth.

27

1 **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 (Dishonest Acts)

3 7. Respondent Virginia A. Cooke is subject to
4 disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivision (e) of the Code
5 in that on or about and during April 1994, while a staff member of
6 the St. Mary's Medical Center, located in Long Beach, California,
7 respondent committed dishonest acts during the care and treatment
8 of two patients, D.O. and R.D. The circumstances are as follows:

9 A. Complainant refers to and, by this reference,
10 incorporates herein, paragraph 4, subparagraphs AA through AJ,
11 inclusive, above, as though fully set forth.

12 **FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

13 (Signing False Documents)

14 8. Respondent Virginia A. Cooke is subject to
15 disciplinary action under section 2261 of the Code in that on or
16 about and during April 1994, while a staff member of the St. Mary's
17 Medical Center, located in Long Beach, California, respondent
18 knowingly made or signed a certificate or other document directly
19 or indirectly related to the practice of medicine which falsely
20 represented the existence or nonexistence of a state of facts, as
21 follows:

22 A. Complainant refers to and, by this reference,
23 incorporates herein, paragraph 4, subparagraphs AA through AJ,
24 inclusive, above, as though fully set forth.

25 **SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

26 (False Medical Records)

27 9. Respondent Virginia A. Cooke is subject to

1 disciplinary action under section 2262 of the Code in that on or
2 about and during April 1994, while a staff member of the St. Mary's
3 Medical Center, located in Long Beach, California, respondent
4 altered or modified or created false medical records, with
5 fraudulent intent, as follows:

6 A. Complainant refers to and, by this reference,
7 incorporates herein, paragraph 4, subparagraphs AA through AJ,
8 inclusive, above, as though fully set forth.

9 **SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

10 (Failure To Maintain Adequate Records)

11 10. Respondent Virginia A. Cooke is subject to
12 disciplinary action under section 2266 of the Code in that, on or
13 about and during April 1994, while a staff member of the St. Mary's
14 Medical Center, located in Long Beach, California, respondent
15 failed to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the
16 provision of services rendered by her to patients, as follows:

17 A. Complainant refers to and, by this reference,
18 incorporates herein, paragraph 4, subparagraphs AA through AJ,
19 inclusive, above, as though fully set forth.

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1 PRAYER

2 WHEREFORE, the complainant requests that a hearing be
3 held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing,
4 the Division issue a decision:

5 1. Revoking or suspending Physician and Surgeon's
6 Certificate Number G71137, heretofore issued to respondent Virginia
7 A. Cooke;

8 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of
9 respondent's authority to supervise physician's assistants,
10 pursuant to section 3527 of the Code;

11 3. Ordering respondent to pay the Division the
12 reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case
13 and, if placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring;

14 4. Taking such other and further action as the Division
15 deems necessary and proper.

16 DATED: June 19, 1997.

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19 Ron Joseph
20 Executive Director
21 Medical Board of California
22 Department of Consumer Affairs
23 State of California

24 Complainant

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