

IN AND BEFORE THE OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD  
OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND SUPERVISION  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

**FILED**

MAY 17 2011

OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF  
MEDICAL LICENSURE & SUPERVISION

STATE OF OKLAHOMA )  
EX REL. THE OKLAHOMA BOARD )  
OF MEDICAL LICENSURE )  
AND SUPERVISION, )

Plaintiff, )

v. )

KARIS ANN BERNHARDT STEELE, M.D., )  
LICENSE NO. 18198, )

Defendant. )

Case No. 08-10-3593

**COMPLAINT**

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, the State of Oklahoma ex rel. the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision (the "Board"), by and through its attorney, Elizabeth A. Scott, Assistant Attorney General, and for its Complaint against the Defendant, Karis Ann Bernhardt Steele, M.D., alleges and states as follows:

1. The Board is a duly authorized agency of the State of Oklahoma empowered to license and oversee the activities of physicians and surgeons in the State of Oklahoma pursuant to 59 Okla. Stat. §480 *et seq.*
2. Defendant, Karis Ann Bernhardt Steele, M.D., holds Oklahoma license no. 18198.

**2009 PROBATION**

3. For approximately one (1) year prior to September 2008, Defendant abused Oxycontin and Crack Cocaine. After an incident at her office involving cocaine, Defendant went to The Passages in Malibu, California for treatment for substance abuse. Defendant left treatment after ten (10) days.

4. Defendant returned to Oklahoma and continued to abuse drugs.

5. On or about November 2, 2008, Defendant began treatment at Santé Center for Healing. While at Santé, Defendant admitted abusing Oxycontin and Crack Cocaine over the past year.

6. Defendant left Santé over Christmas to be with her family. While on leave, Defendant relapsed.

7. Defendant returned to Santé after Christmas, but relapsed while in treatment. Defendant admitted that she consumed alcohol and used Cocaine with another patient while on a pass from Santé.

8. On or about February 25, 2009, Defendant left Santé before completing treatment.

9. Defendant returned to Oklahoma and continued to abuse Cocaine. She then returned to Santé on or about April 20, 2009, where she remained in treatment until she was discharged on July 31, 2009.

10. On or about September 17, 2009, the Board entered an Order Accepting Voluntary Submittal to Jurisdiction whereby Defendant was placed on **PROBATION** for a term of **FIVE (5) YEARS**.

#### **CURRENT UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT ALLEGATIONS**

11. Defendant is currently licensed under a five (5) year term of probation under the following terms and conditions:

A. Defendant will conduct her practice in compliance with the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act as interpreted by the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision. Any question of interpretation regarding said Act shall be submitted in writing to the Board and no action based on the subject of the question will be taken by Defendant until clarification of interpretation is received by Defendant from the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision.

H. Defendant will take no medication except that which is authorized by a physician treating her for a legitimate medical need. Defendant has the affirmative duty to inform any and every doctor treating her of the Board Order immediately upon initiation, or continuation of treatment.

I. Defendant will have the affirmative duty not to ingest any substance, including but not limited to alcohol, which will cause a body fluid sample to test positive for prohibited substances.

S. Defendant shall promptly notify the Board of any relapse, including any entry, or re-entry, into a treatment program for substance abuse.

Z. Failure to meet any of the terms of this Board Order will constitute cause for the Board to initiate additional proceedings to suspend, revoke or modify Defendant's license after due notice and hearing.

12. The provisions cited above have not been modified or deleted but remain in full force and effect as terms and conditions of Defendant's licensure under terms of probation.

13. On or around December 21, 2010, Defendant provided a hair sample at the request of the Oklahoma Health Professionals Recovery Program ("HPRP"). The specimen subsequently tested positive for Cocaine. Defendant subsequently admitted that she had relapsed and had been using Crack Cocaine for the past three (3) months.

14. From January 10, 2011 through April 4, 2011, Defendant submitted to treatment for substance abuse at Promises Treatment Center in Malibu, California.

15. Defendant is guilty of unprofessional conduct in that she:

A. Engaged in dishonorable or immoral conduct which is likely to deceive, defraud or harm the public in violation of 59 O.S. §509(8) and OAC 435:10-7-4(11).

B. Violated any provision of the medical practice act or the rules and regulations of the Board or of an action, stipulation, or agreement of the Board in violation of 59 O.S. §509(13) and OAC 435:10-7-4(39).

C. Violated any state or federal law or regulation relating to controlled substances in violation of OAC 435:10-7-4(27).

D. Is unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of age, illness, drunkenness, excessive use of drugs, narcotics, chemicals or any other type of material or as a result of any mental or physician condition in violation of 59 O.S. §509(15) and OAC 435:10-7-4(40).

E. Purchased or prescribed any regulated substance in Schedule I through V, as defined by the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act, for the physician's personal use in violation of OAC 435:10-7-4(5).

F. Prescribed, sold, administered, distributed, ordered, or gave any drug legally classified as a controlled substance or recognized

as an addictive dangerous drug to a family member or to himself or herself in violation of OAC 435:10-7-4(26).

G. Confessed to a crime involving violation of the antinarcotic laws and the laws of this state in violation of 59 O.S. §509(7).

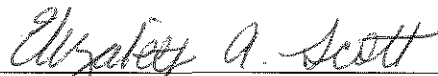
H. Prescribed or administered a controlled substance without medical need in accordance with published standards in violation of 59 O.S. §509(16) and OAC 435:10-7-4(2) and (6).

I. Habitually uses habit-forming drugs in violation 59 O.S. 407 §509(4) and OAC 435:10-7-4(3).

### ***Conclusion***

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Board conduct a hearing, and, upon proof of the allegations contained herein, impose such disciplinary action as authorized by law, up to and including suspension or revocation and any other appropriate action with respect to Defendant's medical license, and an assessment of costs and attorney's fees incurred in this action as provided by law.

Respectfully submitted,



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