

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

FILED

STATE OF OKLAHOMA)
EX REL. THE OKLAHOMA BOARD)
OF MEDICAL LICENSURE)
AND SUPERVISION,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.)
)
BRIAN KEITH RICH, M.D.,)
MEDICAL LICENSE NO. 24887)
)
Defendant.)

FEB 11 2008

OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL LICENSURE & SUPERVISION

Case No. 08-01-3448

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, Brian Keith Rich, 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, Brian Keith Rich, M.D, holds Oklahoma medical license no. 24887 and practices in emergency rooms in the Oklahoma City area.

PRIOR DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS DURING
MEDICAL SCHOOL AND RESIDENCY
INVOLVING FALSE STATEMENTS

3. On or about January 31, 2006, Defendant submitted his application for an Oklahoma medical license. In response to the question "Have you ever been the subject of disciplinary action by a hospital, clinic, residency program or professional school?", Defendant answered "Yes". In his attached written explanation, Defendant stated that he was disciplined during medical school at Ross University during his fourth year when he submitted evaluations to be completed by his preceptors. He explained that he mistakenly completed the evaluations from his preceptors rather than allowing them to complete the evaluations. He further explained that

the situation was resolved when Ross University allowed him to transfer to another medical school.

4. Based upon these explanations by Defendant, Board staff requested an explanation from Ross University. According to the university, Defendant submitted to Ross a clerkship evaluation allegedly signed by a clinical faculty member at the University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center. Ross later learned that the evaluation was **not** in fact signed by the clinical faculty member whose purported signature appeared on the evaluation, but was instead signed by Defendant. Based upon this incident, Defendant was dismissed from Ross University. Defendant notified the university that he was appealing the dismissal, then withdrew his appeal and transferred to the Central America Health Sciences University, Belize Medical College in Belize, Central America. His final status with Ross University was "withdrew while appeal pending".

5. As part of his initial application for licensure, Defendant additionally stated in his attached written explanation that he had been disciplined during his second year of residency at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center ("LSU-HSC"). Defendant stated that he overslept one morning and was "not honest with my program director as to where I was." As a result of this incident, Defendant was forced to serve a year of probation and repeat his second year of residency.

6. Based upon this explanation, Board staff requested an explanation from LSU-HSC. According to the university, Defendant falsified a history and physical exam on a patient scheduled for an outpatient endoscopy. He copied the exam done by another physician and signed his name in an attempt to cover up his absence. Based upon this incident, Defendant repeated his second year of residency on probation.

7. On or about May 11, 2006, Defendant appeared before the Board on his licensure application. After consideration of the documents submitted and Defendant's explanations, the Board issued Defendant a full medical license.

CURRENT UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT ALLEGATIONS **INVOLVING FALSE STATEMENTS**

8. On or about November 28, 2007, Defendant was working at the Integris Canadian Valley Regional Medical Center in Yukon, Oklahoma in the emergency department. This was the first and only time Defendant worked at this facility. Hospital video surveillance tapes reflect that when Defendant entered the hospital, he was not wearing or carrying any jacket or coat. The video additionally shows a nurse, Marcie Everett, entering the hospital a short time later wearing a red medi-flight jacket with a value of approximately \$450.00. The video later shows Defendant entering the break room, then approximately two (2) minutes later, Defendant is seen exiting the hospital with the medi-flight jacket belonging to Ms. Everett turned inside out, rolled up, and under his arm.

9. When Ms. Everett learned her jacket was missing, she contacted hospital security personnel, who then reviewed the videotapes showing Defendant leaving with her jacket. Dr. ___ Moore of Canadian Valley Hospital called Defendant the day after the incident, at which time Defendant denied stealing the jacket and told him the coat he carried out with him was a coat he had brought into the hospital. Robby Frantz, M.D. then called Defendant and asked to meet with him regarding this incident. Defendant refused to meet with him or any other hospital staff. Dr. Frantz additionally gave Defendant multiple opportunities to return the jacket, but Defendant refused. Defendant has not returned to work at this facility since this incident.

10. Canadian Valley Hospital turned over the video tapes to the Yukon Police Department for its investigation of this theft by Defendant.

11. On or about February 6, 2008, Board Investigator Steve Washbourne contacted Defendant and asked him to meet with him. When asked if he had stolen the jacket, Defendant initially lied to the Board investigator. He made up different stories on how he did not steal the jacket, or how he may have inadvertently taken it.

12. When Board investigators confronted Defendant with the indisputable video evidence, he finally admitted he had been lying to the hospital and Board investigators and that he had in fact stolen the jacket. Board investigators asked him if he still had the jacket, to which he admitted that he did. Board investigators asked him to retrieve the jacket and bring it back to the Board offices immediately, which he did. The jacket remains in the Board investigator's possession at this time.

13. Based on the allegations stated above, Defendant is guilty of unprofessional conduct as follows:

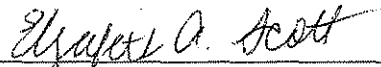
- A. Violated, directly or indirectly, the provisions of the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act, and the rules and regulations of the Board, either as a principal, accessory or accomplice in violation of 59 Okla. Stat. §509(13) and OAC 435:10-7-4(39).
- B. Procured, aided or abetted a criminal operation in violation of 59 O.S. §509(1).
- C. Confessed to a crime involving violation of the laws of this state in violation of 59 O.S. §509(7).
- D. Engaged in 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).

- E. Committed any act which is a violation of the criminal laws of any state when such act is connected with the physician's practice of medicine in violation of 59 O.S. §509(9). Proof of the commission of the act while in the practice of medicine or under the guise of the practice of medicine shall be unprofessional conduct.
- F. Engaged in practice or other behavior that demonstrates an incapacity or incompetence to practice medicine and surgery in violation of OAC 435:10-7-4(18).
- G. Failed to furnish the Board, its investigators or representatives, information lawfully requested by the Board in violation of OAC 435:10-7-4(37).
- H. Failed to cooperate with a lawful investigation conducted by the Board in violation of OAC 435:10-7-4(38).

WHEREFORE, plaintiff 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, the assessment of costs and fees incurred in this action, and any other appropriate action with respect to Defendant's license to practice as a physician and surgeon in the State of Oklahoma.

Dated this 14th day of February, 2008 at 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure
and Supervision