

IN AND BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ex rel,  
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL  
EXAMINERS,

Plaintiff,

v.

RONALD RAY SANDERS, M.D.,  
Medical License No. 8769,

Defendant

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STATE BOARD  
MEDICAL EXAMINERS

TEMPORARY ORDER AND NOTIFICATION OF REHEARING

This cause came on for hearing before the Oklahoma Board of Medical Examiners en banc on November 3, 1984, at 5104 N. Francis, Suite C, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, pursuant to notice given as required by law and the rules of the Board.

Daniel J. Gamino, Attorney, appeared for the Plaintiff and Ronald Ray Sanders, M.D., appeared pro se for the Defendant.

The Board of Medical Examiners en banc heard the testimony and reviewed all exhibits and being fully advised in the premises, the Board of Medical Examiners therefore finds as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. That Ronald Ray Sanders, M.D., holds Oklahoma Medical License No. 8769.

2. That the Board of Medical Examiners en banc has jurisdiction over the subject matter herein and that notice has been given in all respects as required by law and the Rules of the Board.

3. That the Defendant did voluntarily waive service and return of process on him in this action as normally required by 59 O.S. 1981, §503.

4. That the Defendant admitted that from on or around July 2, 1984, Defendant had habitually and intemperately ingested large amounts of alcohol and on one occasion had been found passed out in his own office lying on a table in one of the examination rooms with a strong odor of alcohol on his person and later was observed to have slurred speech and a very unsteady gait. The Defendant further admitted that his voluntary ingestion of alcohol had at one point reached an amount where he was unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients because of his excessive use of alcohol.

5. That the Defendant testified that he had not ingested any alcohol for a period of over three weeks and was presently not on any form of medication and further that he was attending between seven and nine meetings per week of the organization Alcoholics Anonymous and that he had four AA advisors and one AA sponsor and one spiritual advisor to assist him and further that he had purchased with his own funds a breathalyzer machine to be used by the hospital administrator at any time.

6. Further, Defendant testified that he had been a practicing physician for approximately 23 years and further that he had voluntarily contacted the Oklahoma Medical Association Physician Recovery Committee and was working with them. The

Defendant testified that he had not undergone any kind of formal, in-patient program but that he was considering that in the future.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. That Ronald Ray Sanders, M.D., holding Oklahoma Medical License No. 8769, is in violation of 59 O.S. 1981, §509, paragraphs 5 and 16, to-wit:

"5. Habitual intemperance or the habitual use of habit-forming drugs."

"16. The inability 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 physical condition."

2. That Ronald Ray Sanders, M.D. is in violation of the Rules and Regulations promulgated by this Board, specifically Section IX, Rule 3, to-wit:

"Rule 3: The habitual or excessive use of any drug which impairs the ability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to the patient."

#### ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Board of Medical examiners of Oklahoma as follows:

1. That the Defendant, Ronald Ray Sanders, M.D., License No. 8769, will be and is hereby placed on probation to the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Examiners for a period of five years, beginning on November 3, 1984, under the following terms and conditions:

- a. Defendant will refrain from taking any scheduled drug or alcohol unless prescribed by an attending physician and the Defendant specifically has the responsibility to advise any attending physician of his history of prior alcohol use.
- b. During the period of probation it is required that Dr. Sanders comply with the Oklahoma Medical Practice Act as interpreted by the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Examiners and that he appear before the Board or its designated representative upon request.
- c. During the period of probation Dr. Sanders will submit biological fluid specimens to include, but not limited to, blood and urine, for analysis upon the request of any inspector or other agent representing the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Examiners.
- d. During the period of probation Dr. Sanders will furnish to the office of the State Board of Medical Examiners all current legal addresses and any change of address in writing, and further that Dr. Sanders will advise the office of the

Board of Medical Examiners of any change of employment, either parttime or fulltime.

2. That the Board is presently taking under consideration whether an order should issue that Dr. Sanders undergo a formal, in-patient program relating to his alcohol use. That the Board will reconsider this case at 10:00 a.m. on January 19, 1985, and that the Defendant must be present at that time and that the Board retains jurisdiction to make additional terms of probation and to consider additional actions against the medical license of the Defendant.

DATED this 12th day of November, 1984

  
MARK R. JOHNSON, M.D., Secretary  
State Board of Medical Examiners

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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DANIEL J. GAMINO

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that I mailed a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Temporary Order and Notification of Rehearing, postage prepaid thereon, this 13th day of November, 1984, to Ronald Ray Sanders, M.D., 1405 W. 6, #102, Stillwater, OK 74074.

