

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

In Re: Emergency Restriction of the License of
Alan J. Waldman, M.D.
License No.: ME 51766
Case Number: 2021-03117

ORDER OF EMERGENCY RESTRICTION OF LICENSE

Scott A. Rivkees, M.D., State Surgeon General, ORDERS the emergency restriction of the license of Alan J. Waldman, M.D., (Dr. Waldman) to practice as a medical doctor in the State of Florida. Dr. Waldman holds license number ME 51766. His address of record is 10046 Southwest 44th Lane, Gainesville, Florida 32608. The following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law support the emergency restriction of Dr. Waldman's license to practice as a medical doctor in the State of Florida.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Department of Health (Department) is the state agency charged with regulating the practice of medicine pursuant to chapters 20, 456, and 458, Florida Statutes (2020). Section 456.073(8), Florida Statutes (2020), authorizes the Department to summarily restrict Dr. Waldman's license to practice as a medical doctor in the State of Florida, in accordance with section 120.60(6), Florida Statutes (2020).

2. At all times material to this Order, Dr. Waldman was licensed to practice as a medical doctor in the State of Florida, pursuant to chapter 458.

3. In the 1990s, Dr. Waldman suffered from multiple medical conditions that caused pain. Dr. Waldman received pain management treatment and was treated with various controlled substances and legend drugs, including oxycodone¹ and hydrocodone,² for his medical conditions.

4. In May 2002, Dr. Waldman underwent a comprehensive pain management evaluation with John B. Hunt, M.D., (Dr. Hunt) due to his chronic pain.

5. Dr. Hunt opined that Dr. Waldman experienced opioid adaption and tolerance with an increased use of schedule III narcotics to control pain.

6. Dr. Hunt recommended that Dr. Waldman undergo treatment at a multidisciplinary tertiary care facility and receive care from Dr. Robert Guskiewicz, M.D., a physician specializing in pain management.

¹ Oxycodone is commonly prescribed to treat pain. According to section 893.03(2), Florida Statutes (2001-2020), oxycodone is a Schedule II controlled substance that has a high potential for abuse and has a currently accepted but severely restricted medical use in treatment in the United States. Abuse of oxycodone may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence.

² Hydrocodone is commonly prescribed to treat pain. According to section 893.03(2), hydrocodone is a Schedule II controlled substance that has a high potential for abuse and has a currently accepted but severely restricted medical use in treatment in the United States. Abuse of hydrocodone may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence.

7. For approximately 19 years, Dr. Waldman received pain management care from Dr. Guskiewicz.

8. From approximately 2011 to 2019, Dr. Waldman was prescribed oxycodone, MS Contin,³ Adderall⁴ and Valium.⁵

9. Dr. Waldman took Adderall 60 mg in the morning, MS Contin 600 mg and oxycodone 60 mg after work, MS Contin 300 mg and oxycodone 60 mg after dinner, and Valium 30 mg before bed.

10. In 2019, Dr. Waldman transferred care to Mark Jackson, M.D., (Dr. Jackson) a physician specializing in addiction medicine.

11. Dr. Waldman reported that he worked as a forensic neuropsychiatrist and would occasionally take narcotic medication prior to testifying to avoid experiencing symptoms of withdrawal while testifying.

³ MS Contin is the brand name for a drug that contains morphine and is prescribed to treat pain. According to Section 893.03(2), morphine is a Schedule II controlled substance that has a high potential for abuse and has a currently accepted but severely restricted medical use in treatment in the United States. Abuse of morphine may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence.

⁴ Adderall is the brand name for a drug that contains amphetamine, commonly prescribed to treat attention deficit disorder. According to section 893.03(2), amphetamine is a Schedule II controlled substance that has a high potential for abuse and has a currently accepted but severely restricted medical use in treatment in the United States. Abuse of amphetamine may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence.

⁵ Valium is the brand name for diazepam and is prescribed to treat anxiety. According to section 893.03(4), Florida Statutes (2010-2020), diazepam is a Schedule IV controlled substance that has a low potential for abuse relative to the substances in Schedule III and has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. Abuse of diazepam may lead to limited physical or psychological dependence relative to the substances in Schedule III.

12. On or about May 18, 2020, Dr. Jackson referred Dr. Waldman to the Professional Resources Network (PRN⁶) based on Dr. Waldman's medication use and misuse. Dr. Jackson stated that Dr. Waldman works in a "safety sensitive position" and is in great risk of overdose due to the combination of his medications.

13. Dr. Jackson recommended that Dr. Waldman undergo detoxification.

14. On or about August 10, 2020, Dr. Waldman entered Gateway Community Services for detoxification treatment.

15. On August 14, 2020, Dr. Waldman discontinued his detoxification treatment against medical advice.

16. On or about August 25, 2020, Dr. Waldman informed PRN that he became very ill while in treatment and could not tolerate the severity of the opioid withdrawal symptoms.

⁶ The Professional Resource Network is the impaired practitioner program for the Board of Medicine, pursuant to section 456.073, Florida Statutes (2019-2020). PRN monitors the evaluation, care, and treatment of impaired practitioners licensed by the Department. PRN oversees random drug screens and provides for the exchange of information between treatment providers, evaluators, and the Department for the protection of the public.

17. On September 28, 2020, Dr. Waldman entered into another detoxification program at Stepping Stone Center for Recovery (Stepping Stone).

18. On or about October 5, 2020, Stepping Stone discharged Dr. Waldman. He was diagnosed with moderate opioid use disorder; mild sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic use disorder; and unspecified stimulant use disorder.

19. Stepping Stone opined that Dr. Waldman is unsafe to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients.

20. On November 30, 2020, Jamie Smolen, M.D., (Dr. Smolen) a physician specializing in addiction medicine, evaluated Dr. Waldman, pursuant to PRN and Lakeview Health's requests.

21. During the evaluation, Dr. Waldman stated that he is prescribed Adderall but has stopped taking it. Dr. Elias Sarkis, Dr. Waldman's treating physician, stated that it was prescribed to overcome sedation from the other narcotic medications that Dr. Waldman is prescribed.

22. Dr. Smolen opined that Dr. Waldman's consumption of high-dose opioid over the course of decades, in addition to his prescribed psychoactive

and potentially neurotoxic agents such as Adderall and Valium, could affect Dr. Waldman's neurological health.

23. Dr. Smolen diagnosed Dr. Waldman with moderate opioid use disorder, mild sedative/hypnotic/anxiolytic use disorder, and unspecified stimulant use disorder.

24. Dr. Smolen opined that Dr. Waldman is unable to practice as a medical doctor with reasonable skill and safety to patients.

25. Dr. Smolen recommended that Dr. Waldman enter into treatment at a residential or partial hospitalization program (PHP) level of care with a housing component at a facility with expertise in treating healthcare professionals, undergo a neuropsychological evaluation with neurocognitive testing, and undergo a chronic pain evaluation.

26. On or about January 22, 2021, PRN requested Dr. Waldman to submit a voluntary withdrawal from practice.

27. As of the date of this Order, Dr. Waldman has failed to return a voluntary withdrawal from practice and has failed to engage in the recommended treatment.

28. In the course of their practice, medical doctors are entrusted with the lives of patients. Medical doctors must possess good judgment, be able to recognize abnormal signs or symptoms of patients, and provide emergency care when needed. As such, physical and mental stability are essential traits that medical doctors must possess in order to competently practice their profession because even the smallest error in judgment can be fatal. It is crucial that the judgment and critical thinking skills of a medical doctor are not impaired in high pressure situations.

29. An independent medical expert has determined that Dr. Waldman is unable to practice as a medical doctor with reasonable skill and safety to patients due to his moderate opioid use disorder, mild sedative/hypnotic/anxiolytic use disorder, and unspecified stimulant use disorder. Based on that opinion and Dr. Waldman's failure to return a voluntary withdrawal from practice and failure to engage in the recommended treatment, there are no less-restrictive means than the terms outlined in this Order which will adequately protect the public.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the State Surgeon General concludes as follows:

1. The State Surgeon General has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to sections 20.43 and 456.073(8) and chapter 458, as set forth above.

2. Section 458.331(1)(s), Florida Statutes (2020), authorizes discipline, including restriction, against a medical doctor for being unable to practice as a medical doctor with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness or use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, or chemicals or any other type of material or as a result of any mental or physical condition.

3. Dr. Waldman violated section 458.331(1)(s) by being unable to practice as a medical doctor with reasonable skill and safety to patients due to his moderate opioid use disorder, mild sedative/hypnotic/anxiolytic use disorder, and unspecified stimulant use disorder.

4. Section 120.60(6) authorizes the State Surgeon General to summarily restrict a medical doctor's license upon a finding that the medical

doctor presents an immediate, serious danger to the public health, safety, or welfare.

5. Dr. Waldman's continued unrestricted practice as a medical doctor constitutes an immediate, serious danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of the State of Florida, and this summary procedure is fair under the circumstances to adequately protect the public.

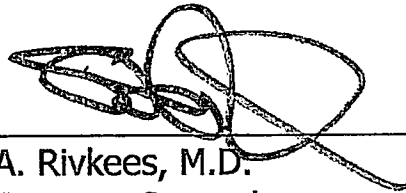
WHEREFORE, in accordance with section 120.60(6), it is **ORDERED THAT:**

1. The license of Alan J. Waldman, M.D., to practice as a medical doctor, license number ME 51766, is immediately restricted to prohibit Dr. Waldman from practicing as a medical doctor until PRN or a PRN-approved evaluator notifies the Department that he is safe to return to the practice of medicine.

2. A proceeding seeking formal discipline of the license of Alan J. Waldman, M.D., to practice as a medical doctor in the State of Florida will be promptly instituted and acted upon in compliance with sections 120.569 and 120.60(6), Florida Statutes (2020).

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DONE and ORDERED this 31st day of March, 2021.



Scott A. Rivkees, M.D.
State Surgeon General

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NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW

Pursuant to sections 120.60(6) and 120.68, Florida Statutes (2020), the Department's findings of immediate danger, necessity, and procedural fairness shall be judicially reviewable. Review proceedings are governed by the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. Such proceedings are commenced by filing a Petition for Review, in accordance with Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.100, and accompanied by a filing fee prescribed by law with the District Court of Appeal, and providing a copy of that Petition to the Department of Health within thirty (30) days of the date this Order is filed.