

1 **BEFORE THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD**

2 In the Matter of

3 **KASSANDRA J. KOSINSKI ROMERO, M.D.**

4 Holder of License No. 54068
5 For the Practice of Allopathic Medicine
6 In the State of Arizona.

Case No. MD-23-0676A

**ORDER FOR LICENSE
REACTIVATION, LETTER OF
REPRIMAND AND PROBATION, AND
CONSENT TO THE SAME**

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Kassandra J. Kosinski Romero, M.D. ("Respondent"), elects to permanently waive any right to a hearing and appeal with respect to this Order for License Reactivation, Letter of Reprimand and Probation; admits the jurisdiction of the Arizona Medical Board ("Board"); and consents to the entry of this Order by the Board.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

2. Respondent is the holder of license number 54068 for the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

3. The Board initiated case number MD-23-0676A after receiving Respondent's request for license reactivation.

4. Respondent participated in the Board's Physician Health Program ("PHP") from May 1, 2014, through September 18, 2019, pursuant to a Letter of Reprimand and Five-Year Probation. Respondent successfully completed the terms and conditions of the Probation, and the Probation was terminated.

5. On Respondent's June 28, 2022, renewal application, she answered 'no' to question #1 asking if she had a medical condition that impaired her ability to practice medicine in a competent, ethical, and professional manner.

1 3. Respondent shall not consume alcohol or any food or other substance
2 containing poppy seeds or alcohol.

3 4. Respondent shall not take any illegal drugs or mood-altering medications
4 unless prescribed for a legitimate therapeutic purpose.

5 5. Respondent shall continue to participate in any personalized aftercare
6 programs or activities as recommended by the Assessor in his May 25, 2023, Assessment
7 Report including individual therapy. Respondent shall report on those activities as
8 requested by the PHP, including executing any releases necessary to allow the PHP to
9 monitor her participation and communicate directly with and obtain records from the
10 treating providers for those aftercare activities. Respondent shall be responsible for all
11 costs of aftercare, including costs associated with compliance of this Board Order.

12 6. Respondent shall enter treatment with a PHP Contractor approved addiction
13 psychiatrist and shall comply with any and all treatment recommendations, including taking
14 any and all prescribed medications. Respondent shall instruct the treating psychiatrist to
15 submit quarterly written reports to the PHP regarding diagnosis, prognosis, current
16 medications, recommendation for continuing care and treatment, and ability to safely
17 practice medicine. The reports shall be submitted quarterly to the PHP, the
18 commencement of which to be determined by the PHP Contractor. Respondent shall
19 provide the psychiatrist with a copy of this Order. Respondent shall pay the expenses for
20 treatment and be responsible for paying for the preparation of the quarterly reports. At the
21 expiration of one year or anytime thereafter, Respondent may submit a written request to
22 the PHP Contractor requesting termination of the requirement that Respondent remain in
23 treatment with a psychiatrist. The decision to terminate will be based in part upon the
24 treating psychiatrist's recommendation for continued care and treatment.

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1 7. Respondent shall promptly obtain a Primary Care Physician (“PCP”) and
2 shall submit the name of the physician to the PHP Contractor in writing for approval.
3 Except in an Emergency, Respondent shall obtain medical care and treatment only from
4 the PCP and from health care providers to whom the PCP refers Respondent. Respondent
5 shall promptly provide a copy of this Order to the PCP. Respondent shall also inform all
6 other health care providers who provide medical care or treatment that Respondent is
7 participating in the PHP. “Emergency” means a serious accident or sudden illness that, if
8 not treated immediately, may result in a long-term medical problem or loss of life.

9 8. All prescriptions for controlled substances shall be approved by the PHP
10 Contractor prior to being filled except in an Emergency. Controlled substances prescribed
11 and filled in an emergency shall be reported to the PHP within 48 hours. Respondent shall
12 take no Medication unless the PCP or other health care provider to whom the PCP refers
13 Respondent prescribes and the PHP Contractor approves the Medication. Respondent
14 shall not self-prescribe any Medication. “Medication” means a prescription-only drug,
15 controlled substance, and over-the counter preparation, other than plain aspirin, plain
16 ibuprofen, and plain acetaminophen.

17 9. If recommended by the PHP Contractor, Respondent shall attend a relapse
18 prevention outpatient program for a duration and frequency recommended by the PHP
19 Contractor, unless Respondent is excused by the relapse program facilitator for good
20 cause. The relapse prevention group facilitators shall submit monthly reports to the PHP
21 regarding Respondent’s attendance and progress.

22 10. If not already completed, Respondent shall attend ninety 12-step meetings or
23 other self-help group meetings appropriate for substance abuse and approved by the
24 PHP, for a period of ninety days. Upon completion of the ninety meetings in ninety days,
25 Respondent shall participate in a 12-step recovery program or other self-help program

1 appropriate for substance abuse as recommended by the PHP. Respondent shall attend a
2 minimum of three 12-step or other self-help program meetings per week. Two meetings
3 per month must be Caduceus meetings. Respondent must maintain a log of all self-help
4 meetings.

5 11. Respondent shall submit to random biological fluid, hair and/or nail testing
6 for the remainder of this Order (as specifically directed below) to ensure compliance with
7 the PHP.

8 12. Respondent shall provide the PHP Contractor in writing with one telephone
9 number that shall be used to contact Respondent on a 24 hour per day/seven day per
10 week basis to submit to biological fluid, hair, and/or nail testing to ensure compliance with
11 the PHP. For the purposes of this section, telephonic notice shall be deemed given at the
12 time a message to appear is left at the contact telephone number provided by
13 Respondent. Respondent authorizes any person or organization conducting tests on the
14 collected samples to provide testing results to the PHP Contractor. Respondent shall
15 comply with all requirements for biological fluid, hair, and/or nail collection. Respondent
16 shall pay for all costs for the testing.

17 13. Respondent shall provide the PHP Contractor with written notice of any
18 plans to travel out of state.

19 14. Respondent shall successfully complete a PHP approved 36-hour
20 alcohol/drug awareness education class.

21 15. Respondent shall immediately notify the Board and the PHP Contractor in
22 writing of any change in office or home addresses and telephone numbers.

23 16. Respondent provides full consent for the PHP Contractor to discuss the
24 Respondent's case with the Respondent's PCP or any other health care providers to
25 ensure compliance with the PHP.

1 17. The relationship between the Respondent and the PHP Contractor is a direct
2 relationship. Respondent shall not use an attorney or other intermediary to communicate
3 with the PHP Contractor on participation and compliance issues. All inquiries must be
4 directed to Board staff.

5 18. Respondent shall be responsible for all costs, including costs associated with
6 participating in the PHP, at the time service is rendered or within 30 days of each invoice
7 sent to the Respondent. An initial deposit of two (2) months PHP fees is due upon
8 entering the program. Failure to pay either the initial PHP deposit or monthly fees 60 days
9 after invoicing will be reported to the Board by the PHP Contractor and may result in
10 disciplinary action.

11 19. Respondent shall appear in person before with the PHP Contractor for
12 interviews upon request, upon reasonable notice.

13 20. Respondent shall immediately provide a copy of this Order to all employers,
14 hospitals and free-standing surgery centers where Respondent currently has or in the
15 future gains or applies for employment or privileges. Within 30 days of the date of this
16 Order, Respondent shall provide the PHP with a signed statement of compliance with this
17 notification requirement. Respondent is further required to notify, in writing, all employers,
18 hospitals and free-standing surgery centers where Respondent currently has or in the
19 future gains or applies for employment or privileges of a violation of this Order.

20 21. In the event Respondent resides or practices as a physician in a state other
21 than Arizona, Respondent shall participate in the rehabilitation program sponsored by that
22 state's medical licensing authority or medical society. Respondent shall cause the
23 monitoring state's program to provide written quarterly reports to the PHP Contractor
24 regarding Respondent's attendance, participation, and monitoring. The monitoring state's
25 program and Respondent shall immediately notify the PHP Contractor if Respondent is

1 non-compliant with any aspect of the monitoring requirements or is required to undergo
2 any additional treatment.

3 22. The PHP Contractor shall immediately notify the Board if Respondent is non-
4 compliant with any aspect of this Order or is required to undergo any additional treatment.

5 23. In the event of a violation of A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(f) by Respondent or
6 Respondent's use of drugs or alcohol in violation of the Order, Respondent's license shall
7 be **summarily suspended pending a hearing for revocation**. In the alternative,
8 Respondent may **SURRENDER THE LICENSE** if Respondent agrees in writing to being
9 impaired by alcohol or drug abuse. A.R.S. § 32-1452(G).

10 24. Respondent shall obey all state, federal and local laws, all rules governing
11 the practice of medicine in Arizona, and remain in full compliance with any court ordered
12 criminal probation, payments and other orders.

13 25. Prior to the termination of Probation, Respondent must submit a written
14 request to the Board for release from the terms of this Order. Respondent's request for
15 release will be placed on the next pending Board agenda, provided a complete submission
16 is received by Board staff no less than 30 days prior to the Board meeting. Respondent's
17 request for release must provide the Board with evidence establishing that she has
18 successfully satisfied all the terms and conditions of this Order. The Board has the sole
19 discretion to determine whether all the terms and conditions of this Order have been met
20 or whether to take any other action that is consistent with its statutory and regulatory
21 authority.

22 26. This Order supersedes any and all Consent Agreements previously entered
23 into by Respondent and the Board regarding this matter.

24 27. The Board retains jurisdiction and may initiate new action against
25 Respondent based upon any violation of this Order. A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(s).

1 DATED AND EFFECTIVE this 5th day of January, 2024.

2 ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

3 By Patricia E. McSorley

4 Patricia E. McSorley
5 Executive Director

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7 **CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER**

8 1. Respondent has read and understands this Consent Agreement and the
9 stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Order"). Respondent
10 acknowledges she has the right to consult with legal counsel regarding this matter.

11 2. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that this Order is entered into freely
12 and voluntarily and that no promise was made or coercion used to induce such entry.

13 3. By consenting to this Order, Respondent voluntarily relinquishes any rights
14 to a hearing or judicial review in state or federal court on the matters alleged, or to
15 challenge this Order in its entirety as issued by the Board, and waives any other cause of
16 action related thereto or arising from said Order.

17 4. The Order is not effective until approved by the Board and signed by its
18 Executive Director.

19 5. All admissions made by Respondent in this Order are solely for final
20 disposition of this matter and any subsequent related administrative proceedings or civil
21 litigation involving the Board and Respondent. Therefore, said admissions by Respondent
22 are not intended or made for any other use, such as in the context of another state or
23 federal government regulatory agency proceeding, civil or criminal court proceeding, in the
24 State of Arizona or any other state or federal court.

1 6. Notwithstanding any language in this Order, this Order does not preclude in
2 any way any other State agency or officer or political subdivision of this state from
3 instituting proceedings, investigating claims, or taking legal action as may be appropriate
4 now or in the future relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent,
5 including but not limited to, violations of Arizona's Consumer Fraud Act. Respondent
6 acknowledges that, other than with respect to the Board, this Order makes no
7 representations, implied or otherwise, about the views or intended actions of any other
8 state agency or officer or political subdivisions of the State relating to this matter or other
9 matters concerning Respondent.

10 7. Upon signing this agreement and returning this document (or a copy thereof)
11 to the Board's Executive Director, Respondent may not revoke the consent to the entry of
12 the Order. Respondent may not make any modifications to the document. Any
13 modifications to this original document are ineffective and void unless mutually approved
14 by the parties.

15 8. This Order is a public record that will be publicly disseminated as a formal
16 disciplinary action of the Board and will be reported to the National Practitioner's Data
17 Bank and on the Board's web site as a disciplinary action.

18 9. If any part of the Order is later declared void or otherwise unenforceable, the
19 remainder of the Order in its entirety shall remain in force and effect.

20 10. If the Board does not adopt this Order, Respondent will not assert as a
21 defense that the Board's consideration of the Order constitutes bias, prejudice,
22 prejudgment or other similar defense.

23 11. Any violation of this Order constitutes unprofessional conduct and may result
24 in disciplinary action. A.R.S. § § 32-1401(27)(s) ("Violating a formal order, probation,
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1 consent agreement or stipulation issued or entered into by the board or its executive
2 director under this chapter”) and 32-1451.

3 **11. Respondent has read and understands the conditions of probation.**

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DATED: 12/19/2023

6 KASSANDRA J. KOSINSKI ROMERO, M.D.

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10 EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing mailed
11 this 5th day of January, 2024 to:

12 Kassandra J. Kosinski Romero, M.D.
13 Address of Record

14 PHP Contractor
15 Address of Record

16 ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed
17 this 5th day of January, 2024 with:

18 Arizona Medical Board
19 1740 West Adams, Suite 4000
20 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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22 Board staff
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