

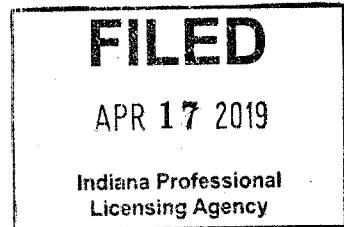
BEFORE THE MEDICAL LICENSING BOARD OF INDIANA
CAUSE NO. 2019 MLB 0014

IN THE MATTER OF THE:

BENKAMIN LOVERDIGE, M.D.
Respondent

LICENSE NO: 01066134A
ACTIVE

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PETITION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

The State of Indiana, by Counsel, Jessica W. Krug, Deputy Attorney General, moves the Medical Licensing Board of Indiana ("Board") to suspend the license held by Dr. Benjamin Loverdige, M.D. ("Respondent") for ninety (90) days, and in support of its petition states the following:

1. Respondent is a licensed physician in the State of Indiana, holding Indiana license No. 01066134A issued on or about December 18, 2008.
2. Respondent's address on file with the Professional Licensing Agency (PLA) is 2120 Deer Run Drive, New Castle, Indiana 47362.
3. This Board has jurisdiction to suspend Respondent's license in accordance with the provisions of Indiana Code § 4-21.5-4 et seq. and Indiana Code 25-1-9-10.
4. Respondent filed to renew his medical license in August 2011, as he is required to do every two (2) years, and disclosed that he had been denied a medical license.
5. In October 2011, the Board conducted a "personal appearance" where the Respondent came before the board to explain his positive response regarding the denial of a license in another state. During that personal appearance, Respondent disclosed that he had applied for a Missouri medical license and was denied by that state. The basis for Missouri's

denial of licensure was due to his conviction through the military justice system while Respondent was serving on active duty with the United States Air Force.

6. While in the United States Air Force, Respondent was assigned as a doctor at the United States Air Force Academy. The proceedings against Respondent established that he had engaged in sexual contact with a patient whom he was treating and to whom he was prescribing medication. This female patient, JR, was seeking treatment for anxiety, panic attacks, and depression following the break-up of her marriage.

7. In addition to the inappropriate sexual relationship with patient JR, Respondent was also found to have sought out sexual contact with another female, this time a medical technician he worked with, TB. Respondent, through text messages, invited TB to his personal residence, "if she wanted to be daring," played with her hair, and reached inside her uniform shirt uninvited.

8. Respondent was also found to have tickled the waist of yet a third female, a medical technician whom he worked with.

9. Even after his removal from direct patient care, Respondent was found to have engaged in another bizarre interaction with a female staff sergeant involving a mock strip-tease.

10. Respondent continued to dispute these convictions, and the United States Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals issued its final ruling in August 2014.

11. After his conviction, but prior to the completion of his appeals, Respondent appeared in the October 2011 personal appearance and agreed that his license should be reinstated on Probation with certain Terms and Conditions imposed. Included in those Terms and Conditions were the following:

- a. the Respondent shall notify the Board if he intends to practice medicine in Indiana;
- b. if practicing medicine in Indiana, Respondent shall obtain counselling from a counselor approved by a member of the Board and who shall make written quarterly reports to the Board;
- c. Respondent shall only practice in Indiana under the supervision of another physician, who shall provide quarterly reports to the Board; and
- d. Respondent shall have a chaperone present at all times when he is with a female patient.

12. In October 2012, Respondent was arrested and charged with Assault, a class B misdemeanor in Salt Lake County, Utah, based on allegations that Respondent assaulted his young child. In December 2012, Respondent entered a plea of "Guilty" and the court held that plea in abeyance for six (6) months with the condition that Respondent's charges would be dismissed if he completed parenting classes. Respondent successfully completed these classes and his charges were dismissed on or about June 2013.

13. On or about March 2015, Respondent appeared before the Board and requested that his Probation be lifted and he no longer be required to comply with the Terms and Conditions imposed by it. There is no mention in the Board's Order that Respondent's criminal charges that occurred during his period of probation were disclosed to this Board by Respondent while he was in front of them. The Board granted Respondent's request to withdraw his probation.

14. In late 2018, Patient 1 contacted the Office of the Indiana Attorney General to report that Respondent had touched her sexually during a medical appointment at Respondent's office and would frequently ask her if she wanted to "make out" after her appointments.

15. While the allegations made by Patient 1 were being investigated, Patient 2 also came forward to report that Respondent was sexually inappropriate with her during an appointment in his office. Patient 2 reported that Respondent made sexually charged comments to her while touching her body, which made her feel extremely uncomfortable.

16. Respondent's repeated and persistent pattern of sexually abusing female patients represents a clear and immediate danger to the public health and safety should he be allowed to continue to practice during the completion of the petitioner's investigation.

WHEREFORE, the State of Indiana requests that this Board set a hearing on this petition for summary suspension and suspend Respondent's license for a period of ninety (90) days and for all other proper relief.

Respectfully submitted,

Curtis T. Hill, Jr.
Attorney General of Indiana
Attorney Number:

By: 


Jessica W. Krug
Deputy Attorney General
Attorney Number: 26222-49

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Indianapolis, IN 46250
317-915-5311

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the foregoing "Petition for Summary Suspension" has been served upon the Respondent at the address listed below, via mail, and in person, on this 17th day of April 2019:

Benjamin Loveridge, MD
2120 Deer Run Drive
New Castle, Indiana 47362



Jessica W. Krug
Deputy Attorney General
Attorney Number: 26222-49

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