BEFORE THE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS FOR THE STATE OF OREGON

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In The Matter of

Harold Nickila, D.C.,

Licensee

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Notice Of Proposed requirement to take competency examination, suspension Of chiropractic license, probation 98-3005

1.

The Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners (OBCE) is the state agency responsible for -licensing, regulating disciplining chiropractic physicians in the State of Oregon. Harold Nickila, D.C. (Licensee), is a licensed chiropractic physician, subject to the jurisdiction of the OBCE.

On June 19, 1997, Licensee agreed he had violated ORS 684.100 (1) (g) (A), OAR 811-015-0005 (1) and the Practice and Utilization Guidelines for substandard chart notes, history taking, and treatment plan in Stipulated Final Order marked Exhibit A and attached and made a part hereto. Licensee further agreed to the terms set forth in Exhibit A.

The Board's investigator obtained copies of three patient files from Licensee. Those files were reviewed by the OBCE and referred to the Peer Review Committee on October 16, 1997 with instructions to determine if the chart notes meet the minimal requirements.

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Licensee was interviewed by the Peer Review committee with his attorney present on February 19, 1998.

5.

The OBCE reviewed the report of the Peer Review Committee on March 19, 1998. The OBCE made the following findings:

1. Licensee was unable to show specifically where he had made changes or improvement in his record keeping.

- 2. Licensee's charting continues to be markedly substandard, and has not significantly improved. What daily notes are present are incomplete and confusing; he lists neither -objective findings nor treatment; progress notes are not charted, there are not written range of motion, deep tendon reflexes or sensory exam procedures recorded.
- 3. None of the Peer Review committee would be able to assume care of any patient based on the records reviewed.
- 4. Licensee's diagnostic process is inadequate. Licensee does not have an adequate understanding of basic orthopedic and neurological components of the exam process as it relates to differential diagnosis and subsequent treatment.

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The conduct described in Section 5 (X), (Z) and (X) constitutes violations of ORS 684.100(1)(g)(A), OAR 811-015-0005(1) and the Practice and Utilization Guidelines, Chapter 1, Section 4(b), 1, 2, and 3. They further violate the terms of the probation contained in the stipulated final order pursuant to OAR 811-035-0015 (23).

7.

The OBCE proposes to require Licensee to take the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners Special Purposes Examination for Competency (SPEC) at the earliest possible date, pursuant to ORS 684.100 (6) and (7), and OAR 811-010-0089.

The OBCE proposes that Licensee's license will be immediately suspended from the practice of chiropractic, if the OBCE receives notification of a failing score from the SPEC examination. The suspension will remain in effect until licensee presents the OBCE with a final score demonstrating passage of the SPEC competency examination.

9.

The OBCE proposes that Licensee will remain on probation under the terms of the June 19, 1997 Stipulated Final Order signed June 19, 1997 until the SPEC examination results are final. Upon passage of the SPEC examination, and the conclusion of any suspension for failure to pass such test,

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Licensee may return to the active practice of chiropractic provided his license is current and all requirements have been met. The OBCE proposes that Licensee will remain on probation for 24 months from the date of successful passage of the SPEC examination, with the same requirements for review of patient files and chart notes as provided in the stipulated final order signed June 19, 1997.

10.

The OBCE proposes that Licensee shall pay costs of this disciplinary proceeding, including investigative costs and attorney fees pursuant to ORS 684.100(9)(g).

11.

Licensee has the right, if Licensee requests, to have a formal contested case hearing before the OBCE or its hearings officer to contest the matter set out above. At the hearing, licensee may be represented by an attorney and subpoena and cross examine witnesses. That request for hearing must be made in writing to the OBCE, must be received by the OBCE within-21 days from the mailing of this notice (or if not mailed, the date of personal service), and must be accompanied by a written answer to the charges contained in this notice.

12.

The answer shall be made in writing to the OBCE and shall include an admission or denial of each factual matter alleged in this notice, and a short plain statement of each relevant

affirmative defense licensee may have. Except for good cause, factual matters alleged in this notice and not denied in the answer will be considered a waiver of such defense; new matters alleged in the answer (affirmative defenses) shall be presumed to be denied by the agency and evidence shall not be taken on any issue not raised in the notice and answer.

13.

If licensee requests a hearing, before commencement of that hearing, licensee will be given information on the procedures, rights of representation, and other rights of the parties relating to the conduct of the hearing as required under ORS 183.413-415.

14.

If licensee fails to request a hearing within 21 days, or fails to appear as scheduled at the hearing, the OBCE may issue a final order by default and impose the above sanctions against licensee. Licensee's submissions to the OBCE to-date regarding the subject of this disciplinary case and all information in the OBCE's files relevant to the subject of this case automatically become part of the evidentiary record of this disciplinary action upon default for the purpose of proving a prima facie case.

Dated this 14 day May 1998.

BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS State Of Oregon

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Original signatures on file at the OBCE office.

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By:			
Dave	McTeague,	Executive	Director

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on MA/4, 1998, I served the foregoing Harold Nickila, D.C. upon the party hereto by mailing, certified mail, postage prepaid, a true, exact and full copy thereof to:

Harold Nickila, D.C. 973 Market St. NE Salem, OR 97301

Original signatures on file at the OBCE office.

David R. Laborico Investigator

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