

BEFORE THE
BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS
STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of)	
)	Case # 2019-1021, 2020-3015
MATTHEW FREEDMAN, D.C.,)	
)	STIPULATED FINAL ORDER
)	

The Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners (Board) is the state agency responsible for licensing, regulating, and disciplining chiropractic physicians in the State of Oregon. Matthew Freedman is a chiropractic physician in Oregon and is subject to the jurisdiction of the OBCE.

Findings of Fact

1.

The Board received information that on or between May 2017 and late 2018, Patient 1 sought treatment from Licensee and was also business partners with Licensee. In June or July of 2018, Licensee and Patient 1 met at a prospective property and Licensee grabbed her in a tight hug that she was able to get out of. While Patient 1 took off to another room of the property, Licensee stuck his hand up her dress touching between her legs and buttocks and said to Patient 1, and patient said “well, this just got complicated.” Licensee stated, “yea, we probably shouldn’t” and Patient 1 agreed.

2.

Patient 2 was a patient of Licensee’s on a few occasions in July 2016 after a motor vehicle accident. She also worked with Licensee in a business capacity and met with him in September 2016 for business. While standing outside of the house where they me, Licensee stated “we should

Stipulated Final Order

get naked inside the house.” Patient 2 ignored the comment. In October 2016, they were together at another property and, while in the master bedroom, Licensee lifted Patient 2’s shirt, exposing her breasts and put his hand down her pants. When other people came near the room, Licensee stopped his conduct immediately.

In December 2016, while at another property, Licensee put his hand under Patient 2’s shirt and bra, grabbed her buttocks and penetrated her vagina with his fingers. There was another incident in late 2016 where Licensee groped her breasts and another where he rubbed his pelvis against her. On one of the occasions, Licensee asked Patient 2 if she had told anyone what had happened, and Patient 2 felt Licensee was using a threatening tone of voice. In 2017, the behavior continued with four additional incidents where Licensee would put his hand up her shirt or grope her on various occasions from February through June 2017. At one point, Licensee exposed his penis to her. In 2018, Licensee continued with seven incidents of similar behavior from January through December 2018. Patient 2 recounted 19 different sexually inappropriate touchings by Licensee during the time periods mentioned above. These instances were non-consensual and unprovoked by Patient 2. Patient 2 did not confront Licensee as she felt that he had control of her, and he was an important financial client to her.

Licensee alleges that a sexual relationship pre existed entering the dr-patient relationship with Patient 2.

3.

Patient 3 was a Licensed Massage Therapist employed by Licensee and was also his patient from May 2012 to August 2014. Patient 3 described Licensee groping her starting early 2013 after receiving a fully clothed bodywork session from her, which escalated to Licensee pushing Patient 3 against tables and desks and grinding his pelvis into her. Patient 3 became enmeshed with Licensee and his family. Licensee intended to get Patient 3 to move in with him as a romantically involved “house pet.” Eventually, Licensee became the mortgage holder on a house in agreement with

Patient 3, who refinanced in 2014 and was able to leave Licensee's employment and free herself of Licensee's "golden handcuffs," which was the term Licensee used when describing Patient 3's dependency on him financially.

4.

Licensee denies the allegations in paragraphs 1-3 above.

5.

Licensee denies all findings of fact made by the Board. The Board has not issued a Proposed Notice of Discipline in this matter as Licensee has stated his willingness to surrender his license in lieu of further investigation.

Patient 1 and 2 filed civil suits against Licensee for negligence and intentional infliction of emotional distress and both received settlement payouts from Licensee.

Conclusions of Law

6.

The allegations as noted above in paragraphs 1-3 include unprofessional conduct and gross incompetence or gross negligence in Licensee's professional duties. All three of the women were patients in Licensee's clinical practice. A chiropractic physician in the State of Oregon is expected to maintain appropriate professional boundaries with patients at all time. Chiropractic physicians are prohibited from engaging in sexual relations with a patient unless a consensual sexual relationships existed between them before the commencement of the doctor-patient relationship. The Board finds that the Licensee pursued and engaged in inappropriate sexual contact and/or relationships with Patient's 1, 2 and 3 following each patient consulting with the Licensee for treatment and after

the doctor-patient relationship was formed in violation of ORS 684.100(1)(f)(A), OAR 811-035-0015(1).

If proven, these would be violations of ORS 684.100(1)(f), (f)(A) and (1)(q), and OAR 811-035-0015 (1)(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) valid during the time period of conduct in question (replaced with OAR 811-035-0019 in July 2021).

STIPULATIONS

7.

Therefore, pursuant to ORS 183.417(3) and ORS 684.100(9)(e), the OBCE orders:

1. The parties have agreed to enter this Stipulated Final Order. Licensee agrees that he is aware of his right to a hearing with his attorney present to contest the charges and hereby waives that right and agrees to entry of this order. Licensee agrees to waive any right to appeal. The parties wish to settle and resolve the above matter without further proceedings. Licensee denies the findings of fact of the Board.
2. Licensee agrees that in lieu of further investigation and proceeding to a contested case hearing, he will surrender his Oregon chiropractic license effective February 15, 2023, to allow him to wind down his practice. Licensee is prohibited from practicing chiropractic in Oregon, effective February 15, 2023. Licensee agrees not to reapply in the State of Oregon.
3. Licensee agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$6,000 to the Board within 90 days this order becomes final. Pursuant to ORS 293.231, the Board will refer amounts owed to collection if it receives no payment on account for more than 90 days. The Board will consider assignment to the Oregon Department of Revenue or a private collection agency for collection. Final fees may include additional percentages of any increase in the amount owed due to accrual of interest on unpaid principal amount.
4. If Licensee violates any of the terms of this order, the Board may consider further discipline up to and including revocation.
5. This is a public document and reportable to all national and state databanks.
6. This order is considered a disciplinary action.

7. This order becomes final as of the date signed by the Board.

BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS
State of Oregon

DATED this 12th day of January, 2023

Signatures available at the OBCE office

By: 
Cassandra C. McLeod-Skinner, J.D.
Executive Director

DATED this 13th day of January, 2023

Signatures available at the OBCE office

By: 
MATTHEW FREEDMAN, D.C. (JAN 13, 2023 4:04 PM)
Matthew Freedman D.C.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Cassandra C. McLeod-Skinner, certify that on January _____, 2023, I served the foregoing Stipulated Final Order upon the party hereto, by email and by mailing, certified mail, postage prepaid, a true, exact and full copy thereof to:

Matthew Freedman
[Signatures available at the OBCE office
]

Adina Matasaru
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Suite 800
Portland OR 97201
adina@matasarulaw.com

Signatures available at the OBCE office

Cassandra C. McLeod-Skinner, J.D.
Executive Director
Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners