

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND DISCIPLINE**

**IN THE MATTER OF:
ALEXANDER P. ROBERTSON III, M.D.
License Number MD-10768
BMLD Case Number C12-923**

CONSENT ORDER

Alexander P. Robertson III, M.D. (hereinafter "Respondent") is licensed as a physician in Rhode Island. The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline (hereinafter the "Board") through its investigating committee investigated a complaint about Respondent's use of profanity with hospital staff and a resulting suspension of clinical privileges for ten days in 2012. After investigation and review of the complaint and the Respondent's reply, the Board makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is a licensed physician in the State of Rhode Island and was issued his license on December 12, 2001. He is employed at University Orthopedics in Providence, Rhode Island. His primary specialty is orthopedic surgery, in which he was board certified in 2006. He is a 1997 graduate of the University of Virginia School of Medicine. He has hospital privileges at Rhode Island Hospital, Miriam Hospital, and the Veterans Administration Hospital.
2. The Board of Trustees of Rhode Island Hospital notified the Board of Medical Licensure

and Discipline that it had finalized on October 2, 2012, a disciplinary action against Respondent, who had his clinical privileges suspended for ten days starting on April 19, 2012, after “an altercation involving a member of the OR Nursing Team.”

3. The Rhode Island Hospital Board of Trustees reported to the Board that Respondent had entered into a consent agreement with the hospital that included procedural and behavioral requirements arising from an altercation Respondent had in 2010 with an orthopedic fellow.
4. An ad hoc committee of the hospital board of trustees investigated a complaint in April 2012 that Respondent had a conversation with an OR nurse that “escalated to include expressions of belligerent, abusive and vile profanity, by you, towards the OR nurse in the presence of residents” which was deemed “entirely inappropriate, unprofessional and inexcusable.” The ad hoc committee found the Respondent’s “uncontrolled outburst, personal comments and use of profanity in the verbal exchange with the OR nurse demonstrated a total lack of decorum and professionalism and complete disregard for your obligation to function as a role model for the residents who were witness to your salacious commentary.” Respondent signed on September 5, 2012, a second consent agreement relating to this incident.
5. Respondent was in civil violation of Rhode Island General Laws § 5-37-5.1(21) for his ten day suspension of clinical privileges at Rhode Island Hospital for disruptive behavior with a hospital staff member.

Based on the foregoing, the parties agree as follows:

1. Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board.
2. Respondent has reviewed this Consent Order and understands that it is subject to final approval of the Board; and this Consent Order is not binding on Respondent until final ratification by the Board.
3. If ratified by the Board, Respondent hereby acknowledges and waives:
 - a. The right to appear personally or by counsel or both before the Board;
 - b. The right to produce witnesses and evidence on his behalf at a hearing;
 - c. The right to cross examine witnesses;
 - d. The right to have subpoenas issued by the Board;
 - e. The right to further procedural steps except for those specifically contained herein;
 - f. Any and all rights of appeal of this Consent Order; and
 - g. Any objection to the fact that this Consent Order will be presented to the Board for consideration and review.
3. Respondent agrees to this Reprimand by the Board based on the findings above.

4. Respondent shall pay an administrative fee of \$600 to the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline, made payable to the Rhode Island General Treasury, for staff time spent investigating and reviewing the instant complaint.
5. Respondent shall register for a Board-approved course that addresses disruptive physician behavior within one hundred twenty (120) days of the execution of this Consent Order, and shall complete the course within one hundred eighty (180) days of its execution.
6. Respondent shall remain under probation for two (2) years from the time of execution of this Consent Order.
7. In the event that any terms of this Consent Order are violated, the Director of the Department of Health shall have the discretion to summarily suspend the Respondent's license. If the Director suspends the license, Respondent shall be given notice and shall have the right to request an administrative hearing within twenty (20) days of the suspension. The Director of the Department of Health shall also have the discretion to request an administrative hearing after notice to Respondent of any violation of this Consent Order, and the Administrative Hearing Officer may suspend Respondent's license for the remainder of Respondent's probationary period if the alleged violation is proven by a preponderance of evidence.

ALEXANDER P. ROBERTSON III, M.D.

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Signed this 7 day of October, 2013.



Alexander P. Robertson III, M.D.

Ratified by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline on the 9 day of October, 2013.



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