STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

D E P A R T M E N T O F H E A L T H

Safe and Healthy Lives in Safe and Healthy Communities

BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND DISCIPLINE

No. C99-076

In the matter of:
Ronald Neeper, M.D.
License #: MD9254

Consent Order

Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §5-37-5.2, 1956, as amended, (1995 Reenactment) a complaint was filed with the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline (hereinafter referred to as "Board") charging Ronald Neeper, M.D., Respondent, with violations of §5-37-5.1 of the General Laws. The following constitutes the Investigating Committee's Findings of Fact with respect to the professional performance of the Respondent.

Findings of Facts

1. The Respondent, Ronald Neeper, M.D., was employed at a hospital in Rhode Island. The Respondent is a psychiatrist who treated children, adolescents and adults. A complaint was filed by an adult patient alleging sexual contact with the Respondent.

2. The Respondent engaged in sexual contact with a patient within two years of the termination of the therapeutic relationship.

3. The Respondent is presently employed in three positions as follows:

   a. Allegheny County Juvenile Court/Shuman Juvenile

Detention Center – The Respondent performs court-ordered evaluations that are almost always single contact evaluations. Each evaluation is conducted in a glass walled evaluation room where the Respondent and subject are visible at all times;

b. Westmoreland County Juvenile Court – The Respondent manages medications for youth detained at Westmoreland County facilities. All such work is conducted under direct observation of other staff, on video camera or both;

c. Cove-PREP – The Respondent is the medical director for a secure treatment facility for juvenile sex offenders. All medical examinations are witnessed by a nurse. All mental health evaluations are conducted in rooms with windows;

4. The Board finds that the Respondent is in violation of Rhode Island General Laws §5-37-5.1(30) and §5-63.1.

The parties agree as follows:

The Respondent is a physician with an inactive allopathic license No. 09254. Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board and hereby agrees to remain under the jurisdiction of the Board.

(1) Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands that it is a proposal of an Investigating Committee of the Board and is subject to the final approval of the Board. This Consent Order is not binding on Respondent until final ratification by the Board.

(2) 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 in 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 specifically contained herein;

f. Any and all rights of appeal of this Consent Order;

g. Any objection to the fact that this Consent Order will be presented to the Board for consideration and review;

h. Any objection to the fact that it will be necessary for the Board to become acquainted with all evidence pertaining to this matter in order to review adequately this Consent Order.

i. Any objection to the fact that potential bias against the Respondent may occur as a result of the presentation of this Consent. Order.

(3) If the Consent Order is not accepted by the Respondent, the Investigative Committee will recommend to the Board that an Administrative Hearing be scheduled with respect to any and all acts of alleged unprofessional conduct.

(4) Acceptance of this Consent Order constitutes an admission by the Respondent of the facts set forth herein.

(5) This Consent Order shall become part of the public record of this proceeding once it is accepted by all parties and by the Board.

(6) Failure to comply with this Consent Order, when signed and accepted, shall subject the Respondent to further disciplinary action.

(7) The Respondent accepts the sanction of probation for a term of five-years beginning upon the completion of an evaluation to be performed

by an evaluator acceptable to the Board. Further, the Respondent agrees to cooperate with any reasonable treatment plan recommended by the evaluator. The Board will decide the "reasonableness" of the evaluator's recommendation. The Respondent agrees that he will not practice medicine in any setting other than those positions described in paragraph 3 of the Findings of Fact as of the date of ratification of the Order. The Respondent agrees to sign any medical information releases which may be required to enable the Board to obtain reports from the aforesaid evaluator and from any provider of recommended treatment undertaken as a result of the evaluation. Non-compliance will result in the Suspension of the Respondent's license.

Singed this 27 day of June, 2001.

Ronald Neeper, M.D.

Ratified by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline at a meeting held on June 13, 2001.

Patricia A. Nolan, MD, MPH
Director of Health