

BEFORE THE  
ACUPUNCTURE BOARD  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 1A-2017-153

SUSAN SHRIVER RODNUNSKY, L.Ac.  
26914 Deertrail Court  
Calabasas, CA 91301

Acupuncturist License No. AC 6386,

Respondent.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Acupuncture Board, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on January 22, 2019.

It is so ORDERED January 7, 2019.



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FOR THE ACUPUNCTURE BOARD  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

1 XAVIER BECERRA  
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10 **BEFORE THE**  
**ACUPUNCTURE BOARD**  
11 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

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15 **SUSAN SHRIVER RODNUNSKY, L.Ac.**  
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16 Calabasas, CA 91301  
17 **Acupuncturist License No. AC 6386,**  
18 **Respondent.**

Case No. 1A-2017-153

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND  
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

19  
20 **IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED** by and between the parties to the above-  
21 entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

22 **PARTIES**

23 1. Benjamin Bodea (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Acupuncture Board  
24 (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this matter by  
25 Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Wendy Widlus, Deputy Attorney  
26 General.

27 2. Respondent Susan Shriver Rodnunsky, L.Ac. (Respondent) is representing herself in  
28 this proceeding and has chosen not to exercise her right to be represented by counsel.





1 agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

2 **CONTINGENCY**

3 11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Acupuncture Board. Respondent  
4 understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Acupuncture Board may  
5 communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to  
6 or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees  
7 that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the  
8 Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and  
9 Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for  
10 this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall  
11 not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

12 12. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile  
13 copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall have the same force and effect as  
14 the originals.

15 13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that  
16 the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following  
17 Disciplinary Order:

18 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

19 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Acupuncturist License No. AC 6386 issued to  
20 Respondent Susan Shriver Rodnunsky, L.Ac. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and  
21 Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions.

22 1. **ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT** Effective 30 days from the date  
23 of this Decision, Respondent shall enter an inpatient or outpatient alcohol or other drug abuse  
24 recovery program (a minimum of six (6) months duration) or an equivalent program as approved  
25 by the Board. Quitting the program without permission or being expelled for cause shall  
26 constitute a violation of probation by Respondent. Subsequent to the program, Respondent shall  
27 participate in on-going treatment such as receiving individual and/or group therapy from a  
28 psychologist trained in alcohol and drug abuse treatment; and/or attend Twelve Step meetings or

1 the equivalent as approved by the Board at least three times a week during the first year of  
2 probation; and/or other substance abuse recovery programs approved by the Board. Respondent  
3 shall pay all costs of treatment and therapy, and provide documentation of attendance at Twelve  
4 Step meetings or the equivalent as approved by the Board. The psychologist shall confirm that  
5 respondent has complied with the requirements of this Decision and shall notify the Board  
6 immediately if he or she believes the respondent cannot safely render acupuncture services.  
7 Respondent shall execute a release authorizing the psychologist to divulge the aforementioned  
8 information to the Board.

9       **2. ABSTAIN FROM DRUGS AND ALCOHOL AND SUBMIT TO TESTS AND**  
10 **SAMPLES**

11       Respondent shall abstain completely from the personal use or possession of controlled  
12 substances as defined in the California Uniform Controlled Substances Act (Division 10,  
13 commencing with section 11000, Health and Safety Code) and dangerous drugs as defined by  
14 Section 4211 of the Business and Professions Code, or any drugs requiring a prescription.  
15 Respondent shall abstain completely from the use of alcoholic beverages. Respondent shall  
16 undergo random, biological fluid testing as determined by the Board. Respondent shall bear all  
17 costs of such testing. The length of time and frequency will be determined by the Board. Any  
18 confirmed positive finding will be considered a violation of probation.

19       **3. COURSEWORK** Respondent shall take and successfully complete not less than  
20 eight (8) hours of coursework in the area: ethics. The coursework shall be taken as approved by  
21 the Board. Classroom attendance must be specifically required. Course content shall be pertinent  
22 to the violation and all coursework must be completed within the first two (2) years of probation.  
23 The required coursework must be in addition to any continuing education courses that may be  
24 required for license renewal. Within ninety (90) days of the effective date of the Decision,  
25 Respondent shall submit a plan for the Board's prior approval for meeting the educational  
26 requirement. All costs of the coursework shall be borne by the Respondent.

27       **4. REIMBURSEMENT FOR PROBATION SURVEILLANCE MONITORING -**

28 Respondent shall reimburse the Board for the hourly costs it incurs in monitoring the probation to



1 ensure compliance for the duration of the probation period.

2 5. **OBEY ALL LAWS** Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws and all  
3 regulations governing the practice of acupuncture in California. A full and detailed account of  
4 any and all violations of law shall be reported by the respondent to the Board in writing within  
5 seventy-two (72) hours of occurrence.

6 6. **QUARTERLY REPORTS** Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under  
7 penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been compliance  
8 with all the conditions of probation.

9 7. **INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE** Respondent shall  
10 appear in person for interviews with the Board or its designee upon request at various intervals  
11 and with reasonable notice.

12 8. **CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT** Respondent shall notify the Board in writing,  
13 through the assigned probation surveillance compliance officer of any and all changes of  
14 employment, location and address within 30 days of such change.

15 9. **TOLLING FOR OUT-OF-STATE PRACTICE OR RESIDENCE** In the event  
16 Respondent should leave California to reside or to practice outside the State, Respondent must  
17 notify the Board in writing of the dates of departure and return. Periods of residency or practice  
18 outside California will not apply to the reduction of this probationary period.

19 10. **EMPLOYMENT AND SUPERVISION OF TRAINEES** Respondent shall not  
20 employ or supervise or apply to employ or supervise acupuncture trainees during the course of  
21 this probation. Respondent shall terminate any such supervisory relationship in existence on the  
22 effective date of this probation.

23 11. **COST RECOVERY** Respondent shall pay to the Board its costs of investigation  
24 and enforcement in the amount of \$2,000.00. Respondent shall be permitted to pay these costs in  
25 a payment plan approved by the Board, with payments to be completed no later than three months  
26 prior to the end of the probation term and the period of probation shall be automatically extended  
27 should Respondent require additional time to complete payment of the full sum. Cost recovery  
28 will not be tolled. Respondent understands that failure to timely pay costs is a violation of

1 probation, and submission of evidence demonstrating financial hardship does not preclude the  
2 Board from pursuing further disciplinary action. However, Respondent understands that  
3 providing evidence and supporting documentation of financial hardship may delay further  
4 disciplinary action. Consideration to financial hardship will not be given should Respondent  
5 violate this term and condition, unless an unexpected AND unavoidable hardship is established  
6 from the date of this order to the date payment(s) is due.

7 **12. VIOLATION OF PROBATION** If Respondent violates probation in any respect,  
8 the Board may, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, revoke probation  
9 and carry out the disciplinary order that was stated. If an accusation or petition to revoke  
10 probation is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing  
11 jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter  
12 is final. No petition for modification or termination of probation shall be considered while there  
13 is an accusation or petition to revoke probation pending against respondent.

14 **13. COMPLETION OF PROBATION** Upon successful completion of probation,  
15 Respondent's license will be fully restored.

16 **ACCEPTANCE**

17 I have carefully read the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I understand the  
18 stipulation and the effect it will have on my Acupuncturist License. I enter into this Stipulated  
19 Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be  
20 bound by the Decision and Order of the Acupuncture Board.

21  
22 DATED: 12/24/18 Susan Shriver Rodnunsky  
23 SUSAN SHRIVER RODNUNSKY, L.Ac.  
24 Respondent

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**ENDORSEMENT**

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Acupuncture Board.

Dated:

*December 24, 2018*

Respectfully submitted,

XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
E. A. JONES III  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General



WENDY WIDLUS  
Deputy Attorney General  
*Attorneys for Complainant*

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**Exhibit A**

**Accusation No. 1A-2017-153**