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9	BEFORE THE ACUPUNCTURE BOARD DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
11	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
		G N DO 0000 50	
12 13	In the Matter of the Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation Against,	Case No. D2-2003-72	
	CHRISTOPHER JAMES RASMUSSEN		
14 15	2251 Kinsely St. Santa Cruz, CA 95062	ACCUSATION AND PETITION TO REVOKE PROBATION	
16	License No. AC 10334		
17	Respondent.		
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19	Complainant alleges:		
20	PAR	CTIES	
21	1. Janelle Wedge (Complainant) brings this Accusation and Petition to Revoke		
22	Probation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Acupuncture Board,		
23	Department of Consumer Affairs.		
24	2. Effective July 7, 2005, pursuant to a Stipulated Settlement and Decision, the		
25	Acupuncture Board issued an Order providing that respondent Christopher James Rasmussen		
26	("respondent") shall be issued a license to practice Acupuncture/Oriental Medicine. Respondent		
27	was subsequently issued License No. AC 10334 on July 14, 2005; however, said license was		
28	revoked upon issuance, the revocation is stayed, and respondent was placed on probation for 5		
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ACCUSATION AND PETITION TO REVOKE PROBATION (D2-2003-72)

- "(i) Any action or conduct that would have warranted the denial of the acupuncture license.
- 6. Section 4955.1 of the Code states, in pertinent part, that:

"The board may deny, suspend, revoke, or impose probationary conditions upon the license of any acupuncturist if he or she is guilty of committing a fraudulent act including, but not be limited to, any of the following:

- "(a) Securing a license by fraud or deceit.
- "(b) Committing a fraudulent or dishonest act as an acupuncturist.
- "(c) Committing any act involving dishonesty or corruption with respect to the qualifications, functions, or duties of an acupuncturist.
- 7. Section 4959 of the Code states, in pertinent part, that:
- "(a) The board may request the administrative law judge, under his or her proposed decision in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the board, to direct any licensee found guilty of unprofessional conduct to pay to the board a sum not to exceed actual and reasonable costs of the investigation and prosecution of the case.
- "(b) The costs to be assessed shall be fixed by the administrative law judge and shall not in any event be increased by the board. When the board does not adopt a proposed decision and remands the case to an administrative law judge, the administrative law judge shall not increase the amount of any costs assessed in the proposed decision.
- "(c) When the payment directed in the board's order for payment of costs is not made by the licensee, the board may enforce the order for payment in the superior court in the county where the administrative hearing was held. This right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights the board may have as to any licensee directed to pay costs.

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- "(d) In any judicial action for the recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision shall be conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment.
- "(e) All costs recovered under this section shall be considered a reimbursement for costs incurred and shall be deposited in the Acupuncture Fund."

# RESPONDENT'S MEDICAL BOARD HISTORY

- 8. Respondent was also previously licensed as a Physician and Surgeon by the Medical Board of California ("Medical Board") under Physician and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 63075, which was issued to him by the Medical Board on or about June 13, 1988.
- 9. On or about February 23, 2000, an Accusation was filed against respondent's Physician and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 63075 by the Medical Board in an action entitled In the Matter of the Accusation Against Christopher J. Rasmussen, M.D., Case No.16-1999-103141, charging respondent with multiple violations of the Medical Practice Act. Respondent was charged with violation of section 141 of the Code as a result of disciplinary action being taken against his medical license in the State of Wisconsin by the Medical Examining Board on or about August 25, 1999. Respondent was also charged with violations of the following sections of the California Business and Professions Code: Section 2239(a) of the Code (the use or selfprescribing of any drug that could be dangerous or injurious to the licensee, or to any other person or to the public); section 4081 of the Code (failure to keep an inventory or dispensing records for any of the drugs respondent ordered and self-administered); section 2238 (violating any statute or regulation of this state regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances); section 11170 of the Health and Safety Code (administering and prescribing a controlled substance to himself); and section 11173 of the Health and Safety Code (obtaining a controlled substance by fraud, deceit, misrepresentation or subterfuge; or (2) by concealment of a material fact).
- 10. On September 22, 2000, in resolution of Accusation No. 16-1999-103141, the Medical Board adopted as its Decision a Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. In the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, respondent admitted that each and every allegation contained in Medical Board Accusation No. 16-1999-103141 was true, and further agreed that his

Physician and Surgeon's Certificate was subjected to disciplinary action pursuant to sections 141, 2305, 2239, 4081, and 2238 of the Code, in conjunction with Health and Safety Code sections 11170 and 11173. Respondent's license to practice medicine was revoked, with the revocation stayed and respondent was placed on probation for five (5) years subject to several terms and conditions, including but not limited to, "Drugs &Abstain From Use, Biological Fluid Testing, Diversion Program, Controlled Drugs Partial Restriction, Controlled Drug Maintain Records, Monitoring, Spex Exam," and Standard Terms and Conditions.

- 11. Respondent probation period with the Medical Board was thereafter tolled since the effective date of the decision, due to respondent practicing and residing outside California (in Wisconsin).
- 12. On or about August 23, 2004, the State of Wisconsin, Medical Examining Board, suspended respondent's medical license based upon respondent's decision to discontinue compliance with the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board's disciplinary order of August 25, 1999. More specifically, by a letter dated June 24, 2004, respondent advised the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board that he was moving from the state of Wisconsin to California to practice acupuncture and/or medicine, and that respondent did not intend to continue his random drug screens in Wisconsin.
- On or about November 3, 2004, the Medical Board issued a full Out Of State
   Suspension Order pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2310.
- 14. On or about December 21, 2004, respondent was interviewed by a Medical Board Investigator. Respondent indicated, inter alia, that his suspension in Wisconsin was due to the fact that, at the end of summer, he decided no longer to reside in Wisconsin and that he could no longer comply with the Wisconsin licensure requirements. Respondent felt that opportunities to practice alternative medicine in Wisconsin were limited. He moved to California and began the process of applying for licensure as an acupuncturist.
- 15. On or about January 25, 2005, the Medical Board of California filed an Accusation and Petition To Revoke Probation (Case No. D1-1999-103141) based upon said Out Of State Suspension Order.

respondent is medically fit to practice safely . . . .

been disciplined by another state for acts substantially related to the practice regulated by a California acupuncture license; and for use of a controlled substance.

21. Effective July 7, 2005, pursuant to a Stipulated Settlement and Decision, the Acupuncture Board issued an Order providing that respondent Christopher James Rasmussen shall be issued a license to practice Acupuncture/Oriental Medicine (respondent was subsequently issued License No. AC 10334); however, said license was revoked upon issuance, the revocation was stayed, and respondent was placed on probation for 5 (five) years on the following terms and conditions:

# 1. ABSTAIN FROM DRUGS AND ALCOHOL AND SUBMIT TO TESTS AND SAMPLES

Respondent shall abstain completely from the personal use or possession of controlled substances as defined in the California Uniform Controlled Substances Act (Division 10, commencing with section 11000, Health and Safety Code) and dangerous drugs as defined by Section 4211 of the Business and Professions Code, or any drugs requiring a prescription. Respondent shall abstain completely from the use of alcoholic beverages. Respondent shall undergo random, biological fluid testing as determined by the Board. Respondent shall bear all costs of such testing. The length of time and frequency will be determined by the Board. Any confirmed positive finding will be considered a violation of probation. This prohibition does not apply to medications lawfully prescribed to respondent by another practitioner for a bona fide illness or condition.

# 2. REIMBURSEMENT FOR PROBATION SURVEILLANCE MONITORING

Respondent shall reimburse the Board for the hourly costs it incurs in monitoring the probation to ensure compliance for the duration of the probation period, not to exceed \$500.00 annually.

#### 3. OBEY ALL LAWS

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

#### 4. QUARTERLY REPORTS

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

#### 5. SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation surveillance program and shall, upon reasonable notice, report to the assigned investigative district office. Respondent shall contact

1		specific to the probation order. Respondent shall not have any unsolicited or unapproved contact with 1) victims or complainants	
2		associated with the case; 2) Board members or members of its staff; or 3) persons serving the Board as expert examiners.	
3		6. INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE Respondent shall appear in person for interviews with the	
5	, .	Board or its designee upon request at various intervals and with reasonable notice.	
6		7. CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT	
7		Respondent shall notify the Board in writing, through the assigned probation surveillance compliance officer of any and all	
8		changes of employment, location and address within 30 days of such change.	
9		8. TOLLING FOR OUT-OF-STATE PRACTICE OR RESIDENCE	
10		In the event respondent should leave California to reside or to practice outside the State, respondent must notify the Board in	
11	. '	writing of the dates of departure and return. Periods of residency or practice outside California will not apply to the reduction of this	
12	eners of the second	probationary period.	yk-ir
13		9. EMPLOYMENT AND SUPERVISION OF TRAINEES Respondent shall not employ or supervise or apply to employ	
14		or supervise acupuncture trainees during the course of this probation. Respondent shall terminate any such supervisorial	
15		relationship in existence on the effective date of this probation.	
16		10. COST RECOVERY Respondent shall pay to the Board its costs of investigation	
17		and enforcement in the amount of \$1200.00.	
18		11. VIOLATION OF PROBATION If respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board	
19		may, after giving respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard,	
20		revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stated. If an accusation or petition to revoke probation is filed	
21		against respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of	
22		probation shall be extended until the matter is final. No petition for modification or termination of probation shall be considered while	
23		there is an accusation or petition to revoke probation pending against respondent.	
24		12. COMPLETION OF PROBATION	
25		Upon successful completion of probation, respondent's license will be fully restored.	
26		13. OPTION TO SURRENDER LICENSE	
27		Following the effective date of this Decision, if respondent ceases practicing due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise	
28		unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, respondent may request the voluntary surrender of respondent's license. The	
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Board reserves the right to evaluate respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, respondent shall within 15 calendar days deliver respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its designee and respondent shall no longer practice Acupuncture/Oriental Medicine under the authority of the license previously issued by the Board. Respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation and the surrender of respondent's license shall be deemed disciplinary action based upon the grounds and admission already set forth in this Stipulation. If respondent re-applies for a license to practice Acupuncture/Oriental Medicine, the application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked license.

## CAUSES FOR REVOCATION OF PROBATION

22. Respondent's probation under License No. AC 10334 previously issued by the Acupuncture Board is subject to revocation for violating the terms of his probation as hereinafter set forth.

# FIRST CAUSES FOR REVOCATION OF PROBATION

- 23. On or about March 25, 2009, Laura Campos, a Senior Investigator for the Department of Consumer Affairs, Division of Investigation, who was previously assigned to monitor respondent's probation with the Acupuncture Board, attempted to contact respondent by telephone at his work location, Five Branches University, in Santa Cruz, for the purpose of administering a random biological fluid test as required by respondent's probationary terms. Investigator Campos left a message for respondent to contact her immediately. Investigator Campos then telephoned respondent at his private telephone number and left a similar message. Investigator Campos then sent an e-mail to respondent requesting that he contact Investigator Campos immediately.
- 24. Respondent did not contact Investigator Campos until the next morning, March 26, 2009, at which time Investigator Campos requested that respondent submit to a random drug screen that morning. Respondent refused to submit to a drug screen, indicating that he was scheduled to work that day and would not appear for a drug screen.
- 25. Respondent has violated probationary conditions No. 1. (Abstain from Drugs and Alcohol and Submit to Tests) and No. 5. (Surveillance Program) and therefore cause exist for revocation of probation pursuant to probationary condition No. 11 (Violation of Probation).

SECOND CAUSES FOR REVOCATION OF PROBATION

- 26. The allegations set forth in the First Causes for Revocation of Probation are referred to and incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth.
- 27. On or about July 31, 2009, Annette Rodriguez, a Senior Investigator for the Department of Consumer Affairs, Division of Investigation, who was now assigned to monitor respondent's probation (subsequent to Investigator Campos' retirement), met with respondent to verify that respondent understood each and every term of probation, which respondent verbally indicated and then initialed and dated on a copy of the Stipulated Settlement and Decision that he did so understand.
- 28. On or about July 31, 2009, respondent filled out and signed a "Last Use Questionnaire" indicating that he had not taken any prescription and/or illegal drugs, and indicating that he was only taking "Advil", an over the counter pain medication, for occasional pain. Respondent also advised Investigator verbally that the Advil was taken after exercise.
- 29. In truth and in fact, on or about 3/15/08, 3/18/08, and 4/9/08, respondent had obtained from local dentists and had filled at local pharmacies, prescriptions for Vicodin.
- 30. Vicodin is a Schedule III controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11506(e)(4), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- 31. On or about November 25, 2009, Investigator Rodriguez met with respondent and questioned him regarding the three Vicodin prescriptions. Respondent admitted to obtaining the prescriptions and indicated that he had simply forgotten to report the prescriptions to the Division of Investigation or the Acupuncture Board.
- 32. Respondent has violated probationary conditions No. 1. (Abstain From Drugs And Alcohol And Submit to Tests), 3. (Obey All Laws (by violation of Business and Professions Code sections as set forth further herein below under Causes For Disciplinary Action)) and No. 5. (Surveillance Program) and therefore cause exist for revocation of probation pursuant to probationary condition No. 11 (Violation of Probation).

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# THIRD CAUSES FOR REVOCATION OF PROBATION

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The allegations set forth in the First And Second Causes For Revocation of Probation are referred to and incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth.

- 34. On or about July 31, 2009, Investigator Rodriguez requested that respondent submit to a urine drug screen, which respondent provided.
- 35. The urine drug screen was analyzed and came back from the testing laboratory as positive for the drug "Tramadol."
- Tramadol hydrochloride, also known by its trade name "Ultram", is a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, Tramadol was approved for marketing as a noncontrolled analgesic in 1995 under the trade name of Ultram. Although the company initially claimed that this substance produced only very weak narcotic effects, recent data demonstrate that opioid activity is the overriding contributor to the drug's pharmacological activity. Because of inadequate product labeling and lack of established abuse potential, many physicians felt this drug was safe to prescribe to recovering narcotic addicts and to known narcotic abusers. As a consequence, numerous reports of abuse and dependence have been received. Tramadol is approved for the treatment of moderate to moderately severe pain in adults. Although the Department of Health and Human Services has not recommended the scheduling of this substance in the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), a requirement necessary for DEA to place a substance under control, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has required the manufacturer of Ultram to inform physicians about recent abuse data. The approved labeling has been modified on three separate occasions to include new information under the "Drug Abuse and Dependence" section. The labeling currently contains the following language:

"ULTRAM may induce psychic and physical dependence of the morphine type (µ opioid). Dependence and abuse, including drug seeking behavior and taking illicit actions to obtain the drug are not limited to those patients with prior history of opioid dependence. The risk in patients with substance abuse has been observed to be higher. ULTRAM is associated with craving and tolerance development. Withdrawal symptoms may occur if ULTRAM is discontinued abruptly."

On or about November 25, 2009, Investigator Rodriguez met with respondent and

questioned him regarding the positive test for Ultram. Respondent admitted to taking Ultram and indicated that in 2003 or 2004, he received a pharmaceutical sample of 100 Ultram/Tramadol tablets from a former colleague, a medical doctor living in Wisconsin. Respondent stated that since 2003-2004 and to date, he has taken (ingested) the leftover Ultram/Tramadol tablets as necessary to treat and alleviate his lower back pain.

- 38. When Investigator Rodriguez asked respondent the identity of the medical doctor "colleague" who provided the sample bottle to respondent, respondent refused to identify the individual.
- 39. When Investigator Rodriguez asked respondent why he didn't obtain a prescription for the Ultram/Tramadol, respondent advised that he cannot afford the medical insurance to see a physician.
- 40. When Investigator Rodriguez asked respondent why he didn't disclose the self administration of the Ultram/Tramadol on his "Last Use Questionnaire" which he signed on about July 31, 2009, respondent indicated "I forgot, I just didn't think about it, it wasn't purposeful."
- 41. Respondent has violated probationary conditions No. 1. (Abstain from Drugs and Alcohol and Submit to Tests), 3. (Obey All Laws (by violation of Business and Professions Code sections as set forth further herein below under Causes For Disciplinary Action)) and No. 5. (Surveillance Program) and therefore cause exist for revocation of probation pursuant to probationary condition No. 11 (Violation of Probation).

### CAUSES FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- 42. The allegations set forth in the First, Second and Third Causes for Revocation of Probation are referred to and incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth.
- 43. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections: 4955 (general unprofessional conduct); and/or 4955(d) (violation of chapter); and/or 4955(i) in conjunction with section 480(a)(2) and/or 480(a)(3) (dishonesty, deceit); and/or 4955.1(b) and/or 4955.1(c) (fraud, dishonesty, corruption).

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