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FILED

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ACUPUNCTURE BOARD

BEFORE THE
ACUPUNCTURE BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: **JEFFREY KINGHAM, LAc.** **P.O. Box 22645** **Santa Barbara, CA 93121** **Acupuncturist License No. AC 11509** Respondent.	Case No. 1A-2014-12 **A C C U S A T I O N**

Complainant alleges:

PARTIES

1. Terri Thorfinnson (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Acupuncture Board, Department of Consumer Affairs.

2. On or about December 13, 2006, the Acupuncture Board issued Acupuncture License number AC 11509 to Jeffrey Kingham, LAc. (Respondent). The Acupuncture License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on July 31, 2016, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

3. This Accusation is brought before the Acupuncture Board (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.

4. Section 4928.1 of the Code states:

"Protection of the public shall be the highest priority for the Acupuncture Board in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. Whenever the protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount."

5. Section 4955 of the Code states in pertinent part:

"The board may deny, suspend, or revoke, or impose probationary conditions upon, the license of any acupuncturist if he or she is guilty of unprofessional conduct.

"Unprofessional conduct shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

"(a) Using or possessing any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code, or dangerous drug or alcoholic beverage to an extent or in a manner dangerous to himself or herself, or to any other person, or to the public, and to an extent that the use impairs his or her ability to engage in the practice of acupuncture with safety to the public.

"(b) Conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of an acupuncturist, the record of conviction being conclusive evidence thereof.

". . ."

6. Section 4956 of the Code states:

"A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere made to a charge which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of an acupuncturist is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this chapter.

"The board may order a license suspended or revoked, or may deny a license, or may impose probationary conditions upon a license, when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing the person to withdraw his or her pleas of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, complaint, information, or indictment."

7. Section 490 of the Code states:

"(a) In addition to any other action that a board is permitted to take against a licensee, a board may suspend or revoke a license on the ground that the licensee has been convicted of a crime, if the crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the license was issued.

"(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a board may exercise any authority to discipline a licensee for conviction of a crime that is independent of the authority granted under subdivision (a) only if the crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the licensee's license was issued.

"(c) A conviction within the meaning of this section means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. Any action that a board is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code.

"(d) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the application of this section has been made unclear by the holding in *Petropoulos* v. *Department of Real Estate* (2006) 142 Cal.App.4th 554, and that the holding in that case has placed a significant number of statutes and regulations in question, resulting in potential harm to the consumers of California from licensees who have been convicted of crimes. Therefore, the Legislature finds and declares that this section establishes an independent basis for a board to impose discipline upon a licensee, and that the amendments to this section made by Senate Bill 797 of the 2007 -08 Regular Session do not constitute a change to, but rather are declaratory of, existing law."

8. Section 493 of the Code states:

"Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in a proceeding conducted by a board within the department pursuant to law to deny an application for a license or to suspend or revoke a license or otherwise take disciplinary action against a person who holds a license, upon the ground that the applicant or the licensee has been convicted of a crime substantially related to the

qualifications, functions, and duties of the licensee in question, the record of conviction of the crime shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that the conviction occurred, but only of that fact, and the board may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime in order to fix the degree of discipline or to determine if the conviction is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of the licensee in question.

"As used in this section, 'license' includes 'certificate,' 'permit,' 'authority,' and 'registration.'"

9. California Vehicle Code Section 23152 states in pertinent part:

"(a) It is unlawful for any person who is under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or drug, or under the combined influence of any alcoholic beverage and drug, to drive the vehicle.

"(b) It is unlawful for any person who has 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his or her blood to drive the vehicle …"

10. California Vehicle Code Section 23578 states:

"In addition to any other provision of this code, if a person is convicted of a violation of Section 23152 or 23153, the court shall consider a concentration of alcohol in the person's blood of 0.15 percent or more, by weight, or the refusal of the person to take a chemical test, as a special factor that may justify enhancing the penalties in sentencing, in determining whether to grant probation, and, if probation is granted, in determining additional or enhanced terms and conditions of probation."

COSTS

11. Section 4959 of the Code states:

"(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.

"(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."

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Conviction of a Crime In 2014)

12. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct under Code section 4955 subdivision (b), in that he was convicted of violating California Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivision (a), commonly known as driving while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage and/or a drug and under their combined influence, and California Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivision (b), commonly known as driving while having a 0.08% or higher blood alcohol, crimes which are substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of an acupuncturist. The circumstances are as follows:

13. On or about July 28, 2014, in proceedings entitled *People of the State of California v. Jeffrey Rice Kingham*, then pending in the Superior Court of California, case number 2012040302, after a plea of guilty, Respondent was convicted of Count 1, a violation of Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivision (a), and Count 3, a violation of Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivision (b). Respondent also admitted the violation of the special allegation as to Count 3 pursuant to Vehicle Code section 23578.

14. Following Respondent's plea of guilty and admission of the special allegation, the Court placed Respondent on five (5) years probation, and ordered him, inter alia, to obey all laws, enroll in and complete the Multiple Conviction Drinking Driver Program, pay a fine of $2,377

plus penalty assessments, and not drive a motor vehicle with any measurable amount of alcohol in his blood. The Court dismissed Count 2 and the special allegation pursuant to Vehicle Code section 23578 which accompanied Count 2 in the interests of justice based on the foregoing plea and sentence agreement.

15. The facts underlying Count 1 in the above conviction are:

November 11, 2012, arrest

16. On or about November 11, 2012, at approximately 7:00 p.m., a California Highway Patrol (CHP) officer driving his marked patrol vehicle while in full uniform was notified that a green Toyota Corolla had been seen driving northbound on US Highway 101 weaving within its traffic lane.

17. The CHP officer observed the Corolla weaving from lane to lane and initiated an enforcement stop. The CHP officer observed the single occupant of the car to be a male driver, later identified as Respondent.

18. When Respondent got out of his car the CHP officer observed that Respondent displayed objective signs of alcohol or drug intoxication. Respondent denied drinking alcohol or taking any medication.

19. The CHP officer demonstrated a series of standardized physical field sobriety tests to Respondent, and then asked Respondent to perform them as directed. Respondent was unable to perform the tests in a satisfactory manner.

20. Respondent was arrested for being under the influence of alcohol. After being read the chemical test admonition by the officer Respondent chose to provide a sample of his blood to be tested for the presence and amount of alcohol and/or drugs in his body, if any.

21. Respondent's blood sample was subjected to a chemical testing and found to contain traces of lorazepam.[1]

January 17, 2014, arrest

[1] Lorazepam is a benzodiazepine prescription medication often used to treat anxiety disorders. Sedation is a common side effect, along with cognitive impairment. It is a Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11057, subdivision (d) (16), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

22. The facts underlying Count 3 and the special allegation pursuant to Vehicle Code section 23578 in the above conviction are:

23. On or about January 17, 2014, at approximately 3:30 p.m., a California Highway Patrol (CHP) officer driving his marked patrol vehicle while in full uniform was notified that several citizens had called to report a possible DUI (driving under the influence) driver in a green Toyota Corolla driving southbound on US Highway 101.

24. The CHP officer observed the Corolla and followed it as it drove southbound on US Highway 101 in a serpentine manner.

25. The CHP officer initiated an enforcement stop. When Respondent got out of his car the CHP officer observed that Respondent displayed objective signs of alcohol or drug intoxication. Respondent denied drinking alcohol.

26. The CHP officer demonstrated a series of standardized physical field sobriety tests to Respondent, and then asked Respondent to perform them as directed. Respondent was unable to perform the tests in a satisfactory manner.

27. Respondent was arrested for being under the influence of alcohol. After being read the chemical test admonition by the officer Respondent chose to provide a sample of his breath to be tested for the presence and amount of alcohol in his body, if any.

28. Respondent's breath alcohol test results were .16 and .16, or two times the presumed blood alcohol content level used to define intoxication.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct)

29. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4955, for unprofessional conduct for unprofessional conduct pursuant to Code section 4955, subdivision (a), in that he used alcoholic beverages or a dangerous drug to an extent or in a manner dangerous to himself, or to any other person, or to the public. The circumstances are as follows:

30. The facts and circumstances in paragraphs 17 through 29 are incorporated by reference as if set forth in full herein.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Acupuncture Board issue a decision:

1. Revoking or suspending Acupuncturist License Number AC 11509, issued to Jeffrey Kingham, LAc.;

2. Ordering Jeffrey Kingham, LAc. to pay the Acupuncture Board the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4959;

3. If placed on probation, ordering him to pay to the Acupuncture Board the costs of probation monitoring; and

4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: OCT 06 2015

TERRI THORFINNSON
Executive Officer
Acupuncture Board
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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