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ACUPUNCTURE BOARD

1 ROB BONTA
2 Attorney General of California
3 MATTHEW M. DAVIS
4 Supervising Deputy Attorney General
5 ANDRES T. CARNAHAN
6 Deputy Attorney General
7 State Bar No. 232688
8 600 West Broadway, Suite 1800
9 San Diego, CA 92101
10 Telephone: (619) 738-9349
11 Facsimile: (916) 732-7920
12 E-mail: Andres.Carnahan@doj.ca.gov

13 *Attorneys for Complainant*

14 **BEFORE THE**
15 **ACUPUNCTURE BOARD**
16 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
17 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

18 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 1A-2024-6.¹

19 **JIN WOOK CHOI, L.AC.**
20 **8511 Monticello Avenue**
21 **Buena Park, CA 90621-1619**

DEFAULT DECISION
AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER

[Gov. Code, §11520]

22 **Acupuncturist License No. 13667,**

23 Respondent.

24 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

25 1. On or about February 18, 2026, Complainant Benjamin Bodea, in his official capacity
26 as the Executive Officer of the Acupuncture Board, Department of Consumer Affairs, filed
27 Accusation No. 23-20610-AP.² against Jin Wook Choi, L.Ac. (Respondent) before the
28 Acupuncture Board (Board).

2. On or about April 26, 2010, the Board issued Acupuncturist License No. 13667 to
Respondent. The Acupuncturist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the

¹ Acupuncture Board Case Number 1A-2024-6 is a consolidated case number that also includes the following cases: 1A-2023-144 and 1A-2024-115.

² The California Department of Consumer Affairs – Division of Investigation (DOI) Case Number associated with Acupuncture Board Case Number 1A-2023-144 is 23-20610-AP. The Accusation filed on February 18, 2026, inadvertently utilized the assigned DOI number instead of the above-captioned consolidated case number.

1 charges brought herein and expired on November 30, 2025. (A copy of Respondent's Certificate
2 of Licensure is attached as **Exhibit 1**.)

3 3. True and correct copies of Accusation No. 23-20610-AP, Statement to Respondent,
4 Notice of Defense, Request for Discovery, and Government Code sections 11507.5, 11507.6, and
5 11507.7 that were sent to Respondent's address of record with the Board, which was and is:
6 40250 Murrieta Hot Springs Road #105, Murrieta, CA 92563 are attached as **Exhibit 2**, and are
7 incorporated herein by reference.

8 4. On or about February 18, 2026, Cindy Johnson, an employee of the Complainant
9 Agency, served by Certified and First Class Mail a copy of the Accusation No. 23-20610-AP,
10 Statement to Respondent; Notice of Defense; Request for Discovery; and Discovery Statutes to
11 Respondent's address of record with the Board, which was and is 40250 Murrieta Hot Springs
12 Road #105, Murrieta, CA 92563. *See* **Exhibit 2**.

13 5. Service of the Accusation was effective as a matter of law under the provisions of
14 Government Code section 11505, subdivision (c).

15 6. According to the United States Postal Service's website, the aforementioned
16 documents (Accusation No. 23-20610-AP, Statement to Respondent, Notice of Defense (two
17 copies), Request for Discovery, and Government Code sections 11507.5, 11507.6, and 11507.7)
18 were returned to the original sender, the Board on or about March 2, 2026. (Declaration of
19 Deputy Attorney Andres T. Carnahan in Support of Default Decision and Disciplinary Order,
20 **Exhibit 3**, ¶ 3.)

21 7. On or about March 20, 2026, Ileana G. Chavarin, an employee of the Attorney
22 General's Office, served by Certified Mail, First-Class Mail, and email a Courtesy Notice of
23 Default and related documents. (Declaration of Service dated March 20, 2026, **Exhibit 4**.)

24 8. On or about April 1, 2026, the Attorney General's Office received the Courtesy
25 Notice of Default packages that were previously sent to Respondent on or about March 20, 2026.
26 The Notice of Default packages had not been delivered and were returned with a USPS "Return
27 to Sender" label affixed. (A copy of the envelope returned by the post office is attached as
28 **Exhibit 5**, and is incorporated herein by reference.)

1 9. According to the United States Postal Service’s website, the aforementioned
2 documents were returned to the original sender, the San Diego Office of the Attorney General on
3 or about March 30, 2026. (Declaration of Deputy Attorney Andres T. Carnahan in Support of
4 Default Decision and Disciplinary Order, **Exhibit 3**, ¶ 6.)

5 10. On or about April 10, 2026, the Attorney General’s Office discovered another
6 address, 8511 Monticello Avenue, Buena Park, CA 90621-1619 (Buena Park address), that
7 appeared to be Respondent’s current mailing address. (Declaration of Deputy Attorney Andres T.
8 Carnahan in Support of Default Decision and Disciplinary Order, **Exhibit 3**, ¶ 7.)

9 11. On or about April 15, 2026, Ileana G. Chavarin, an employee of the Attorney
10 General’s Office, served by Certified Mail, First-Class Mail, and email a Courtesy Notice of
11 Default and related documents on Respondent’s Buena Park address. (Declaration of Service
12 dated April 15, 2026, **Exhibit 6**.)

13 12. On or about April 28, 2026, the Attorney General’s Office received the Courtesy
14 Notice of Default package that was previously sent to Respondent on or about April 15, 2026.
15 The Notice of Default package had not been delivered and was returned with a USPS “Return to
16 Sender” label affixed. (A copy of the envelope returned by the post office is attached as **Exhibit**
17 **7**, and is incorporated herein by reference.)

18 13. According to the United States Postal Service’s website, the aforementioned
19 documents that were sent to Respondent’s Buena Park address were returned to the original
20 sender, the San Diego Office of the Attorney General on or about April 27, 2026. (Declaration of
21 Deputy Attorney Andres T. Carnahan in Support of Default Decision and Disciplinary Order,
22 **Exhibit 3**, ¶ 10.)

23 14. To date, Respondent has not filed a Notice of Defense. (Declaration of Deputy
24 Attorney Andres T. Carnahan in Support of Default Decision and Disciplinary Order, **Exhibit 3**,
25 ¶ 11.)

26 15. Respondent failed to file a Notice of Defense within 15 days after service upon him
27 of the Accusation, and therefore waived his right to a hearing on the merits of Accusation No. 23-
28

20610-AP. (See Declaration of Deputy Attorney Andres T. Carnahan in Support of Default Decision and Disciplinary Order, **Exhibit 3**.)

16. To date, neither the Board nor the Attorney General's office has received any returned correspondence from Respondent. (Declaration of Deputy Attorney Andres T. Carnahan in Support of Default Decision and Disciplinary Order, **Exhibit 3**, ¶¶ 11 and 15.)

17. Service of the Accusation No. 23-20610-AP was effective as a matter of law under the provisions of Government Code section 11506, subdivision (c).

18. Government Code section 11506 states, in pertinent part:

...

(c) The respondent shall be entitled to a hearing on the merits if the respondent files a notice of defense, and the notice shall be deemed a specific denial of all parts of the accusation not expressly admitted. Failure to file a notice of defense shall constitute a waiver of respondent's right to a hearing, but the agency in its discretion may nevertheless grant a hearing.

...

19. California Government Code section 11520, subdivision (a), states:

(a) If the respondent either fails to file a notice of defense or to appear at the hearing, the agency may take action based upon the respondent's express admissions or upon other evidence and affidavits may be used as evidence without any notice to respondent.

20. Business and Professions Code (Code) section 125.3, subdivision (a), states:

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law, in any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before any board within the department or before the osteopathic Medical Board, upon request of the entity bringing the proceeding, the administrative law judge may direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

21. California Government Code section 11520 states, in pertinent part:

(a) If the respondent either fails to file a notice of defense or to appear at the hearing, the agency may take action based upon the respondent's express admissions or upon other evidence and affidavits may be used as evidence without any notice to respondent.

22. 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 who is guilty of unprofessional conduct.

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

...

(d) Aiding or abetting in, or violating or conspiring in, directly or indirectly, the violation of the terms of this chapter or any regulation adopted by the board pursuant to this chapter.

...

(i) Any action or conduct that would have warranted the denial of the acupuncture license.

(j) The violation of any law or local ordinance on an acupuncturist's business premises by an acupuncturist's employee or a person who is working under the acupuncturist's professional license or business permit, that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of an acupuncturist. These violations shall subject the acupuncturist who employed the individuals, or under whose acupuncturist license the employee is working, to disciplinary action.

...

23. Section 4955.1 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

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:

...

(e) Failing to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients.

24. Section 4955.2 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

The board may deny, suspend, revoke, or impose probationary conditions upon the license of any acupuncturist if he or she is guilty of committing any one of the following:

(a) Gross negligence.

(b) Repeated negligent acts.

...

25. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1399.453, states:

An acupuncturist shall keep complete and accurate records on each patient who is given acupuncture treatment, including but not limited to, treatments given and progress made as a result of the acupuncture treatments.

26. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1399.469.2 states:

In addition to the conduct described in Section 4955 of the Business and Professions Code, "unprofessional conduct" also includes but is not limited to the following:

...

1 (c) Failure to cooperate and participate in any board investigation pending
2 against the licensee. This subsection shall not be construed to deprive a licensee of
3 any privilege guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United
4 States, or any other constitutional or statutory privileges. This subsection shall not be
5 construed to require a licensee to cooperate with a request that would require the
6 licensee to waive any constitutional or statutory privilege or to comply with a request
7 for information or other matters within an unreasonable period of time in light of the
8 time constraints of the licensee's practice. Any exercise by a licensee of any
9 constitutional or statutory privilege shall not be used against the licensee in a
10 regulatory or disciplinary proceeding against the licensee.

11 (d) Failure to report to the board within 30 days any of the following: (1) The
12 bringing of an indictment or information charging a felony against the licensee.

13 (2) The arrest of the licensee.

14 . . .

15 27. Section 726 of the Code states:

16 (a) The commission of any act of sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a
17 patient, client, or customer constitutes unprofessional conduct and grounds for
18 disciplinary action for any person licensed under this or under any initiative act
19 referred to in this division.

20 (b) This section shall not apply to consensual sexual contact between a licensee
21 and his or her spouse or person in an equivalent domestic relationship when that
22 licensee provides medical treatment, to his or her spouse or person in an equivalent
23 domestic relationship.

24 28. Section 4959 of the Code states:

25 (a) The board may request the administrative law judge, under his or her
26 proposed decision in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the board, to
27 direct any licensee found guilty of unprofessional conduct to pay to the board a sum
28 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.

1 29. The Board finds that pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4959, the
2 costs of investigation and prosecution of this case prayed for in Accusation No. 23-20610-AP is
3 \$21,477.75.

4 30. Complainant is entitled to recover from Respondent its costs of \$21,477.75 for the
5 investigation and prosecution of this action pursuant to the Certification of Prosecution Costs
6 (**Exhibit 8**). Complainant is entitled to recover said costs pursuant to Business and Professions
7 Code section 4959.

8 31. Pursuant to its authority under Government Code section 11520, the Board finds
9 Respondent is in default. The Board will take action without further hearing and, based on
10 Respondent's express admissions by way of default and the evidence before it, contained in
11 Exhibits 1 through 8, finds that the allegations in Accusation No. 23-20610-AP are true.

12 32. Respondent has subjected his Acupuncturist License No. 13667 by reason of the
13 following:

- 14 a. On or about October 7, 2023, Respondent committed an act or acts of sexual
15 abuse or misconduct against Patient A.
- 16 b. On or about October 7, 2023, Respondent was grossly negligent in his care,
17 treatment, and management of Patient A.
- 18 c. During his care, treatment, and management of Patient A, Respondent failed to
19 maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to
20 Patient A.
- 21 d. During his care, treatment, and management of Patient A, Respondent engaged in
22 unprofessional conduct.
- 23 e. Respondent failed to cooperate and/or failed to participate in the Board's
24 investigation concerning Respondent's care and treatment of Patient A.
- 25 f. Respondent failed to report to the Board the bringing of an indictment or
26 information charging him with multiple felonies charges and he also failed to
27 report to the Board any and all arrests within 30 days of each occurrence.
28

g. Respondent's conduct alleged in Accusation No. 23-20610-AP violated the terms of the Acupuncture Licensure Act.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUES

1. Based on the foregoing findings of fact, Respondent Jin Wook Choi, L.Ac. has subjected his Acupuncturist License No. 13667 to discipline.

2. A copy of the Accusation and the related documents and Declaration of Service are attached here as **Exhibit 2**.

3. The Board has jurisdiction to adjudicate this case by default.

4. Pursuant to its authority under Government Code section 11520, and based on the evidence before it, and the Findings of Fact contained in paragraphs 1 through 32, above, the Board hereby finds that the allegations contained in the Accusation, and each of them, separately and severally, are true and correct.

5. The Acupuncture Board is authorized to revoke Respondent's Acupuncturist License based upon the following violations alleged in the Accusation:

- a. Business and Professions Code Section 726 - Sexual Misconduct of Against A Patient.
- b. Business and Professions Code Section 4955.2, subdivision (a) - Gross Negligence.
- c. Business and Professions Code Section 4955.1, subdivision (e), and Title 16, section 1399.453, of the California Code of Regulations - Failing to Maintain Adequate and Accurate Records.
- d. Business and Professions Code Section 4955 – Unprofessional Conduct.
- e. Business and Professions Code Section 4955, and Title 16, section 1399.469.2(c), of the California Code of Regulations – Failure to Cooperate.
- f. Business and Professions Code Section 4955, and Title 16, section 1399.469.2(d), of the California Code of Regulations – Failure to Report.
- g. Business and Professions Code Section 4955, subdivision (d) - Violation of the Acupuncture Licensure Act.

ORDER

IT IS SO ORDERED that Acupuncturist License No. 13667, heretofore issued to Respondent Jin Wook Choi, L.Ac., is revoked.

Respondent is ordered to reimburse the Acupuncture Board the amount of \$21,477.75. The filing of bankruptcy by Respondent shall not relieve Respondent of her responsibility to reimburse the Board for its costs. Respondent's Acupuncturist License No. 13667 may not be renewed or reinstated unless all costs ordered under Business and Professions Code section 4959 have been paid.

If Respondent ever files an application for re-licensure or reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked license. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations, and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked license in effect at the time that the application for re-licensure or petition for reinstatement is filed.

Pursuant to Government Code section 11520, subdivision (c), Respondent may serve a written motion requesting that the Decision be vacated and stating the grounds relied on within seven (7) days after service of the Decision on Respondent. The Board in its discretion may vacate the Decision and grant a hearing on a showing of good cause, as defined in the statute.

This Decision shall become effective on 8/31/2026.

It is so ORDERED 8/17/2026.

Original Signature on file

FOR THE ACUPUNCTURE BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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