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JUL 28 2016

DOCKET NO. 2015-205

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IN THE MATTER OF	§	TEXAS BOARD OF
THE LICENSE OF	§	VETERINARY
JOEL AKIN, D.V.M.	§	MEDICAL EXAMINERS

AGREED ORDER

On this the 18 day of Oct., 2016 came to be considered by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") the matter of the license of Joel Akin, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 801.408 of the Texas Occupations Code, and Board Rule 575.29, an informal conference was held on March 28, 2016. Respondent attended the informal conference. The Board was represented at the conference by the Board's Enforcement Committee.

Respondent, without admitting the truth of the findings and conclusions set out in this Agreed Order, wishes to waive a formal adjudicative hearing and thereby informally dispose of the issues without a formal adjudication. Respondent agrees to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in this Order. In waiving an adjudicative hearing, Respondent acknowledges his understanding of the alleged violations and the adequacy and sufficiency of the notice provided to him.

Upon the recommendation of the Enforcement Committee and with Respondent's consent, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and enters this Agreed Order as set forth below.

Findings of Fact

1. Respondent, Joel Akin, D.V.M. of Fort Worth, Texas, holds Texas veterinary license 6921.
2. The Board has jurisdiction over the subject matter and Respondent. Respondent received notice, which may be required by law and by the rules of the Board. All jurisdictional requirements have been satisfied under Tex. Occ. Code Ann. Title 4 ("Act"). By entering into this Agreed Order, Respondent waives any defect in the notice and any further right to notice and hearing under the Act; Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§ 2001.051-.054; and the Rules of the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board Rules") (22 Tex. Admin. Code, Chapter 575).
3. On February 4, 2015, the Child Support Division of the Office of the Attorney General of Texas ("OAG") notified the Board that Dr. Akin had defaulted on two child support cases. Dr. Akin's license was put on a renewal hold. On April 13, 2015, the OAG notified the Board that Dr. Akin had submitted a payment of \$16,200 and authorized the renewal of Dr. Akin's license.

4. Dr. Akin has eight previous Agreed Orders with the Board. Agreed Order Docket No. 2013-51 and Agreed Order Docket No. 2014-107 both found violations for defaulting on child support payments.

Conclusions of Law

1. Respondent is required to comply with the provisions of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Chapter 801, Texas Occupations Code, and with the Board's Rules.

2. Based on the above Findings of Fact, Respondent has violated Rule 573.78 DEFAULT ON STUDENT LOAN/CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS, of the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct, which states that when a licensee fails to pay required child support, the licensee is subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

3. Based on Findings of Fact 1 through 4 and Conclusions of Law 1 through 2, Respondent has violated Sections 801.402(6) of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code, and is subject to disciplinary action by the Board:

801.402. GENERAL GROUNDS FOR LICENSE DENIAL OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION. A person is subject to denial of a license or to disciplinary action under Section 801.401 if the person:...

(6) engages in practice or conduct that violates the board's rules of professional conduct.

4. Based on Conclusions of Law 1 through 3, Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 801.401 of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code:

801.401. DISCIPLINARY POWERS OF BOARD. (a) If an applicant or license holder is subject to denial of a license or to disciplinary action under Section 801.402, the Board may: (a)

- (1) refuse to examine an applicant or to issue or renew a license;
- (2) revoke or suspend a license;
- (3) place on probation a license holder or person whose license has been suspended;
- (4) reprimand a license holder; or
- (5) impose an administrative penalty.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD AND RESPONDENT AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

Based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board ORDERS that

Respondent receive a FORMAL REPRIMAND.

The Board further ORDERS that Respondent's license be SUSPENDED for three years, with the suspension stayed, and Respondent placed on PROBATION for the entire period of the suspension.

The Board further ORDERS that:

1. Respondent shall abide by the Rules of Professional Conduct, the Texas Veterinary Licensing Act, the laws of the State of Texas, and the laws of the United States.
2. Respondent shall cooperate with the Board's attorneys, investigators, compliance officers and other employees and agents investigating Respondent's compliance with this Agreed Order.
3. Failure by Respondent to comply with the terms of this Agreed Order or with any other provisions of the Licensing Act or the Board Rules, may result in further disciplinary action.

Respondent, by signing this Agreed Order, acknowledges his understanding of the Agreed Order, the notice, and Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth herein, and agrees that he will satisfactorily comply with the mandates of the Agreed Order in a timely manner or be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by the Board.

Respondent, by signing this Agreed Order, waives his right to a formal hearing and any right to seek judicial review of this Agreed Order. Respondent acknowledges that he had the right to be represented by legal counsel in this matter.

RESPONDENT WAIVES ANY FURTHER HEARINGS OR APPEALS TO THE BOARD OR TO ANY COURT IN REGARD TO ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS AGREED ORDER. RESPONDENT AGREES THAT THIS IS A FINAL ORDER.

The effective date of this Agreed Order shall be the date it is adopted by the Board.

Signature page follows.

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I, JOEL AKIN, D.V.M., HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING ORDER. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING IT, I WAIVE CERTAIN RIGHTS. I SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS ORDER CONTAINS THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND THERE IS NO OTHER AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND, VERBAL, WRITTEN OR OTHERWISE.

[Handwritten Signature]
Joel Akin, D.V.M. #6921 TX

7/28/2016
DATE

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF Harris §

BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared Joel Akin, D.V.M., known to me as the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing document, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes stated therein.

Given under the hand and seal of office this 28th day of July, 2016

[Handwritten Signature]
Notary Public



SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the 18 October, 2016.

[Handwritten Signature]
Roland Lenarduzzi, D.V.M., Board President