



**NORTH CAROLINA
MEDICAL BOARD**

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President-Elect

Eleanor E. Greene, MD
Secretary/Treasurer

January 29, 2015

Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested

William Lee Bell, M.D.
300 S. Middleton Street
PO Box 1059
Robbins, NC 27325

Dear Dr. Bell:

The North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") has concluded its investigation regarding your treating and prescribing controlled substances to an immediate family member. Although the Board decided not to commence formal proceedings against your license, it did vote to issue you this public letter of concern and require that you take ten (10) hours of a Category I continuing medical education course related to controlled substance prescribing.

The Board received information that you treated and prescribed controlled substances to an immediate family member from about December 2013 to July 2014. The Board notes that this family member was in severe pain and that you initially intended for the treatment and prescribing to serve as temporary assistance. The Board also notes that you treated this family member while consulting with other specialists as part of the treatment team. Regardless of your good intentions, these actions are inappropriate and violate Board Rule 21 NCAC 32B.1001(c). This rule prohibits prescribing controlled substances to immediate family members. This rule can be viewed at the following link: http://www.ncmedboard.org/professional_resources/rules.

Except for minor illnesses and emergencies, physicians should not treat or prescribe for family members or those with whom they have a close personal relationship. The Board's guidance on this issue can be found in its Position Statement titled *Self-Treatment and Treatment of Family Members*. The Board invites you to review its Position Statements located at its website www.ncmedboard.org.

The Board urges you to ensure that the conduct giving rise to the Board's concern does not happen again. Otherwise, the Board may vote to commence formal disciplinary proceedings against your license to practice medicine. If that happens, this letter may be entered into evidence in determining the appropriate discipline.

1203 Front Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609-7533

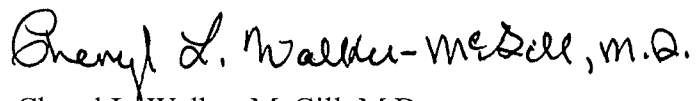
Mailing:
P.O. Box 20007
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619-0007

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Fax: (919) 326-1131
Email: info@ncmedboard.org
Web: www.ncmedboard.org

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This letter is a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and is subject to public inspection and dissemination as required by that law. It may be reported to the Federation of State Medical Boards and to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl L. Walker-McGill, M.D.".

Cheryl L. Walker-McGill, M.D.
Board President


CWM/PFB/bjs

Consent and Waiver

I, William Lee Bell, M.D., would like to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings and consent to the Board's issuance of this public letter of concern in resolution of this matter.

Further, within the next 6 months I agree to take ten (10) hours of a Category I continuing medical education course concerning the subject of controlled substance subscribing ("CME Course"). I shall contact the Board's Office of the Medical Director to get their advance approval for the CME Course and I shall complete the CME Course within six (6) months from the effective date of this public letter of concern.

Consented to this the 20 day of January, 2015.


William Lee Bell, M.D.

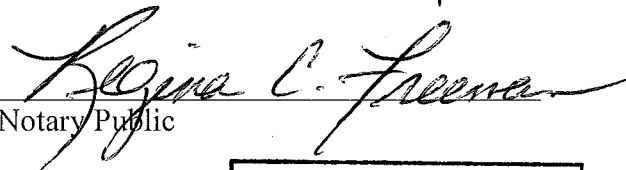
State of North Carolina

County of Moore

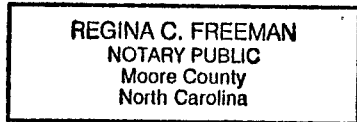
I, Regina C. Freeman, a Notary Public for the above named County and State, do hereby certify that William Lee Bell, M.D. personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal

this the 20 day of January, 2015.


Notary Public

(SEAL)



My Commission expires: November 29, 2016