

BEFORE THE
NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

In re:)
)
Kari Chappell Barnett, A.A.,) CONSENT ORDER
)
Respondent.)

This matter is before the North Carolina Medical Board ("Board") regarding information provided to the Board concerning Kari Chappell Barnett, A.A. ("Ms. Barnett"). Ms. Barnett makes the following admissions and the Board makes the following findings and conclusions:

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The Board is a body duly organized under the laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this proceeding under the authority granted to it in Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the rules and regulations promulgated thereto.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Barnett was first issued an anesthesiologist assistant license by the Board on or about May 17, 2010, license number 1000-00265.

At all times relevant herein, Ms. Barnett practiced as an anesthesiologist assistant in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

On January 24, 2018, Ms. Barnett was working a *locum tenens* position at an ambulatory surgical center in Fayetteville, North Carolina. During her shift, Ms. Barnett diverted small amounts of fentanyl ordered for administration to patients. After accumulating approximately 250 micrograms of fentanyl, Ms. Barnett self-administered the controlled substance. Later, Ms. Barnett ingested propofol. Ms. Barnett treated three patients after taking the drugs.

Ms. Barnett's diversion was uncovered when staff at the surgical center found empty syringes in a restroom and contacted local law enforcement. During its investigation, Ms. Barnett was discovered to have fresh track marks on her arm. Ms. Barnett admitted to the diversion and was arrested the next day, January 25, 2018, and charged with felony embezzlement of a controlled substances. The criminal charge is still pending. After her arrest, Ms. Barnett's carry bag was searched and the search revealed vials of fentanyl and propofol.

On January 26, 2018, Ms. Barnett voluntarily surrendered her license.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Ms. Barnett admits that when abusing drugs, she is unable to practice as an anesthesiologist assistant with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of excessive use of drugs, within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(5) and

grounds exist under this section of the North Carolina General Statutes for the Board to annul, suspend, revoke, condition or limit Ms. Barnett's license or to deny any application she might make in the future.

Ms. Barnett acknowledges that her conduct, as described herein, constitutes unprofessional conduct within the meaning of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-14(a)(6) and grounds exist under this section of the North Carolina General Statutes for the Board to annul, suspend, revoke, condition or limit Ms. Barnett's license or to deny any application she might make in the future.

PROCEDURAL STIPULATIONS

Ms. Barnett acknowledges and agrees that the Board has jurisdiction over her and over the subject matter of this case.

Ms. Barnett knowingly waives her right to any hearing and to any judicial review or appeal in this case.

Ms. Barnett, with advice of legal counsel, acknowledges that she has read and understands this Consent Order and enters into it voluntarily.

Ms. Barnett desires to resolve this matter without the need for more formal proceedings.

The Board has determined that it is in the public interest to resolve this case as set forth below.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, with Ms. Barnett's consent, it is ORDERED that:

1. Ms. Barnett's anesthesiologist assistant license is hereby INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.


2. This Consent Order shall take effect immediately upon its execution by both Ms. Barnett and the Board, and it shall continue in effect until specifically ordered otherwise by the Board.

3. Ms. Barnett hereby waives any requirement under any law or rule that this Consent Order be served on her.

4. Upon execution by Ms. Barnett and the Board, this Consent Order shall become a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and shall be subject to public inspection and dissemination pursuant to the provisions thereof. Additionally, it will be reported to persons, entities, agencies and clearinghouses as required and permitted by law including, but not limited to, the Federation of State Medical Boards and the National Practitioner Data Bank.

By Order of the North Carolina Medical Board this the 1st day of August, 2018.

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL BOARD

By: 

Timothy E. Lietz, M.D.
President

Consented to this the 27 day of July, 2018.

Kari Chappell Barnett
Kari Chappell Barnett, A.A.

State of Louisiana

County of Ouachita

I, RAE PRICE, do hereby certify that Kari Chappell Barnett, A.A. personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal this the 27 day of July, 2018.

Rae Price
Notary Public

Rae Price
Notary # 062416
commission for lifetime

(Official Seal)

My Commission Expires: at Death