

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE MEDICAL BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: CHET CRAWFORD, M.D.

EMERGENCY ORDER OF SUSPENSION AND NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to ACA § 25-15-201, *et seq.* and ACA § 25-15-211(c), all of the Administrative Procedures Act, and ACA § 17-95-410 of the Medical Practices Act, the Arkansas State Medical Board issues the following Emergency Order of Suspension and Notice of Hearing, alleging that Chet Crawford, M.D., violated the Medical Practices Act, more specifically, ACA §17-95-409(a)(2)(h), that is, he exhibited the intemperate use of habit forming scheduled medication; and ACA §17-95-409(a)(2)(e), that is, he violated the laws of the United States regulating the possession, distribution and use of scheduled medication, more specifically, he diverted scheduled medication for his own use and for non-medical and non-therapeutic reasons.

The allegations upon which the above charges are based are as follows:

I.

Chet Crawford, M.D., is a licensed physician in the State of Arkansas under the provisions of the Medical Practices Act.

II.

The Department of Veterans Affairs notified the Arkansas State Medical Board that it had terminated the clinical privileges and Medical Staff membership of Chet Crawford, M.D., and they were conducting an investigation related to controlled substance diversion/abuse concerning him.

In its investigation the Department of Veterans Affairs stated that:

Chet Crawford, M.D. so substantially failed to meet generally-accepted standards of clinical practice as to raise reasonable concern for the safety of patients, when Dr. Crawford repeatedly diverted prescription medication.

III.

In its findings, the Department of Veterans Affairs reported that:

- a. Diversion of Prescription Medication – Reports from patients, information summarized from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) review and the patient's own handwritten statement all confirmed diversion of prescription pain medicine by Chet Crawford, M.D. In his written statement, Chet Crawford MD initially attributed his unneeded oxycodone prescriptions for patients as prescribing errors but subsequently wrote that his 'work on trying to taper off his hydrocodone did honestly drive his desire to have access to another pain medication as a sort of "safety blanket" in case he felt that he needed it.
- b. Prescribing Medication to Patients for no Therapeutic Purpose – In his progress note, Chet Crawford, M.D., documented in the medical record on 6/14/2016, that the patient denied pain but none-the-less the patient was prescribed 90 Oxycodone tables "for pain."
- c. Prescribing Medication to Patients with the Intent of retrieving medication for personal use – In the OIG interview, Chet Crawford, MD, admitted that on two occasions he 'had written Oxycodone prescriptions with the intention of later retrieving these prescriptions from his patients.' His willingness to intercept there "error" medications either in transit from the "UPS" or by visiting the patient at home to collect these medications was incriminating.

IV.

Pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act, ACA§ 25-15-211(c) and upon an affirmative vote of the majority of the Arkansas State Medical Board, the Board finds that the acts of Chet Crawford, M.D., described herein above, render him a danger to the health, safety and welfare of the public; and therefore, the license to practice medicine in the State of Arkansas, as heretofore issued to Chet Crawford, M.D., is suspended on an emergency basis, pending a disciplinary hearing in this matter, or further orders of the Board.

WHEREFORE, IT IS CONSIDERED, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED, by the Arkansas State Medical Board that the license to practice medicine as issued by the State of Arkansas to

Chet Crawford, M.D., is suspended on an emergency basis, pending a disciplinary hearing in this matter, or further orders of the Board.

IT IS FURTHER CONSIDERED, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED by the Arkansas State Medical Board that a hearing should be conducted to determine whether Chet Crawford, M.D., has violated the Medical Practices Act and the Rules and Regulations of the Board, as alleged herein above; and if it is determined that he has, in fact, violated the Medical Practices Act and the Rules and Regulations, then the Board should determine whether the license of Chet Crawford, M.D., to practice medicine in the State of Arkansas, should be revoked or suspended, or whether other sanctions should be imposed pursuant to the authority granted the Board in ACA § 17-95-410 *et seq.* Said hearing will be conducted at 9:00am o'clock on the 8th day of June 2017, at the offices of the Arkansas State Medical Board, 1401 W. Capitol Ave., Suite 340, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Chet Crawford, M.D., is hereby advised that he may be represented by counsel at the hearing, and that he will be given the opportunity to examine all of the evidence offered to the Board, cross-examine witnesses, and offer evidence and witnesses in his own behalf.

Chet Crawford, M.D., is further advised that any additional records and/or exhibits that he as a Respondent wishes to present to the Board at his hearing MUST be supplied to the Board no later than 20 days prior to the hearing date. Failure to do so can result in the Board refusal to allow the information or documentation to be presented by the Respondent.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

ARKANSAS STATE MEDICAL BOARD


Steven Cathey, M.D., Chairman
3/9/17
Date

Approved as to form:


Kevin M. O'Dwyer
Attorney for the Arkansas State Medical Board