

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION 2018-286A

Deborah J. Bruce, J.D., Executive Director State Board of Osteopathic Examiners 4848 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 100 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105 July 24, 2018

Dear Executive Director Bruce:

This office has received your request for a written Attorney General Opinion regarding action that the State Board of Osteopathic Examiners intends to take in Board case 1215-148 against licensee 2887. In 2016, the Board suspended the licensee's license and required the licensee to obtain and present an independent psychological evaluation to the Board. In 2017, the Board modified the suspension and required the licensee to (i) obtain a final psychological evaluation and a neurological assessment, and (ii) provide the Board with copies of all personal medical records for the last 12 months. The Board now finds that the licensee (i) practiced osteopathic medicine during the period of suspension, (ii) did not provide all of the required personal medical records as ordered by the Board, and (iii) underwent seven separate evaluations, none of which concluded that the licensee was fit to safely practice. The Board proposes to lift the suspension and revoke the licensee's license.

The Oklahoma Osteopathic Medicine Act makes it unlawful to practice osteopathic medicine without a license. See 59 O.S.Supp.2017, § 622(A)(1). The Board is authorized to "suspend or revoke any license issued . . . upon proof that the . . . holder of such a license . . . [h]as violat[ed] a[n] order with [the] Board." 59 O.S.2011, § 637(A)(2)(l). The Board may reasonably believe that the proposed action is necessary to ensure its licensees are fit for practice and to ensure that they comply with the Board's lawfully issued orders.

It is, therefore, the official opinion of the Attorney General that the State Board of Osteopathic Examiners has adequate support for the conclusion that this action advances the State's policy to protect the public welfare by ensuring that licensees adhere to the Act and the Board's rules.

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