



**ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION
2020-16A**

G. Robinson Stratton, III, J.D., Executive Director
State Board of Osteopathic Examiners
4848 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 100
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

April 15, 2020

Dear Executive Director Stratton:

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 Case Number 1019-104 against license #2623. On October 11, 2019, Board staff was contacted by the licensee, who admitted he was struggling with mental health issues. On October 16, 2019, a complaint was made with the Board that the licensee was likely suffering from psychiatric issues that would prohibit him from being able to practice medicine safely. After a hearing at which the licensee was present and represented by counsel, the Board proposes to, among other things, suspend the license until further order of the Board and require the licensee to attend an exam with both a psychologist and psychiatrist.

The Oklahoma Osteopathic Medicine Act authorizes the Board to “suspend or revoke any license issued . . . upon proof that the . . . holder of such a license . . . [i]s incapable, for medical or psychiatric or any other good cause, of discharging the functions of an osteopathic physician in a manner consistent with the public's health, safety and welfare.” 59 O.S.Supp.2019, § 637(A)(8). The Board may reasonably believe that the proposed action is necessary to protect the public and prevent future violations.

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 comply with the Act and the Board’s rules.

MIKE HUNTER
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA

ETHAN SHANER
DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL