BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA MEDICAL IMAGING AND RADIATION THERAPY TECHNOLOGY BOARD OF EXAMINERS

WEST VIRGINIA MEDICAL IMAGING AND RADIATION THERAPY TECHNOLOGY BOARD,

Complainant,

v.

Complaint No. 09-FY-2024

Renee L. Atzeni-Dandrea, License No. 3960,

Respondent.

SUMMARY SUSPENSION ORDER

The West Virginia Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Technology Board of Examiners ("Board") is the agency of the State of West Virginia responsible for the licensure and professional discipline of all medical imaging technologists in West Virginia. *See* W. Va. Code §§ 30-23-5 *et seq*. In circumstances in which the Board determines that a licensee's continuation in practice constitutes an immediate danger to the public, the Board is authorized to temporarily and summarily suspend the medical imaging technologist's license, prior to a disciplinary hearing, pending institution of proceedings to determine further disciplinary action. *See* W. Va. Code § 30-1-8(e)(1).

For the following reasons, the Board hereby SUMMARILY SUSPENDS Respondent's license in the State of West Virginia, effective July 9, 2024:

1. Respondent holds a medical imaging technologist license in radiography issued on November 24, 2023. Her license expires on January 31, 2025.

- 2. On March 15, 2024, the Board received notification from The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) that Respondent's license was disciplined by the Maryland Board of Physicians for multiple work-related issues. On May 9, 2024, the Board issued a subpoena for the underlying disciplinary file from the Maryland Board of Physicians. On May 20, 2024, the Board received the disciplinary file from the Maryland Board of Physicians.
- 3. The disciplinary file from the Maryland Board of Physicians revealed the following:

On June 30, 2023, an Order of Default was issued against Respondent's radiography license for failing to appear at the hearing regarding her discipline, and Maryland revoked her license to practice radiography on the basis that she was found to be professionally, physically, or mentally incompetent in violation of Health Occ. Section 14-5B-14(a)(4). Her license was revoked based on the following facts:

- Respondent practiced radiography at a health care facility in Baltimore, Maryland from November 11, 2020, until her termination on October 25, 2021.
- The Board initiated an investigation after receiving a mandated 10-day report on November 2, 2021, from the facility indicating that Respondent's employment was terminated due to unsatisfactory performance.
- Respondent received numerous trainings and mentorships throughout her employment in various areas of radiography such as radiation safety, patient positioning and customer service.
- On February 15, 2021, Respondent received a verbal and written warning after a patient complained that she had been rough in her positioning of her for an imaging study.
- On March 25, 2021, Respondent received a written warning for failing to review a patient's prescription and prior reports before starting an examination.
- On September 2, 2021, Respondent received a final warning for advising a patient during a mammography that the patient had a lump. The radiologist expressed concerns that Respondent had acted inappropriately and in a manner that was unsafe, and that she did not feel comfortable with Respondent's skills or her ability to communicate.
- On September 6, 2021, she performed an imaging study of a patient but failed to document that the patient had recently suffered a stroke. Respondent's failure to document that the patient had a recent stroke caused the patient to be recalled for a second imaging study.
- On September 27, 2021, an imaging specialist performed an audit and determined that Respondent struggled with obtaining optimal images on patients.

- On September 29, 2021, Respondent performed a diagnostic mammogram call back on a patient. Respondent performed both 2D and 3D imaging resulting in excess radiation to the patient.
- On October 1, 2021, Respondent performed a diagnostic mammogram on a patient with implants. Respondent performed 21 images on this patient with many repeat images that were suboptimal for technique and positioning. A typical mammogram with implants requires eight images. In addition, Respondent performed 2D and 3D imaging resulting in excess radiation to the patient.
- On October 11, 2021, she signed a last chance agreement with the facility (last chance to improve her performance).
- On October 25, 2021, her supervisors at her employment advised that she continued to make errors for which she was previously provided written warnings.
- On October 25, 2021, she was terminated from the health care facility effective immediately.
- 4. The Board, at its meeting on June 20, 2024, voted unanimously to suspend Respondent's license based on the below allegations and potential violations set forth above. The Board also found probable cause that Respondent violated W. Va. Code R. § 18-5-5.1.15 for violating a rule adopted by any state board with competent jurisdiction or state law relating to the practice of medical imaging or radiation therapy technology.
- 5. West Virginia Code § 30-1-8(e)(1) provides that the Board "is authorized to suspend or revoke a certificate, license, registration or authority prior to a hearing if the person's continuation in practice constitutes an immediate danger to the public…"
- 6. Because Respondent's license was revoked in Maryland due to work-related issues, two of which resulted in patients receiving excess radiation, the Board finds that Respondent's continuation in practice poses an immediate danger to the public. Therefore, the Board hereby ORDERS that Respondent's license be SUMMARILY SUSPENDED effective July 9, 2024, pending further disciplinary proceedings. Respondent shall be given the opportunity to challenge her suspension. The Board requests that the parties confer on setting a hearing date or enter into a consent agreement in a timely manner. Respondent may file a

response to this summary suspension order within thirty (30) days of receipt of this order. Respondent has the right to a hearing regarding this summary suspension order as set forth in West Virginia Code § 30-1-8(h).

The Executive Director of the Board is directed to send a copy of this order to Respondent via certified, regular mail, and via e-mail to her last known address with the Board. A copy of this order must be forwarded to the ARRT and Respondent's current employer (if she remains employed as a medical imaging technologist).

Entered July 9, 2024.

Tyson Judy, Chairman

West Virginia Medical Imaging and Radiation

Therapy Board of Examiners