
**BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI STATE
BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE**

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF:
JAMES LEONARD WOOTTON, III, M.D.

ORDER GRANTING REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSE

THIS MATTER came before the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure (hereinafter “Board”), pursuant to Title 73, Chapter 25 of Mississippi Code (1972) Annotated. James Leonard Wootton, III, M.D. (“Licensee”) seeks reinstatement of licensure under Miss. Code Ann. Section 73-25-32. A hearing was conducted on March 22, 2023.

The last formal action of the Board occurred on January 20, 2022, wherein the Board suspended Licensee’s Mississippi medical license by virtue of a Consent Order. While suspending Licensee’s medical licensure, the Board advised Licensee that he had a right to petition for reinstatement and return to practice upon expiration of no less than six (6) months from the date of the order. Provided, however, that the Licensee successfully completed the following requirements:

(1) Complete AMA Category 1 CME (Continuing Medical Education) courses in the areas of (1) Prescribing, and (2) Record Keeping—in addition to the forty (40) hours of Category 1 CME requirements.

(2) Complete a Board-approved intensive treatment program at either the residential or partial-hospitalization level of care as recommended and specified by Pine Grove Behavioral Health & Addiction Services (hereinafter “facility”) for a minimum of six (6) weeks.

(3) Submit proof of successful completion of the intensive treatment program and his fitness to resume the practice of medicine with reasonable skill and safety to the Board.

(4) Present a plan of practice, consistent with the findings and recommendations of the facility.

(5) Reimburse the Board for all costs incurred under Miss. Code Ann. Section 73-25-30.

At the hearing, Licensee was present and represented by Honorable Whitman “Whit” Johnson. Complaint Counsel for the Board was Honorable Paul Barnes. Also present was Complaint Co-Counsel Honorable Stan T. Ingram. Sitting as legal advisor and hearing officer to the Board was Honorable Alexis E. Morris, Special Assistant Attorney General. Board members present for the proceedings were David McClendon, M.D, President; Michelle Owens, M.D.; Ken Lippincott, M.D.; Thomas Joiner, M.D.; Kirk Kinard, D.O.; Allen Gersh, M.D.; Roderick Givens, M.D.; William Loper, III, M.D.; and Renia Dotson, M.D. Consumer members present were Koomarie “Shoba” Gaymes and Wesley Breland. Dr. Wootton presented evidence that he has completed the requirements permitting him to petition for reinstatement, namely:

Dr. Wootton has completed the required CME courses in the areas of prescribing and record keeping and presented evidence of same; Dr. Wootton has completed a Board-approved intensive treatment program at Pine Grove. That program has acknowledged that Dr. Wootton is safe to return to practice provided certain recommendations are met, and Dr. Wootton agrees to comply with those recommendations. Dr. Wootton described in his Petition the additional conditions, recommendations, and restrictions, and agrees to comply with each.

Dr. Wootton presented evidence that he has employment opportunities in Colorado, and because of a recent change in his wife's employment status, he wishes to pursue employment opportunities in Alabama. Based on the evidence presented at the hearing, including Dr. Wootton's sworn testimony, the Board finds that Dr. Wootton should be permitted to seek licensure and employment in either Colorado or Alabama, but all other restrictions, conditions, and limitations on his Mississippi medical license shall apply regardless of whether he practices in Colorado or Alabama.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Licensee's request for reinstatement of his Mississippi medical license is hereby granted, subject to the following requirements, conditions, and restrictions:

(A) Completion of a Board approved intensive treatment program – licensee has completed an intensive treatment program at Pine Grove. That program has acknowledged that Dr. Wootton is safe to return to practice provided certain recommendations are met. As shown below, Dr. Wootton shall meet all such

recommendations. Dr. Wootton shall establish a relationship with the Physician Health Program in Colorado or Alabama, who shall have primary monitoring responsibility to ensure Dr. Wootton is in compliance with the terms of this Order and the recommendations of the Pine Grove evaluation.

(B) Pine Grove recommended existence of a monitoring agreement with Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure to include biannual polygraphs. Dr. Wootton shall sign a monitoring agreement and undergo biannual polygraphs, but given his job opportunities in Colorado, where he currently resides, and potential job opportunities in Alabama, that the monitoring agreement allow such polygraphs to be done in the State of Colorado or the State of Alabama, as the case may be.

(C) Pine Grove recommended that Dr. Wootton work in a highly structured setting and not in solo practice. He currently has an opportunity contingent upon licensing approval to work a clinic setting in a clinic in Mancos, Colorado run by Southwest Memorial Hospital/Southwest Health Systems in Cortez, Colorado as a family practice physician. He will have a workplace monitor (Will Jansen, Practice Administrator) who could provide not only accountability and oversight but also act as a resource for situations that may arise. Should Dr. Wootton decide to accept employment and practice medicine in Alabama, he must submit a practice plan including similar safeguards to the Alabama Board and obtain approval before beginning practice.

(D) Dr. Wootton will not treat himself, family, co-workers, or friends.

(E) Dr. Wootton will work reasonable hours in the 40 to 45 hour per week range with two days off a week. He will request to the extent possible an 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. work schedule with a work break.

(F) In interacting with females, Dr. Wootton will to the maximum extent possible maintain a three-person rule where he has someone else in the room with him while interacting with females.

(G) Dr. Wootton will avoid socializing with staff or patients.

(H) Dr. Wootton will not work with Indian Health Services without approval from the Colorado or Alabama Licensure Boards, to be determined by which of those State permit him to practice.

(I) Dr. Wootton agrees to allow to Will Jansen to be his workplace monitor and has informed him of the issues that led to the suspension of his license. Dr. Wootton agrees to arrange a similar workplace monitoring plan if he obtains employment in Alabama instead of Colorado.

(J) Dr. Wootton agrees to have a PEP recheck six months after he starts work.

(K) Dr. Wootton will seek medical licensure in Colorado or Alabama only after this Order resolving his suspended license with this Board is formally issued. Dr. Wootton agrees to enter into a monitoring contract with the Colorado Medical Board or Colorado Physicians Health Program if possible. Dr. Wootton agrees to enter

a similar monitoring contract with the appropriate authorities in Alabama should he obtain employment and become licensed in the State of Alabama.

(L) Dr. Wootton agrees to discuss with his therapist any interpersonal conflict issues that develop at work prior to directly addressing them and will try at all times use respectful communication with all staff. In addition, he will address issues needing immediate attention with this supervisor to develop a plan of response.

(M) Dr. Wootton will regularly attend individual therapy sessions although he shall be allowed to do so in Colorado or Alabama, as the case may be. This shall be at least monthly until his finances allow for weekly visits.

(N) Dr. Wootton will obtain management for psychiatric medication in Colorado or Alabama, as necessary.

(O) Dr. Wootton will attend regular meetings with his primary care physician for routine check-ups and medication management and any eating concerns. Again, he will obtain this care in Colorado or Alabama as circumstances may require.

(P) Dr. Wootton and his spouse are involved in therapy, him individually and then with his wife as a couple. Dr. Wootton shall participate in the DBT skills training remotely to the extent it can be done over the internet and in person should such be available in Colorado or Alabama.

(Q) Dr. Wootton will refrain from any mind-altering substances, including alcohol and unapproved medications.

(R) Since Dr. Wootton is currently living in Colorado, and may soon be living in Alabama, Dr. Wootton is relieved of any requirement to return to Mississippi for alumni weekends since the issues would be addressed through his regular therapy sessions.

(S) Should Dr. Wootton desire to change practice locations to outside the State of Colorado, or the State of Alabama, should he be accepted to practice there, at any time within five years of this reinstatement, Dr. Wootton shall submit a new practice plan to the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure for Approval. Licensee shall notify the Board if he moves within the next five (5) years.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. Section 73-25-27, that a copy of this Order shall be sent by registered mail or personally served upon James Leonard Wootton, III, M.D.

SO ORDERED, this the 22nd day of March 2023.

**MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL LICENSURE**

BY: 
**WILLIAM D. MCCLENDON, JR., M.D.,
PRESIDENT**