

BEFORE THE STATE MEDICAL BOARD OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF

*

*

CASE NO. 25-CRF-0147

Joseph A. Bethuy, M.D.

*

ENTRY OF ORDER

On February 20, 2026, Joseph A. Bethuy, M.D., executed a Surrender of his license to practice medicine and surgery in the state of Ohio with consent to permanent revocation, which document is attached hereto and fully incorporated herein.

Wherefore, upon ratification by the Board of the surrender, it is hereby ORDERED that Certificate No. 35.051211 authorizing Joseph A. Bethuy, M.D., to practice medicine and surgery in the state of Ohio be permanently REVOKED.

This Order is hereby entered upon the Journal of the State Medical Board of Ohio for the 11th day of March 2026, and the original thereof shall be kept with said Journal.





Kim G. Rothermel, M.D.

Secretary

3/11/26

Date

STATE OF OHIO
THE STATE MEDICAL BOARD
PERMANENT SURRENDER OF CERTIFICATE
TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY
CASE No. 25-CRF-0147

Do not sign this Permanent Surrender of Certificate [Agreement] without reading it. An individual who permanently surrenders a certificate issued by the State Medical Board of Ohio [Board] is forever thereafter ineligible to hold a certificate to practice or to apply to the Board for reinstatement of the certificate or issuance of any new certificate. You are permitted to be accompanied, represented and advised by an attorney, at your own expense, before deciding to sign this voluntary Agreement.

I, Joseph A. Bethuy, M.D., am aware of my right to representation by counsel and the rights of being formally charged and having a formal adjudicative hearing and do hereby freely execute this Agreement and choose to take the actions described herein. I acknowledge and agree that I am entering into this Agreement of my own free will and volition and have not been coerced to do so, nor am I under duress at the time of executing this Agreement. I further acknowledge that I had an opportunity to ask questions concerning the terms of this Agreement and that all questions asked have been answered in a satisfactory manner. I aver that I fully understand all of the terms and provisions of this voluntary Agreement. I further agree that no representations have been made by the Board, its members, employees, agents, officers and representatives regarding any of the legal ramifications of this Agreement, including but not limited to the effect this Agreement may have on my current or future employment, my specialty board certifications, or any licenses, past, present or future, to practice in other states or jurisdictions.

I, Joseph A. Bethuy, M.D., acknowledge that I have not been legally authorized to practice medicine and surgery since July 1, 2023, the date upon which my certificate expired due to non-renewal, and do hereby voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently surrender my certificate to practice medicine and surgery, License #35.051211, to the State Medical Board of Ohio, thereby relinquishing all rights to practice medicine and surgery in Ohio.

I understand that as a result of the surrender herein I am no longer permitted to practice medicine and surgery in any form or manner in the State of Ohio.

I agree that I shall be ineligible for, and shall not apply for, reinstatement or restoration of my certificate to practice medicine and surgery, License #35.051211, or issuance of any other certificate pursuant to the authority of the State Medical Board of Ohio, on or after the date of signing this Agreement. Any such attempted reapplication shall be considered null and void and shall not be processed by the Board.

I hereby authorize the State Medical Board of Ohio to enter upon its Journal an Order permanently revoking my certificate to practice medicine and surgery, License #35.051211, in conjunction with which I expressly waive the provision of Section 4731.22(B), Ohio Revised Code, requiring that six (6) Board Members vote to revoke said certificate, and further expressly and forever waive all rights as set forth in Chapter 119., Ohio Revised Code, including but not limited to my right to counsel, right to a hearing, right to present evidence, right to cross-examine witnesses, and right to appeal the Order of the Board revoking my certificate to practice medicine and surgery.

I, Joseph A. Bethuy, M.D., hereby release the Board, its members, employees, agents, officers and representatives jointly and severally from any and all liability arising from the within matter.

This document shall be considered a public record as that term is used in Section 149.43, Ohio Revised Code. Further, this information may be reported to appropriate organizations, data banks and governmental bodies. I, Joseph A. Bethuy, M.D., acknowledge that my social security number will be used if this information is so reported and agree to provide my social security number to the Board for such purposes.

I stipulate and agree that I am taking the action described herein in lieu of further formal disciplinary proceedings in Case No. 25CRF-0147, pursuant to Sections 4731.22(B)(20), 4731.22(B)(6) and 4731.22(B)(34), Ohio Revised Code, as set forth in the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing issued by the Board on September 10, 2025, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A and fully incorporated herein. I hereby admit to a violation of the standard of care pursuant to R.C. 4731.22(B)(6) as alleged in the September 10, 2025, Notice of Opportunity for hearing.

EFFECTIVE DATE

It is expressly understood that this Permanent Surrender of Certificate is subject to ratification by the Board prior to signature by the Secretary and Supervising Member and shall become effective upon the last date of signature below. Further, I specifically acknowledge that the electronic transmission of a scanned or photostatic copy of any executed signature to this Agreement, upon being received by the Board, shall be deemed to have the full legal force and effect as the original.

Joseph Bethuy M.D.
JOSEPH BETHUY, M.D.

Kim G. Rothermel M.D.
KIM G. ROTHERMEL, M.D.
Secretary

2-20-26
DATE

3/11/26
DATE

Harish Kakarala
HARISH KAKARALA, M.D.
Supervising Member

3/11/26
DATE

Sara H. Jodka

SARA H. JODKA
Counsel for Dr. Bethuy

2/25/26

DATE

Kyle Wilcox

KYLE C. WILCOX
Assistant Attorney General

2-23-2026

DATE



September 10, 2025

Case number: 25-CRF-0147
Joseph Bethuy, M.D.
3732 E. South Range Rd.
New Springfield, OH 44443-9728
drbethuy@gmail.com

Dear Doctor Bethuy:

In accordance with Chapter 119., Ohio Revised Code, you are hereby notified that the State Medical Board of Ohio [Board] intends to determine whether or not to limit, revoke, permanently revoke or suspend your license or certificate, or refuse to grant or register or issue the license or certificate for which you have a pending application in accordance with Section 9.79 of the Ohio Revised Code, or refuse to renew or reinstate your license or certificate to practice medicine and surgery, or to reprimand you or place you on probation for one or more of the following reasons:

- (1) From on or about January 28, 2009 through on or about November 1, 2021, you worked as a Consulting Primary Care Physician at a residential behavioral health services facility treating children and adolescents ages 6 through 17.
- (2) On or around November 21, 2012, you treated Patient 1, a juvenile, as identified on the attached Patient Key, for a routine intake physical (Patient Key is confidential and to be withheld from public disclosure.) During the examination, you fondled the patient's breasts, pushed on her stomach, and inserted your finger into her vagina for a purpose other than appropriate health care services.
- (3) On or around February 28, 2021, you treated Patient 2, a juvenile, as identified on the attached Patient Key, for a routine intake physical. During the examination, which you performed on the patient over her clothes and with a chaperone present, you rubbed and cupped her breasts and vaginal area. The patient immediately reported the behavior to the facility and her mother filed a police report on or around March 28, 2021.
- (4) On or around July 12, 2021, you treated Patient 3, a juvenile, as identified on the attached Patient Key, for a routine intake physical. During the examination, with a chaperone present, you put your hands on the patient's thighs and rubbed your penis against his knees. The patient mouthed "help me" to the chaperone during the incident. A mandatory reporter from the facility reported the incident to law enforcement in or around August of 2021.
- (5) You failed to comply with multiple attempts the Board made to conduct an investigative interview of you.

- a. You agreed to meet with an Investigator of the Board on May 23, 2024. When the investigator called you to inform you of the meeting location, you did not answer. The Investigator left a detailed message asking you to return his call. You did not return his call. The Investigator made a second attempt to contact you on May 22, 2024. You did not answer. The Investigator left another detailed message requesting a callback. On May 23, 2024, the Investigator made a third attempt to contact you. You did not answer. The Investigator cancelled the interview.
- b. On May 27, 2024, the Investigator called you to inform you that you would be subpoenaed to Columbus for an investigative interview. You told him to send the subpoena.
- c. On May 29, 2024, you were subpoenaed to an office conference to take place on June 12, 2024. On June 6, 2024, your attorney sent a letter to the Board saying you would not be appearing pursuant to subpoena and that you were asserting your constitutional right against self-incrimination.

Your acts, conduct, and/or omissions as alleged in paragraph (2-4) above, individually and/or collectively, constitute “violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate, any provisions of this chapter or any rule promulgated by the board,” as that clause is used in Section 4731.22(B)(20), Ohio Revised Code, to-wit: Prohibitions, Rule 4731-26-02, Ohio Administrative Code, regarding sexual misconduct, as in effect from November 30, 2010 until September 30, 2021.

Pursuant to Rule 4731-26-03, Ohio Administrative Code, as in effect from November 30, 2010 until September 30, 2021, a violation of Rule 4731-26-02, Ohio Administrative Code, also constitutes a violation of Section 4731.22(B)(6), Ohio Revised Code, “departure from, or the failure to conform to, minimal standards of care of similar practitioners under the same or similar circumstances, whether or not actual injury to a patient is established.”

Your acts, conduct, and/or omissions as alleged in paragraph (5) above, individually and/or collectively, constitutes “[f]ailure to cooperate in an investigation conducted by the board under division (F) of this section, including failure to comply with a subpoena or order issued by the board or failure to answer truthfully a question presented by the board in an investigative interview, an investigative office conference, at a deposition, or in written interrogatories . . .” as that clause is used in Section 4731.22(B)(34), Ohio Revised Code.

Furthermore, for any violations that occurred on or after September 29, 2015, the Board may impose a civil penalty in an amount that shall not exceed twenty thousand dollars, pursuant to Section 4731.225, Ohio Revised Code. The civil penalty may be in addition to any other action the Board may take under section 4731.22, Ohio Revised Code.

Pursuant to Chapter 119., Ohio Revised Code, you are hereby advised that you are entitled to a hearing in this matter. If you wish to request such hearing, the request must be made in writing

and must be received in the offices of the State Medical Board within thirty days of the time of service of this notice.

You are further advised that, if you timely request a hearing, you are entitled to appear at such hearing in person, or by your attorney, or by such other representative as is permitted to practice before this agency, or you may present your position, arguments, or contentions in writing, and that at the hearing you may present evidence and examine witnesses appearing for or against you.

In the event that there is no request for such hearing received within thirty days of the time of service of this notice, the State Medical Board may, in your absence and upon consideration of this matter, determine whether or not to limit, revoke, permanently revoke or suspend your license or certificate, or refuse to grant or register or issue the license or certificate for which you have a pending application in accordance with Section 9.79 of the Ohio Revised Code, or refuse to renew or reinstate your license or certificate to practice medicine and surgery, or to reprimand you or place you on probation.

Please note that, whether or not you request a hearing, Section 4731.22(L), Ohio Revised Code, provides that "[w]hen the board refuses to grant or issue a license or certificate to practice to an applicant, revokes an individual's license or certificate to practice, refuses to renew an individual's license or certificate to practice, or refuses to reinstate an individual's license or certificate to practice, the board may specify that its action is permanent. An individual subject to a permanent action taken by the board is forever thereafter ineligible to hold a license or certificate to practice and the board shall not accept an application for reinstatement of the license or certificate or for issuance of a new license or certificate."

Copies of the applicable sections are enclosed for your information.

THE STATE MEDICAL BOARD OF OHIO



Kim G. Rothermel, M.D.
Secretary

KGR/MRS
Enclosures

Via email: drbethuy@gmail.com



September 10, 2025

Case number: 25-CRF-0147
Joseph Bethuy, M.D.
3732 E. South Range Rd.
New Springfield, OH 44443-9728
drbethuy@gmail.com

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Kim G. Rothermel, M.D.
Secretary

KGR/MRS
Enclosures

Via email: drbethuy@gmail.com

**IN THE MATTER OF
Joseph Bethuy, M.D.**

25-CRF-0147

September 10, 2025,
NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY
FOR HEARING –
PATIENT KEY

**SEALED TO
PROTECT PATIENT
CONFIDENTIALITY**