
VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICINE

IN RE: JOHN CAMETAS, M.D.
License No.: 0101-019818

ORDER

In accordance with Sections 54.1-2919, 2.2-4019 and 2.2-4021 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), an informal conference was held with John Cametas, M.D., on July 10, 2002, in Richmond, Virginia. Members of the Virginia Board of Medicine ("Board") serving on the Informal Conference Committee ("Committee") were: Joseph Leming, M.D., Chairman; Brian Wright, D.P.M., and Carol E. Comstock, R.N. Dr. Cametas appeared personally and was represented by David Haynes, Esquire. The purpose of the informal conference was to inquire into allegations that Dr. Cametas may have violated certain laws governing the practice of medicine in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as set forth in a Notice of Informal Conference dated May 28, 2002.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Now, having properly considered the evidence and statements presented, the Committee makes the following Findings of Fact:

1. On or about April 28, 2000, Patient A presented with complaints of sore throat and difficulty breathing. Dr. Cametas diagnosed Patient A as having an upper respiratory infection and prescribed ampicillin 250mg, #20, with directions to take one tablet four times a day on an empty stomach and Histacar #10, with instructions to take one tablet twice a day. Dr. Cametas failed to provide Patient A with a handwritten prescription or the option of having this prescription filled at the pharmacy of his choice. Although Dr. Cametas did not have the requisite license from the Virginia Board of Pharmacy, he sold the medications to Patient A for \$6.00 per prescription, for a total of \$12.00 and
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2. dispensed them in previously used envelopes, labeled with the medication name and directions. Further, he failed to provide any warnings or side effects regarding the medication to Patient A.
3. During interviews conducted on or about January 8, 2001 and August 13, 2001, Dr. Cametas admitted to selling medication to patients without a license, for approximately two (2) - three (3) years. He stored the medications in an unlocked drawer and repackaged them in envelopes for dispensing. Until approximately August 2001, Dr. Cametas failed to maintain repackaging records or separate prescription files. Further, Dr. Cametas has collected unused medication from patients, including prescriptions filled at retail pharmacies, and re-dispensed them to other patients. However, he stated to the Committee, that he has not done this habitually.
4. Dr. Cametas stated that some unused medications returned to him by patients are still in the drawer in his medical office and have not been destroyed or removed as of this informal conference.
5. On or about January 8, 2001, Dr. Cametas was provided information regarding the license required by the Board of Pharmacy for medical practitioners to sell controlled substances. On or about March 8, 2001, he submitted an application to the Board of Pharmacy; however, by his own admission, he continued to sell medications prior to receiving his license, issued on or about September 12, 2001. Dr. Cametas stated that he may have continued to sell very sparingly and that it was not on a daily basis.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Committee concludes that Dr. Cametas has violated Section 54.1-2915.A (3) as further defined in Section 54.1-2914.A (8) and (12) [formerly Section 54.1-2914 (10) and (14)], Sections 54.1-2914.B, 54.1-3302 and 54.1-3304.1 of the Code and 18 VAC 110-30-10 through 270 of the Virginia Board of Pharmacy Regulations for Practitioners of the Healing Arts to Sell Controlled Substances.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby ORDERED that the license of John Cametas, M.D. be, and hereby is, issued a REPRIMAND.

It is further ORDERED that a MONETARY PENALTY of Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00) be imposed upon Dr. Cametas. The monetary penalty shall be paid to the Board within forty-five (45) days of the date of entry of this Order.

Dr. Cametas shall maintain a course of conduct in his practice of medicine commensurate with the requirements of Title 54.1, Chapter 29 of the Code and all laws of the Commonwealth.

Violation of this Order may constitute grounds for suspension or revocation of Dr. Cametas' license. In the event that Dr. Cametas violates this Order, an administrative proceeding may be convened to determine whether his license shall be revoked.

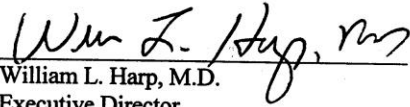
Pursuant to Section 2.2-4023 of the Code, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

Upon receipt of evidence that Dr. Cametas has complied with the requirements of this Order, this case shall be closed without further proceedings. In the event Dr. Cametas fails to comply with the requirements of this Order, in the Board's discretion, he may be noticed to meet with an informal conference committee.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2919 of the Code, Dr. Cametas may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on August 19, 2002, notify William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director, Board of Medicine, 6606 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23230, in writing that he desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board. Upon the filing with the Executive Director of a request for the hearing, this Order shall be vacated.

Therefore, this Order shall become final on August 19, 2002, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

FOR THE BOARD



William L. Harp, M.D.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Medicine

Entered: 7/17/02

TH/ORD/CAMETAS



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health Professions

Board of Medicine

Bernard L. Henderson, Jr.
Director of the Department

Hilary H. Connor, M.D.
Executive Director of the Board

March 12, 1991

1601 Rolling Hills Drive, Suite 200
Richmond, Virginia 23229-5005
(804) 662-9908
FAX (804) 662-9943

John G. Cametas, M.D.
2305 North Parham Road, Suite 1
Richmond, VA 23229

CERTIFIED MAIL
P 283 425 094

Dear Dr. Cametas:

This letter is official notification that an informal conference of the Virginia Board of Medicine ("Board") will be held on Friday, April 12, 1991 at 10:00 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions, 1601 Rolling Hills Drive, Richmond, Virginia. The conference will be conducted pursuant to Sections 54.1-2919 and 9-6.14:11 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code").

An informal conference committee ("Committee"), composed of three members of the Board, will inquire into allegations that you may have violated certain laws governing the practice of medicine in Virginia. Specifically, you may have violated Section 54.1-2915.A(4) & (3), as further defined in Section 54.1-2914.A(9) and (13) of the Code, in that:

On two separate occasions between July 1978 and March 1981, while acting as primary care physician to Patient A, you abused the physician/patient relationship by engaging in improper physical contact of a sexual nature with the patient, to include kissing and fellatio.

In order to protect the privacy of your patient, he/she has been referred to by letter only. Please see Attachment I of this notice for the identity of the individual referenced above. You may be represented by an attorney at the informal conference. The following actions may be taken by this Committee:

1. If a majority of the Committee is of the opinion that a suspension or revocation of your license may be justified, the Committee shall present to the Board in writing its findings, and the Board may proceed with a formal hearing;
2. The Committee may notify you in writing that you are fully exonerated of any charge that might affect your right to practice in Virginia;
3. The Committee may reprimand or censure you; or
4. The Committee may place you on probation for such time as it may designate and direct that during such period you furnish the Committee or its chairman, at such intervals as the Committee may direct, evidence that you are not practicing in violation of the provisions of Chapter 29, Title 54.1 of the Code, which governs the practice of medicine in Virginia.

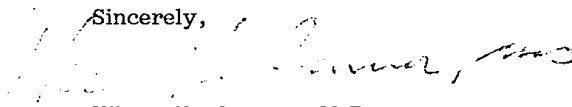
Notice to John G. Cametas, M.D.
March 12, 1991
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Should you fail to appear at the informal conference the Board may proceed to a formal administrative hearing in order to impose sanctions. Please inform this office whether you intend to appear at the conference at least ten (10) days prior to the scheduled date above. Also please provide the Board with a telephone number where you may be reached.

Enclosed you will find copies of the relevant sections of the Administrative Process Act, which governs proceedings of this nature, as well as laws relating to the practice of medicine and the other healing arts in Virginia.

Pursuant to Virginia law, a signed copy of this notice shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request. If you have questions concerning this notice, please contact Karen D. Waldron, Deputy Executive Director, Discipline.

Sincerely,


Hilary H. Connor, M.D. *KDW*
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Medicine

BH:bi0823N2.med

cc: Franklin J. Pepper, M.D., President
Howard M. Casway, Assistant Attorney General
Bess Hodges, Legal Assistant
Informal Conference Committee
Division of Investigations (89-00855)
George Wilbur, Director of Public Information
Gloria King, Probation Analyst

Enclosure:

Virginia Code Sections:
54.1-2914
54.1-2915
54.1-2919
9-6.14:11
Attachment I

