

State of Rhode Island
Department of Health
Board of Medical Licensure & Discipline



**IN THE MATTER OF:
Thomas DeFanti M.D.**

PRELICENSURE CONSENT ORDER

Thomas DeFanti, M.D. (hereinafter "Respondent") has applied for a license to practice medicine in Rhode Island.

Respondent was granted a Connecticut license in 2010 under license number 049233. Respondent is a 1981 graduate of Georgetown University Medical School.

Respondent entered into an agreement on September 17th, 2010 with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Healthcare Systems Branch (here after CT Board) based on facts and circumstances that stemmed from Disciplinary action while Respondent was a licensed physician in Maine. Respondents license to practice medicine was placed on probation until September of 2004. This disciplinary action was based on conduct by Respondent during and approximate 18-month period (from 1997 to 1999, where 3 patients on whom he performed laparoscopic surgeries suffered serious medical complications that required further surgeries and extended hospitalizations. This disciplinary action was also based on Respondents participation in the Physicians Health Program due to increasing symptoms of depression and cannabis dependence. The 2002 Consent agreement from Maine required monitoring of his laparoscopic procedures and permanently abstain form alcohol and/or illegal drugs. Respondent successfully completed the requirements of the 2002 Consent Agreement from Maine in September of 2004.

Respondent entered into a subsequent agreement with the Maine Board on October 10th, 2006 that issued a reprimand and restricted his license to exclude certain gynecological surgical procedures. This action was based in part upon the Southern Maine Medical Centers restrictions of Respondents clinical surgical procedures he performed. This Maine 2006 Consent Order was subsequently amended in 2007 to clarify the intended scope of the terms, conditions and and limitations that included permanent restrictions on six types of gynecological surgical procedures.

These restrictions were included in his prelicensure agreement with the CT Board. The specific requirements of the Connecticut Consent Agreement included provisions that Respondent shall not perform any of the following surgical procedures:

- (a) Abdominal hysterectomy
- (b) Vaginal hysterectomy
- (c) Laparoscopic assisted vaginal hysterectomy
- (d) Laparoscopy of laparoscopy procedures
- (e) Incontinence procedures
- (f) Exploratory laparotomy
- (g) Post-partum sterilization/tubal ligation and
- (h) Hysteroscopy

The Connecticut Consent Order did not prohibit Respondent from performing the procedures as "First Assist". Additionally, Respondent was restricted to office based medical practice pre-approved by the Connecticut Department of Health. There were other reequipments including monitoring of Respondents personal health as well as abstinence from substances of abuse or alcohol. Additionally, Respondent's license was on probation for 1 year, which was satisfied.

The Rhode Island Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline (hereinafter the "Board") makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent has applied for a license in Rhode Island and appeared before the Licensing Committee on December 6th, 2018.
2. Respondent has indicated it not his intent to not perform any surgical procedures of any type. It is Respondents intent to practice addiction medicine and related primary care for his patients.
3. Respondent has been monitored in the past by applicable physician health programs for relevant matters and is no longer followed by these programs.

Based on the foregoing, the parties agree as follows:

1. Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board.
2. Respondent accepts and agrees to this Consent Order and understands that it is not binding on Respondent until final ratification by the Board.
3. Respondent admits that if the same facts and circumstances occurred in Rhode Island as did in Maine from the underlying matter, it would be a violation of Rhode Island General Law 5-37-5.1 and would be cause for discipline.
4. If ratified by the Board, Respondent hereby acknowledges and waives:
 - a. The right to appear personally or by counsel or both before the Board;
 - b. The right to produce witnesses and evidence on his behalf at a hearing;
 - c. The right to cross examine witnesses;
 - d. The right to have subpoenas issued by the Board;

- e. The right to further procedural steps except for those specifically contained herein;
- f. All rights of appeal of this Consent Order; and
- g. Any objection to the fact that this Consent Order will be presented to the Board for consideration and review.
- h. Any objection that this Consent Order will be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank, Federation of State Medical Boards as well as posted on the department's public web site.

4. Respondent agrees to pay an administrative fee to the Board for costs associating with investigating this application by submitting to the Board upon ratification of this order, a check made payable to the Rhode Island General Treasury in the amount of \$950.00.

5. Respondent agrees that a license to practice medicine will be granted to him pursuant to this Consent Order and limited to the practice of addiction medicine and related primary care medicine.

6. Respondent agrees that he will be granted a controlled substance registration, after obtaining a Rhode Island business address. Respondent agrees he will review the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program prior to prescribing any controlled substance.

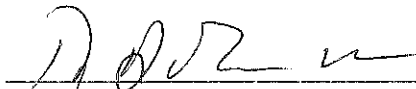
Respondent agrees to continue to maintain his own personal healthcare with licensed health professionals for relevant chronic health conditions.

7. In the event any term of this Consent Order is violated, after signed and accepted, the Director of the Department of Health shall have the discretion to summarily suspend the Respondent's license and/or impose further disciplinary action. If the Director suspends the license and/or imposes further disciplinary action, Respondent shall be given notice

and shall have the right to request an administrative hearing within twenty (20) days of the suspension and/or further discipline. The Director of the Department of Health shall also have the discretion to request an administrative hearing after notice to the Petitioner of a violation of any term of this Consent Order. The Board may suspend Petitioner's license, or impose further discipline, for the remainder of Petitioner's licensing period if the alleged violation is proven by a preponderance of evidence.

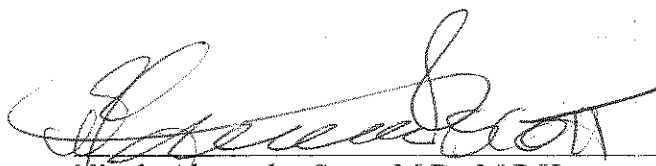
8. The Respondent's license shall be unrestricted, subject to full compliance and faithful adherence to the conditions established and approved herein by the Board.

Signed this 2nd day of May, 2019.



Thomas DeFanti, M.D.

Ratified by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline on the 8th day of May, 2019.



Nicole Alexander-Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Director
Rhode Island Department of Health
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