

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF MEDICINE**

IN RE:

MOHAMMAD HOQUE, MD

License No.: MD32822

Respondent

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CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the District of Columbia Board of Medicine (the “Board” or “D.C. Board”) pursuant to the Health Occupations Revision Act (HORA). D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.01, *et seq.* (2016 Repl.). The HORA authorizes the Board to regulate the practice of medicine in the District of Columbia. The Board has broad jurisdiction to impose a variety of disciplinary sanctions upon a finding of a violation of the HORA. D.C. Official Code, § 3-1201.03; *Mannan v. District of Columbia Board of Medicine*, 558 A.2d 329, 333 (D.C. 1989). The Council of the District of Columbia, in amending the HORA, “intended to strengthen enforcement of its licensing laws.” *Davidson v. District of Columbia Board of Medicine*, 562 A.2d 109, 113 (D.C. 1989). And the HORA “was designed to ‘address modern advances and community needs *with the paramount consideration of protecting the public interest.*’” *Joseph v. District of Columbia Board of Medicine*, 587 A.2d 1085, 1088 (D.C. 1991) (*quoting* Report of the D.C. Council on Consumer and Regulatory Affairs on Bill 6-317, at 7 (November 26, 1985)) (emphasis added by court).

Background

Dr. Mohammad Hoque (Respondent) has been licensed to practice medicine in the District of Columbia since May 24, 2001. His license was summarily suspended on March 30, 2022 by the D.C. Department of Health (DC Health).

Dr. Hoque is a gastroenterologist. Respondent first came to the Board's notice in February 2022. During an interview with the Board on Feb. 2, 2022, he told the Board he was working at a hospital in the District of Columbia. On March 7, 2022, DC Health was informed that Respondent's medical license in Virginia had been summarily suspended due to his conviction on Feb. 17, 2022 in the District Court of the District of Columbia for one count of "Bribery of Public Officials and Witnesses" (18 U.S.C. § 201) and two counts of "Fraud by Wire, Radio, or Television" (18 U.S.C. § 1343)¹. DC Health then took reciprocal action and summarily suspended Respondent's D.C. medical license.

Respondent participated in several illegal schemes, according to the Statement of Offense in Respondent's criminal case. For instance, he had an ownership interest in several business entities in Washington D.C. including several Subway sandwich shops. By April 2015, Respondent owed more than \$155,000 in sales and use taxes, penalties and interest to the District government for these businesses. Respondent paid monies to a person, who then gave a portion to another person later determined to be a person in the District's Office of Tax and Revenue, with the intention that in exchange for the money, no adverse actions would be taken against his businesses due to the unpaid tax liabilities. At some point Respondent began paying the tax official directly to prevent any adverse actions. Respondent paid approximately \$45,000 in bribes.

¹ *USA v. Mohammad Ezazul Hoque*, No. 21-cr-0002-CJN, (D.D.C. Feb. 17, 2022).

Respondent also submitted fake death certificates to the Office of Tax and Revenue in an attempt to “falsely ma[k]e it appear as if HOQUE and a relative with ownership interest in the entities had died. In total, . . . HOQUE sent and caused to be send at least six copies of fake death certificates to OTA. Several were accompanied by letters purporting to be from HOQUE and his wife requesting that the tax debt owed to OTR for the respective entity be forgiven in light of the respective owner’s death.”² Respondent also fraudulently obtained “credit cards in the names of individuals other than himself without those individuals’ knowledge or consent,”³ charging “more than \$40,000 in personal and business expenses to credit cards he obtained in other individuals’ names without their knowledge or consent.”⁴

Respondent was sentenced to thirty-seven months confinement followed by thirty-six months of supervised release. He began his jail sentence on April 14, 2022, and was released to home confinement sometime in November 2023, which he finished on February 23, 2024. Respondent’s license in Virginia has not yest been reinstated. He has not practiced since April 14, 2022.

Respondent and his counsel in the criminal case appeared before the D.C. Board of Medicine (Board) on April 24, 2024, to discuss his case and the reasons for his actions that led to the conviction, as well as his current status. The Board considered Respondent’s offense and its relation to the practice of medicine; the nature and seriousness of the offense; the period of time over which the offense occurred and the date of his conviction; and his desire to open a clinic for the underserved in Virigina, as well as to return to the hospital in the District to run an endoscopy suite/center. While Respondent accepted responsibility for his actions, he said his actions were due to his desire to assist his relatives and did not convey “the full context.”

² *USA v. Hoque* Statement of Facts, p. 4.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.* at 5.

Respondent and the Board have now agreed to enter into this Consent Order to resolve the issues and terminate the Summary Suspension.

Findings of Fact

1. Dr. Mohammad Hoque (Respondent) has been licensed to practice medicine in the District of Columbia since May 24, 2001. His license was summarily suspended on March 30, 2022 by the D.C. Department of Health (DC Health).
2. Respondent pled guilty and conviction was entered on February 17, 2022, in the District Court of the District of Columbia for one count of “Bribery of Public Officials and Witnesses” (18 U.S.C. § 201) and two counts of “Fraud by Wire, Radio, or Television” (18 U.S.C. § 1343). Respondent paid bribes to reduce his overdue tax liability on several businesses in which he had a business interest, applied for and received credit cards using other individual’s information without their knowledge or consent, and signed and submitted false death certificates to the Office of Tax and Revenue for the purpose of lowering or excusing his tax debt.
3. Respondent was sentenced on February 17, 2022 and received thirty-seven months confinement followed by thirty-six months supervised release. Respondent reported to jail on April 14, 2022, and has been released from incarceration.
4. As a result of the conviction, Respondent’s license was summarily suspended in Virginia and the District of Columbia. His license in Virginia has not been reinstated.
5. Physicians occupy a special position of trust for the public, in which a patient has to place full faith and confidence in the character of the physician to safeguard the patient’s information and to act in the best interests of the patient. Respondent’s actions that led to his

criminal convictions are deleterious to the practice of medicine in general and specifically to the trust that Respondent's patients need to have in Respondent for appropriate medical care.

8. Respondent remains under supervised release.

Conclusions of Law

The D.C. Board is authorized to take action against Respondent's license pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.14(a)(4). Respondent has been convicted of an offense that is related to the practice of medicine. In doing so, Respondent's conduct failed to conform to standards of acceptable conduct and prevailing practice within a health profession in violation of D.C. Official Code §3-1205.14(a)(26).

ORDER

Based on the forgoing, it is by the District of Columbia Board of Medicine hereby,

ORDERED that Respondent's license is **SUSPENDED** for a period of two years, for which he will be given credit for the two years that his license was summarily suspended, beginning March 30, 2022, so that upon entry of this Order his period of suspension will be completed;

ORDERED that the SUMMARY SUSPENSION is **TERMINATED** upon the execution date of this Consent Order;

ORDERED that Respondent's license is **REPRIMANDED**;

ORDERED that Respondent shall bear all costs associated with this Consent Order; and it is further

ORDERED, that this is a public document.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF MEDICINE

06.04.24

Date



By: Andrea Anderson, MD, FAAFP, MEd
Chairperson

