

January 2026 Public Board Actions List

Georgia Composite Medical Board

The Board issued **four** public orders in **January 2026**. To view each Board order, click on the licensee's name below.

1. William Henry Frazier, MD

70745

Physician

Public Consent Order

2. Donald Lyle Gates, MD

53915

Physician

Public Consent Order

3. Neil Ramesh Shah, MD

78276

Physician

Public Consent Order

4. Suzanne Clark Stearns

Senior Laser Practitioner

Public Consent Agreement for Licensure

BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

WILLIAM HENRY FRAZIER, M.D.
License No. 70745,
Respondent.

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DOCKET NO:

GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

JAN 30 2026

DOCKET NUMBER:
20260046

PUBLIC CONSENT ORDER

By agreement of the Georgia Composite Medical Board (“Board”) and WILLIAM HENRY FRAZIER, M.D. (“Respondent”) the following disposition of this disciplinary matter is entered pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, O.C.G.A § 50-13-13(a)(4), as amended.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

Respondent is licensed to practice medicine in the State of Georgia and was so licensed at all times relevant to the matters asserted herein.

2.

In March 2024, the Board initiated an investigation into Respondent’s practice which necessitated a review of Respondent’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (“PDMP”) logs. The logs revealed Respondent had prescribed alprazolam (brand named Xanax), a controlled substance, to his wife on three occasions: June 20, 2022, January 5, 2023, and October 4, 2023.

3.

Respondent’s wife was questioned regarding the circumstances under which she was prescribed alprazolam by her husband. Respondent’s wife stated the prescriptions were made out to her but the medication was not for her use but was for office supply of lockbox medication for in-house procedures only. Respondent’s wife explained that Respondent would call in the prescription under Respondent’s wife’s name, and the medication would be delivered to Respondent’s office where it would be given under controlled surgical guidelines to individual patients, undergoing PO sedation for eyelid surgeries.

4.

Respondent admits the above findings of fact and waives any further findings of fact with respect to the above-styled matter. Respondent agrees to the sanctions herein in resolution of this matter.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's conduct constitutes sufficient grounds for the imposition of sanctions upon Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Georgia under O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapters 1 and 34, as amended.

ORDER

The Georgia Composite Medical Board, having considered all the facts and circumstances surrounding this matter, hereby orders, and Respondent hereby agrees, that the following sanctions shall be imposed upon Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Georgia:

1.

Upon the effective (docket) date of this Consent Order, Respondent's license to practice medicine as a licensed physician shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

Fine. Within **ninety (90) days** of the docket date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall submit to the Board a fine in the amount of **one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00)**. Such fine shall be payable by cashier's check or money order made payable to the Georgia Composite Medical Board and shall be submitted via mail to: Jason S. Jones, Executive Director, Georgia Composite Medical Board, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334. **Failure to pay the fine within the stated time period shall be deemed a violation of**

this Consent Order and shall subject Respondent's license to further disciplinary action, including revocation.

Continuing Medication Education ("CME"). Within **six (6) months** of the docket date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall complete an **intensive prescribing course**. This CME is subject to the approval of the Board and shall be in addition to CME requirements for license renewal and may not be used to fulfill any continuing education hours for license renewal. The preferred way to submit evidence of compliance with this order is by email to Latisha Bias, Compliance Manager, at latisha.bias@dch.ga.gov. Alternatively, requirements may be submitted via mail to: Latisha Bias, Compliance Manager, Georgia Composite Medical Board, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334. **Failure to submit evidence of completion of the aforementioned CMEs to the Board within the stated time period shall be deemed a violation of this Consent Order and shall subject Respondent's license to further disciplinary action, including revocation.**

2.

Approval of this Consent Order by the Georgia Composite Medical Board shall in no way be construed as condoning Respondent's conduct and shall not be construed as a waiver of any of the lawful rights possessed by the Board.

3.

Respondent acknowledges that Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands its contents. Respondent freely, knowingly and voluntarily waives Respondent's right to a hearing by entering into this Consent Order. Respondent understands and agrees that a representative of the Department of Law may be present during the Board's consideration of this Consent Order and that the Board shall have the authority to review the investigative file and all relevant evidence in

considering this Consent Order. Respondent further understands that this Consent Order will not become effective until approved and docketed by the Board. Respondent understands that this Consent Order, once approved and docketed, shall constitute a PUBLIC ORDER, evidencing disciplinary action by the Board that may be disseminated as such. However, if this Consent Order is not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the right of the Board to adjudicate this matter. Respondent hereby consents to the terms and sanctions contained herein.

Approved this 30 day of ~~December~~ January, 2025.



GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

BY:

Kathryn S. Cheek, MD

KATHRYN CHEEK, MD
Chairperson

ATTEST:

J. S. Jones

JASON S. JONES
Executive Director

CONSENTED TO:

William Henry Frazier, M.D.
WILLIAM HENRY FRAZIER, M.D.
Respondent

[As to the Signature of William Henry Frazier, M.D.]
Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 30 day of December, 2025

Cheryl Y. Brown
NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires:
10-17-29



BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

DONALD LYLE GATES, MD,
License No. 53915,

Respondent.

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DOCKET NO:

GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

JAN 02 2026

DOCKET NUMBER:

20260043

PUBLIC CONSENT ORDER

By agreement of the Georgia Composite Medical Board ("Board") and DONALD LYLE GATES, MD ("Respondent") the following disposition of this disciplinary matter is entered pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, O.C.G.A § 50-13-13(a)(4), as amended.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

Respondent is licensed to practice medicine as a physician in the State of Georgia and was so licensed at all times relevant to the matters asserted herein.

2.

On or about September 9, 2024, Respondent entered into a Settlement Agreement with the United States, specifically the Department of Justice and the Drug Enforcement Agency ("Settlement Agreement"), resulting from an on-site inspection of Respondent's DEA registered offices. Specifically, the inspections included a controlled substances accountability audit and review of required controlled substances records for compliance with federal regulations. Ultimately, Respondent agreed to comply with certain terms to be in compliance with federal regulations regarding controlled substances.

3.

Respondent neither admits nor denies the above findings of fact and waives any further findings of fact with respect to the above-styled matter.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's conduct, if proven, constitutes sufficient grounds for the imposition of discipline upon his license to practice as a licensed physician in the State of Georgia, under O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapters 1 and 34, as amended. Respondent hereby waives any further conclusions of law with respect to the above-styled matter.

ORDER

1.

The Board, having considered all the facts and circumstances surrounding this case, hereby orders, and Respondent hereby agrees, that his license to practice medicine as a physician in the State of Georgia shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Fine. Within **ninety (90) days** of the docket date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall submit to the Board a fine in the amount of **ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00)**. Such fine shall be payable by cashier's check or money order made payable to the Georgia Composite Medical Board and shall be submitted via mail to: Jason S. Jones, Executive Director, Georgia Composite Medical Board, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334. **Failure to pay the fine within the stated time period shall be deemed a violation of this Consent Order and shall subject Respondent's license to further disciplinary action, including revocation.**

2. Coursework. Within **one hundred and twenty (120) days** of the docket date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall complete continuing medical education (“CME”) hours on the following topics: **prescribing, ethics, and recordkeeping.** Said hours shall evidence the completion of an intensive prescribing course and **twenty (20) hours** on the remaining two topics, to be divided equally. All courses are subject to Board approval and shall not be used as CME hours for renewal. Documentation evidencing completion of coursework may be sent to Latisha Bias, Director of Compliance, via email to latisha.bias@dch.ga.gov, or as otherwise directed by the Board. **Failure to submit the required documentation within the stated time period shall be deemed a violation of this Consent Order and shall subject Respondent’s license to further disciplinary action, including revocation.**

2.

If the Respondent shall fail to abide by all state and federal laws relating to drugs and regulating the practice of medicine in the State of Georgia, the Rules and Regulations of the Georgia Composite Medical Board, the terms of this Consent Order, or if it should appear from information received by the Board that the Respondent is unable to practice as a physician with reasonable skill and safety, Respondent's license may be sanctioned or revoked, upon substantiation thereof.

3.

Respondent acknowledges that he has read this Consent Order and understands its contents. Respondent understands that this Consent Order will not become effective until approved by the Georgia Composite Medical Board and docketed by the Board. Respondent

further understands and agrees that the Board shall have the authority to review the investigative file and all relevant evidence in considering this Consent Order. Respondent understands that this Consent Order, once approved and docketed, shall constitute a public record, evidencing disciplinary action by the Board. However, if the Consent Order is not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the Board's ability to adjudicate this matter. The Respondent hereby consents to the terms and sanctions contained herein.

Approved this 2nd day of January, 2025.

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

BY: Kathryn A. Cheek, MD
KATHRYN CHEEK, MD
Chairperson

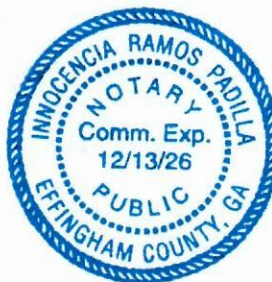
ATTEST: J. S. Jones
JASON S. JONES
Executive Director

CONSENTED TO: [Signature]
DONALD LYLE GATES, MD
Respondent



[As to the Signature of Donald Lyle Gates, MD]
Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 4 day of December, 2025.

Innocencia Ramos Padilla
NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires: December 13, 2026



BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

NEIL RAMESH SHAH, MD,
License No. 78276,

Respondent.

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DOCKET NO:

GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

JAN 15 2026

DOCKET NUMBER:

20260044

PUBLIC CONSENT ORDER

By agreement of the Georgia Composite Medical Board (“Board”) and NEIL RAMESH SHAH, MD (“Respondent”) the following disposition of this disciplinary matter is entered pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, O.C.G.A § 50-13-13(a)(4), as amended.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

Respondent is licensed to practice medicine as a physician in the State of Georgia and was so licensed at all times relevant to the matters asserted herein.

2.

On or about November 13, 2023, Respondent was sentenced, pursuant to a guilty plea, to one count of “Possession of a Mixture and Substance Containing a Detectable Amount of Oxycodone, a Schedule II Controlled Substance,” in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 844(a), in the United States District Court, District of Colorado in Case Number 1:23-cr-00413-DDD-1. Respondent was sentenced to three (3) years on probation.

3.

Due to the above listed charge and conviction, actions were taken by Medical Board of California and the State of Florida, Board of Medicine. The Medical Board of California placed

Respondent on probation, with conditions including but not limited to treatment for substance abuse and continued compliance with his criminal probation. Respondent was issued a letter of concern by the State of Florida, Board of Medicine, with conditions including but not limited to a \$2,000 fine.

4.

Upon information and belief, Respondent has been continuously enrolled with the Georgia Professional Health Program (“GA PHP”) since February 2023.

5.

Respondent admits the above findings of fact and waives any further findings of fact with respect to the above-styled matter.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's conduct, if proven, constitutes sufficient grounds for the imposition of discipline upon his license to practice as a licensed physician in the State of Georgia, under O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapters 1 and 34, as amended. Respondent hereby waives any further conclusions of law with respect to the above-styled matter.

ORDER

1.

The Board, having considered all the facts and circumstances surrounding this case, hereby orders, and Respondent hereby agrees, that his license to practice medicine as a physician in the State of Georgia shall be placed on PROBATION subject to the following terms and conditions:

Enrollment in GA PHP. Within **fifteen (15) days** of docketing of this Order, Respondent shall cause GA PHP to submit proof of his enrollment with the GA PHP to the Board.

Respondent shall remain enrolled with GA PHP and shall continue to submit to GA PHP

programming and monitoring until released by GA PHP (or the Board). Respondent shall provide GA PHP with any treatment records required to allow continued treatment.

Respondent shall sign and abide by any agreements not to practice requested by GA PHP.

Further, Respondent shall sign any waivers required to allow the Board to access information regarding his programming and monitoring with GA PHP. Evidence of enrollment and continued enrollment can be sent to Kimberly Emm via email to

kimberly.lemieux@dch.ga.gov, or as otherwise directed by the Board. **Failure to submit the required documentation, within the stated period of time, and to remain enrolled with GA PHP (until released by GA PHP or the Board) shall be deemed a violation of this Consent Order and shall subject Respondent's license to further disciplinary action, including revocation.**

Continued Compliance with Criminal Probation. Upon request, Respondent shall submit to the Board evidence of current compliance with his criminal probation. Within **fifteen (15) days** of any change in status of his criminal probation, including but not limited to notification of a probation violation, the inclusion of additional probationary terms, the extension of his criminal probation, and/or the termination of his criminal probation,

Respondent shall notify the Board of the change in status. Notification can be sent to Latisha Bias via email to latisha.bias@dch.ga.gov, or as otherwise directed by the Board.

Failure to submit the required notification, within the stated period of time, shall be deemed a violation of this Consent Order and shall subject Respondent's license to further disciplinary action, including revocation.

Termination of Period of Probation. Respondent shall not be eligible to petition for termination of the period of probation until Respondent can document completion of the

terms and condition of this Consent Order. At such time, Respondent may petition for termination by certifying under oath before a notary public that Respondent has complied with all terms and conditions of the period of probation and by providing documentation supporting discharge from the period of probation, including but not limited to, documentation indicating successful discharge from GA PHP and his criminal probation. The Board shall review and evaluate the practice of Respondent prior to terminating the period of probation. At such time, should the Board determine that reasonable cause exists for maintaining probation on Respondent's license, the Board shall notify Respondent of its intent to extend the period of probation, and Respondent may respond to such notice in writing or request an appearance before the Board as in a non-contested case. In any event, this Consent Order shall remain in effect pending a final written determination by the Board and notification that the period of probation has been terminated.

2.

If the Respondent shall fail to abide by all state and federal laws relating to drugs and regulating the practice of medicine in the State of Georgia, the Rules and Regulations of the Georgia Composite Medical Board, the terms of this Consent Order, or if it should appear from information received by the Board that the Respondent is unable to practice as a physician with reasonable skill and safety, Respondent's license may be further sanctioned or revoked, upon substantiation thereof.

3.

Approval of this Consent Order by the Board shall in no way be construed as condoning Respondent's conduct and shall not be construed as a waiver of any of the lawful rights possessed by the Board.

4.

Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands its contents. Respondent understands that Respondent has the right to a hearing in this matter, and freely, knowingly and voluntarily waives such right by entering into this Consent Order. Respondent understands that this Consent Order will not become effective until approved by the Georgia Composite Medical Board and docketed by the Executive Director. Respondent further understands and agrees that the Board shall have the authority to review the investigative file and all relevant evidence in considering the Consent Order. Respondent understands that this Consent Order, once approved and docketed, shall constitute a PUBLIC ORDER of the Board, evidencing disciplinary action by the Board. However, if the Consent Order is not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the Board's ability to adjudicate this matter.

Respondent hereby consents to the terms and sanctions contained herein

Approved this 15th day of January, 2021.

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

BY:

Kathryn K. Cheek, MD

KATHRYN CHEEK, MD
Chairperson

ATTEST:

J. S. Jones

JASON S. JONES
Executive Director



CONSENTED TO:

Neil R. Shah

NEIL RAMESH SHAH, MD
Respondent

[As to the Signature of Neil Ramesh Shah, MD]

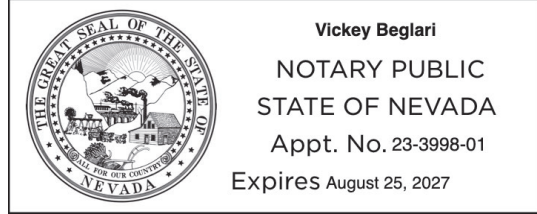
Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 5th day of January, 2025.

Vickey Beglari

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires: 08/25/2027

State of Nevada, Clark County



Notarized remotely using audio-video communication technology via Proof.

**BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
SUZANNE CLARK STEARNS,)
)
Applicant.)

DOCKET NO:

GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

JAN 16 2026

DOCKET NUMBER:
20260045

PUBLIC CONSENT AGREEMENT FOR LICENSURE

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapters 1 and 34, the Georgia Composite Medical Board (“Board”), in its discretion, has considered the application for licensure of Suzanne Clark Stearns to practice as a Senior Laser Practitioner in the State of Georgia. In conjunction therewith, the Board hereby enters its Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

On or about March 8, 2024, Applicant was issued a license to practice as a senior laser practitioner by the Board, License No. 491, which expired on April 30, 2025, and lapsed on or about July 31, 2025, for failure to renew.

2.

On or about August 26, 2025, Applicant submitted a new application for a license to practice as a senior laser practitioner. During the course of reviewing the application, it was discovered that Applicant had performed laser services after her license lapsed.

3.

Applicant waives any further findings of fact with respect to this matter.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The unlicensed practice disclosed by Applicant is grounds for denial of licensure or licensure with discipline under O.C.G.A. Ch. 34, T. 43, as amended. Applicant hereby waives any further conclusions of law with respect to the above-styled matter.

ORDER

Beginning on the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Applicant's license to practice as a Senior Laser Practitioner in the State of Georgia shall be issued, subject to the following terms:

1.

Within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Applicant shall submit to the Board a fine of **FIVE HUNDRED dollars (\$500.00)** to be paid in full by cashier's check or money order made payable to the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Said fine shall be sent to Georgia Composite Medical Board, 2 MLK Jr. Drive, SE, East Tower, 11th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30334, to the attention of the Executive Director. Failure to pay the entire amount by the ninetieth day shall be considered a violation of this Agreement and shall result in further sanctioning of Applicant's license, including revocation, upon substantiation thereof.

2.

This Consent Agreement and dissemination thereof shall be considered a **PUBLIC REPRIMAND** of Applicant by the Board.

3.

The effective date of this Consent Agreement is the date the Consent Agreement is docketed. Applicant should receive a docketed copy of the Consent Agreement from the Board at the Applicant's address and/or email address of record within ten (10) business days of the

docket date. If Applicant has not received a docketed copy of the Consent Agreement, it is Applicant's responsibility to obtain a docketed copy of the Consent Agreement from the Board. Applicant must comply with the terms and conditions of the Consent Agreement beginning on the effective date.

4.

Approval of this Consent Agreement by the Board shall in no way be construed as condoning the Applicant's conduct and shall not be construed as a waiver of any of the lawful rights possessed by the Board.

5.

Applicant acknowledges that Applicant has read this Consent Agreement and understands its contents. Applicant understands that Applicant has the right to an appearance in this matter, and freely, knowingly, and voluntarily waives such right by entering into this Consent Agreement. Applicant understands that this Consent Agreement will not become effective until approved and docketed by the Board. However, if this Consent Agreement is not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the right of the Board to adjudicate this matter. Applicant further understands and agrees that a representative of the Department of Law may be present during presentation of this Consent Agreement to the Board and that the Board shall have the authority to review the investigative file and all relevant evidence in considering this Consent Agreement. Applicant hereby consents to the terms and sanctions contained herein.

(Signatures on following page)

Approved this 16th day of January, 2026

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD



BY: Kathryn K. Cheek, MD

KATHRYN K. CHEEK, MD
Chairperson

J. S. Jones

ATTEST: JASON S. JONES
Executive Director

CONSENTED TO: Suzanne Stearns
SUZANNE CLARK STEARNS, RN, MSN,
AGACNP-BC
Applicant

[AS TO THE SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT ONLY]
Sworn to and subscribed before me
this, 8th day of January, 2026

[Signature]
NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires: 11/05/2029

