

December 2021 Public Board Actions List

Georgia Composite Medical Board
Attn: **Ms. Latisha Bias**, Public Records Unit
2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 6th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3465
PH: (404) 657-3194
FX: (404) 463-2539
Email: latisha.bias@dch.ga.gov

The Board issued **four** public orders in **December 2021**. To view each Board order, click on the licensee's name below.

1. Annie Cruz, MD

65352

Physician

Public Consent Order

2. Kelland Keith Jeffords, MD

49041

Physician

Order of Summary Suspension

3. Pain Physicians of Atlanta, LLC

471

Pain Management Clinic

Public Consent Agreement for Reinstatement

4. Lori Young, RCP

4319

Physician

Public Consent Order

BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD
STATE OF GEORGIA

GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

DEC 16 2021

DOCKET NUMBER:
20220047

IN THE MATTER OF:)

ANNIE CRUZ, M.D.)
License # 65352)
Respondent.)

DOCKET NO. _____

PUBLIC CONSENT ORDER

By agreement of the Georgia Composite Medical Board ("Board") and Annie Cruz, M.D., Respondent, the following disposition of this matter is entered pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-13-13 (a) (4), as amended.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND REVIEWER OPINION

1.

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

2.

Patient K.W. was admitted on or about January 3, 2018 for an induction of labor at 40 weeks and 5 days of gestation, after office monitoring visit resulted in a report of decreased fetal movement and variable heart rate decelerations. The patient initially received Cervidil and then Cytotec for cervical ripening. Respondent was not the on-call physician when the patient was admitted but came on call later in the induction process and ultimately was the delivering obstetrics physician for patient K.W. on or about January 5, 2018.

3.

Respondent was aware of a nine-minute period of bradycardia (a slower than normal heart rate) prior to delivery that occurred shortly after the patient received an epidural. Upon

Respondent's evaluation, the heart rate had recovered. The patient was experiencing moderate vaginal bleeding, and Respondent suspected a partial placental abruption.

4.

On or about January 5, 2018, in lieu of performing a C-Section, Respondent delivered the infant by vacuum extraction.

5.

Approximately two hours after delivery, the infant died.

6.

A Board-approved peer reviewer reviewed Respondent's medical care of patient K.W. and concluded that Respondent's treatment of this patient departed from and failed to conform to the minimum standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice. The peer reviewer opined that in light of the suspected placental abruption, moderate vaginal bleeding, history of bradycardia, and decelerations, the standard of care required Dr. Cruz to accomplish delivery as quickly as possible via C-section rather than via vacuum-assisted vaginal delivery.

7.

Respondent agrees with the above recited findings of fact, acknowledges but does not agree with the opinion of the peer reviewer, and waives any further finding of fact with respect to 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. Respondent hereby waives any further conclusions of law with respect to the above-styled matter.

ORDER

The Georgia Composite Medical Board, having considered the particular facts and circumstances of this case, hereby orders, and Respondent hereby agrees, to the following terms:

1.

Respondent shall submit to the Board a fine in the amount of two thousand dollars and zero cents (\$2,000.00) to be paid by cashier's check or money order made payable to the Board by certified check or money order to the Georgia Composite Medical Board within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Order. This fine shall be sent to the attention of: Jonathan McGehee, Interim Executive Director, Georgia Composite Medical Board, 6th Floor, 2 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Failure to pay the fine as provided shall be considered a violation of this Order, and may result in further sanctioning of Respondent's authority to practice medicine in the future, including revocation, upon substantiation thereof.

2.

In addition to the fine required in paragraph 1 of this Consent Order, Respondent shall pay administrative fees in the amount of seven hundred dollars (\$700.00) as reimbursement to the Board of expenses incurred in the investigation of this matter, which expenses do not include time spent by the investigative division of the Board. Said fees shall be payable by certified check or money order to the Georgia Composite Medical Board within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Order. Failure to pay the entire amount by the 60th day shall be considered a violation of this Order and shall result in further sanctioning of Respondent's license, including revocation, upon substantiation.

3.

In addition to the continuing medical education ("CME") required of all Georgia physicians, Respondent shall obtain twenty (20) hours of continuing medical education ("CME") in obstetric emergencies/placental abruption/electronic fetal heart monitoring. Due to the ongoing uncertainty related to the COVID-19 epidemic, all or some of these CME hours may be obtained remotely. Respondent shall complete said additional twenty (20) hours of CME within one (1) year from the docketing of this Order. Prior to obtaining the CME, Respondent shall submit the title of the course(s) she plans to attend and information concerning the course(s) to the Board. Within one (1) year from the docketing of this consent order, Respondent shall submit to the Board proof of completion of said additional twenty (20) hours. All reports and submissions required under this Consent Order shall be sent to the attention of **Jonathan McGehee, Interim Executive Director, Georgia Composite Medical Board, 2 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303 or any subsequent address of the Board.**

4.

This Consent Order and dissemination thereof shall be considered a PUBLIC REPRIMAND of Respondent by the Board.

5.

Respondent also understands that pursuant to O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapter 34A, the contents of this order shall be placed on Respondent's Physician Profile. Furthermore, by executing this Consent Order, Respondent hereby agrees to permit the Board to update the Physician's Profile reflecting this Consent Order.

6.

Respondent acknowledges that 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 that right 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 record, 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 3rd day of December, 2021


GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

(SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE)


(BOARD SEAL)



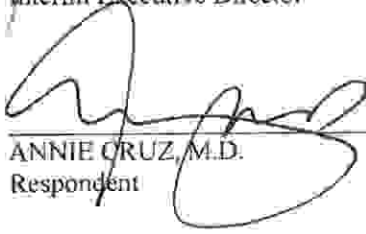
BY:


DESPINA DALTON, M.D.
Chairperson

ATTEST:


JONATHAN MCGEHEE
Interim Executive Director

CONSENTED TO:


ANNIE CRUZ, M.D.
Respondent

AS TO SIGNATURE OF
ANNIE CRUZ

Sworn to and Subscribed
before me this 3rd day
of December, 2021.


NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:



BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

*

GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

*

KELLAND KEITH JEFFORDS, JR., M.D.,*

DOCKET NO.:

NOV 22 2021

License No. 49041,

*

Respondent.

*

DOCKET NUMBER:

10220044

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

1.

WHEREAS, KELLAND KEITH JEFFORDS, JR., M.D., (“Respondent”) is licensed by the Georgia Composite Medical Board (“Board”) to practice medicine in the State of Georgia. Respondent was issued a license on July 14, 2000, and Respondent’s license will expire on November 30, 2023. Respondent’s specialty, as indicated on his physician profile, is Plastic Surgery.

2.

On or about February 26, 2020, the Board issued a confidential Order for Mental/Physical Examination to Respondent based on reasonable grounds including the reporting of incidents involving sexual misconduct and boundary violations related to his practice of medicine.

3.

Respondent was evaluated on or about August 25-27, 2020, by the Vanderbilt Comprehensive Assessment Program (“VCAP”), and the results of said evaluation were submitted to the Board on or about October 28, 2020. The evaluation concluded:

This evaluation is considered incomplete, as we are not prepared to opine upon Dr. Jeffords’ fitness to practice medicine without review of the records from Dr. Rashal’s [sic] evaluation in 2016. Dr. Jeffords refused consent for the release of the records and the Georgia Composite Medical Board cannot provide copies.

It is also notable that the results are inconclusive with respect to Dr. Jeffords' diagnosis, especially considering his guardedness, limited information, his defensive approach to testing, and the inconclusive result of polygraph testing. Concerns remain about potential boundary issues and pathological personality traits that need to be addressed. In addition, further neuropsychological assessment is indicated to rule-out the possibility of cognitive dysfunction as a contributing factor to these difficulties.

Thus, it is our recommendation that Dr. Jeffords participate in further evaluation, ideally on an inpatient basis, to clarify his fitness for practice, for diagnosis of boundary violation issues, and to clarify neuropsychological functioning. The record of the previous evaluation by Dr. Rashal [sic] must be made available to examiners.

4.

On or about March 16, 2021, the Board issued a subsequent Order for Mental/Physical Evaluation, based on the recommendations of the VCAP evaluation report.

5.

From June 14, 2021 to June 16, 2021, Respondent underwent an evaluation at Sante Center for Healing Licensed Professionals Program for the purpose of determining if Respondent was under any mental or physical condition that would render him unsafe to practice medicine. The result of that evaluation was a conclusion that Respondent was unsafe to practice medicine, due to ongoing concerns about boundary violation issues, as noted in the previous Vanderbilt evaluation. The evaluation team recommended monitoring, with treatment to address vulnerability boundary issues and sexual boundary violations as well as residential treatment in order to engage in therapy to assist Respondent in "acquiring the skills, self-awareness, and empathy to demonstrate the ability to articulate what transpired in his environment, within himself, and between him and the patient, and how the patient could have been affected by the boundary violation, as a minimal foundation to restoring fitness to practice."

NOW THEREFORE, the Board finds that Respondent's continued practice of medicine poses a threat to the public health, safety, and welfare and imperatively requires emergency action and hereby ORDERS that Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Georgia be and is hereby SUMMARILY SUSPENDED pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-13-18(c)(1), pending further proceedings on behalf of the Board, which shall be promptly instituted.

If the Respondent wishes to have an expedited hearing, Respondent shall execute and file with the Office of State Administrative Hearings the original and one copy of the attached REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED HEARING no later than fourteen (14) days from the day of service or receipt of this Order. Respondent also shall serve a copy of such REQUEST upon counsel for the Board as identified in the REQUEST.

This Order is signed and attested by the Interim Executive Director on behalf of the Georgia Composite Medical Board.

This 22nd day of November, 2021.



(BOARD SEAL)

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

DESPINA DALTON, MD
Chairperson



JONATHAN MCGEHEE
Interim Executive Director

PLEASE DIRECT CORRESPONDENCE TO:
MAXIMILLIAN J. CHANGUS
Assistant Attorney General
40 Capitol Square, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 458-3403
mchangus@law.ga.gov

BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

*

*

KELLAND KEITH JEFFORDS, JR., M.D.,*
License No. 49041,*
Respondent.*

DOCKET NO.:

*

REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED HEARING

I, KELLAND KEITH JEFFORDS, M.D., having been served with the Order of Summary Suspension by the Georgia Composite Medical Board ("Board"), do hereby request an expedited hearing. I reserve the right to file a response to a Notice of Hearing and Matters Asserted in this matter.

This _____ day of _____, 2021.

KELLAND KEITH JEFFORDS, JR., M.D.
Respondent

() I am/will be represented by counsel
Name of counsel if known at this time:

THIS REQUEST MUST BE FILED WITH:
THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD
2 PEACHTREE STREET, N.W., 6TH FLOOR
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

A COPY OF THIS REQUEST MUST ALSO BE SERVED ON:
THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
ATTN: MAXIMILLIAN J. CHANGUS
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
40 CAPITOL SQUARE, S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

*

*

KELLAND KEITH JEFFORDS, JR., M.D.,
License No. 49041,
Respondent.

*

DOCKET NO.:

*

*

REQUEST FOR HEARING

I, KELLAND KEITH JEFFORDS, M.D., having been served with the Order of Summary Suspension by the Georgia Composite Medical Board ("Board"), do hereby reserve the right to request a hearing at a later date. I reserve the right to file a response to a Notice of Hearing and Matters Asserted in this matter.

This ____ day of _____, 2021.

KELLAND KEITH JEFFORDS, JR., M.D.
Respondent

() I am/will be represented by counsel
Name of counsel if known at this time:

THIS REQUEST MUST BE FILED WITH:
THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD
2 PEACHTREE STREET, N.W., 6TH FLOOR
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

A COPY OF THIS REQUEST MUST ALSO BE SERVED ON:
THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
ATTN: MAXIMILLIAN J. CHANGUS
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
40 CAPITOL SQUARE, S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

STATE OF GEORGIA

GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:

PAIN PHYSICIANS OF
ATLANTA, LLC,

License No. 471

Applicant.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

DOCKET NO.:

DEC 16 2021

DOCKET NUMBER:

20220048

PUBLIC CONSENT AGREEMENT FOR REINSTATEMENT

By agreement of the Georgia Composite Medical Board ("Board") and Pain Physicians of Atlanta, LLC ("Applicant"), the following disposition of this matter is entered into pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapter 34, as amended.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

Pain Physicians of Atlanta, LLC previously held a license to operate as a pain management clinic in the State of Georgia, License # 471. That license was issued on or about June 8, 2018.

2.

On or about June 30, 2019, Applicant's license expired, but the pain management clinic continued to operate after the expiration date of the license. Applicant submitted an application for reinstatement of the pain clinic license in or about April of 2021.

3.

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

There are sufficient grounds for the Board to deny the reinstatement application and/or to impose sanctions or conditions on Applicant's pain management clinic registration under O.C.G.A. Ch. 34, T. 43, as amended, O.C.G.A. §43-1 -19(a), and the Rules of the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Applicant waives any further conclusions of law with respect to this matter.

ORDER

The Georgia Composite Medical Board, having considered all the particular facts and circumstances of this case, hereby orders, and the Applicant hereby agrees, that Applicant's reinstatement application shall be granted, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1.

Applicant shall submit to the Board a fine in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) made payable by money order or cashier's check to the Georgia Composite Medical Board, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 6th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Agreement. Failure to pay the fine by the thirtieth (30th) day shall be considered a violation of this Agreement and may result in grounds for disciplinary action by the Board.

2.

Applicant shall abide by the terms of this Agreement, all State and Federal laws relating to drugs and record keeping, and otherwise regulating pain management clinics, and the Rules and Regulations of the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Failure to abide by the terms of this Agreement, all State and Federal laws relating to drugs and record keeping, and otherwise regulating pain management clinics, and the Rules and Regulations of the Georgia Composite Medical Board shall subject Applicant's licenses to further disciplinary action, including revocation, upon substantiation thereof. Provided that Applicant complies with the terms of this Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement shall not serve as a public reprimand of Applicant by the Board.

3.

Approval of this Consent Agreement by the Georgia Composite Medical Board shall not be construed as a waiver of any of the lawful rights possessed by the Board.

4.


Agent for Applicant, Pain Physicians of Atlanta, LLC, acknowledges having read and understood the contents of this Agreement. Applicant understands that they have a right to an appearance in this matter before the Board, and Applicant freely, knowingly and voluntarily waives such right by entering into this Agreement. Applicant understands that this Agreement will not become effective until approved by the Georgia Composite Medical Board and docketed by the Executive Director of the Board. Applicant further understands that the Board shall have the authority to review the application and/or any investigative file and all relevant evidence in considering this Agreement. Applicant further understands that this Agreement, once approved, shall be disseminated as a disciplinary action of the Board. If this Agreement is not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the ability of the Board to adjudicate this matter. Applicant consents to the terms and sanctions contained herein.

(signatures on following page)

Approved, this 16 day of December, 2021.

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

BY:


DESPINA DALTON, M.D.
Chairperson

(BOARD SEAL)



Attest:

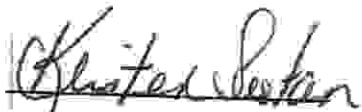

LASHARN HUGHES, MBA
Interim Executive Director *Jonathan McGhee*

Consented to:


PAIN PHYSICIANS OF ATLANTA, LLC
By: Agent for Applicant

Witness of Signature of Agent:

Swore to and subscribed
before me this 25th day
of October, 2021.



NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires:
November 8, 2023



BEFORE THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

LORI YOUNG, RCP,
License No. 4319,
Respondent,

)
)
)
)
)

DOCKET NO.

GEORGIA COMPOSITE
MEDICAL BOARD

DEC 16 2021

DOCKET NUMBER:

20200046

PUBLIC CONSENT ORDER

By agreement of the Georgia Composite Medical Board ("Board") and LORI YOUNG, RCP, ("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, as amended.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

On or about October 8, 1998, Respondent was licensed to practice respiratory care in the State of Georgia, and was so licensed at all times relevant to the matters stated herein. Respondent's license is set to expire on November 30, 2021.

2.

On or about August 7, 2020, the Board received a complaint from Respondent's employer stating Respondent was terminated from her job as a respiratory care professional for fraudulently writing herself prescriptions for Phentermine.

3.

On or about March 10, 2021, Respondent was arrested, in Muscogee County, for Obtaining Dangerous Drugs by Forgery, in violation of O.C.G.A § 16-13-78, in relation to the above-mentioned conduct.

4.

Respondent's aforementioned conduct departed from and failed to conform to the minimum standards of acceptable and prevailing respiratory care practice and was a violation of Georgia's laws and the Board's rules. *See* O.C.G.A. § 43-34-8.

5.

Respondent admits the above findings of fact, and waives further factual findings.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's conduct constitutes sufficient grounds for the imposition of discipline upon her license to practice as a respiratory care professional 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

The Board, having considered all the facts and circumstances of this case, hereby orders, and Respondent hereby agrees, to the following:

1.

Respondent's license to practice respiratory care in the State of Georgia shall be suspended indefinitely. During the period of suspension, the Respondent shall not use the title, "RCP" or otherwise engage in the practice of respiratory care as defined in O.G.G.A. § 43-34-142(2). The Respondent is entitled to renew Respondent's license during the period of suspension. Failure to renew shall result in revocation of Respondent's license by operation of law.

2.

Respondent may submit, to the Board, a petition to lift the period of suspension no

sooner than **ninety (90) days** from the effective date of this Consent Order. Respondent's petition shall contain:

(1) evidence of completion of ten (10) hours of continuing education in the area of ethics. The continuing education hours must be through a Board approved organization as provided for in Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 360-13-.10 (9). These hours may not be used, or have been used, by Respondent to satisfy continuing education hours required for license renewal; and

(2) payment of a fine in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) 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 the Georgia Composite Medical Board, located at 2 Peachtree Street, NW, 6th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30303, to the attention of the Executive Director.

3.

In considering whether to lift the suspension, the Board shall have the authority to review the entire investigative and/or compliance file(s) and all relevant evidence, including but not limited to, the status of Respondent's clinical skills. The Board shall also have the authority to order any additional investigation that may be required in order to determine whether Respondent is competent to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

4.

The period of suspension shall remain in effect unless and until the Board, in its sole discretion, lifts the suspension in writing. The Respondent may be required to meet with the Board, or a committee thereof, concerning her petition to lift the suspension. Lifting of Respondent's suspension shall be within the sole discretion of the Board. If Respondent's

petition should be denied, Respondent may submit another petition no sooner than six (6) months following the Board's denial of Respondent's prior petition. Respondent's petition(s) shall not constitute a contested case.

5.

Respondent shall abide by all state and federal laws regulating the practice of respiratory care, the Rules and Regulations of the Board, and the terms and conditions of this Consent Order. If Respondent shall fail to abide by such laws, rules, terms or conditions of this Consent Order, or if it should appearing from reports, inspections or other information submitted to the Board that Respondent is otherwise unable to practice respiratory care with reasonable skill and safety to patients, Respondent's license shall be subject to further discipline, including revocation, upon substantiation thereof after notice and hearing; and if revoked, the Board in its discretion may determine that the license should be permanently revoked and not subject to reinstatement.

6.

This Consent Order and dissemination thereof shall be considered a PUBLIC REPRIMAND of Respondent by the Board.

7.

Respondent acknowledges that Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands its contents. Respondent understands that Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney and has a right to a hearing in this matter, and freely, knowingly and voluntarily waives those rights 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

Board's files 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 record, 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 16th day of December, 2021.

GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

(BOARD SEAL)



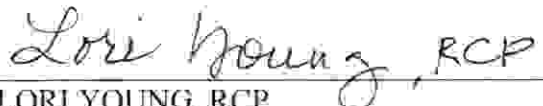
BY:


DESPINA DALTON, MD
Chairperson

ATTEST:


JONATHAN MCGEHEE
Acting Executive Director

CONSENTED TO:


LORI YOUNG, RCP
Respondent

AS TO RESPONDENT'S SIGNATURE:

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 29th day of November, 2021.


NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires: 25 Feb 2022

