BEFORE THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

IN THE MATTER OF: 

CHRISTINE CHICO, D.O. 
License No. 408, 
a/k/a Christine Chico-Blume, D.O., 
Respondent. 

Case No. AD1201001 
FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

This matter was heard by the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine at its regular monthly meeting on June 10, 2014 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Board’s staff was represented by Louis Ling. Dr. Chico was not represented by anybody and did not appear herself. Because Dr. Chico made no appearance in the matter and did not file an answer, request for continuance, or any other responsive pleading, the Board proceeded with the matter as a default. Based upon the documents in the Board’s file in this matter as were presented to the Board at the default hearing of this matter by Board staff, and good cause appearing, the Board issues the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order.

FINDING OF FACTS

1. On March 25, 1987, Christine Chico, D. O. was licensed by the Board to practice osteopathic medicine in Nevada (License No. 408).

2. Dr. Chico is board certified in Anesthesiology. Dr. Chico practiced osteopathic medicine in Nevada. At some time, Dr. Chico moved to Florida where she was also licensed and practiced osteopathic medicine in Florida.

3. On August 11, 2011, Dr. Chico was one of thirteen physicians and nineteen other people charged in a Superseding Indictment in a criminal matter in the United Stated District Court, Southern District of Florida (Case No. 10-80149-CR-MARRA/HOPKINS). The facts alleged against Dr. Chico related to her obtaining, prescribing, and dispensing of controlled substances out of a facility in Florida called East Coast Pain Management. In particular, the Superseding Indictment specified that Dr. Chico obtained 368,520 units of oxycodone as her part of the scheme. Dr. Chico was charged with a count of violating 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h) (Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering) and a count of violating 21 U.S.C. § 846 (Conspiracy to Possess
with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance (oxycodone). The entire Superseding
Indictment encompassed 123 pages.

4. On September 30, 2011, Dr. Chico plead guilty to one count of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h)
for Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering.

5. On January 20, 2012, the United States District Court, Southern District of Nevada,
Judge Kenneth Marra presiding, issued a Judgment in a Criminal Case regarding Dr. Chico,
sentencing her to 60 months of imprisonment with the United States Bureau of Prisons to
commence April 27, 2012. The District Court Judge also recommended that while Dr. Chico was
imprisoned that she enter the Bureau of Prisons’ Drug/Alcohol Treatment Program for 500
hours.

6. On January 26, 2012, the Florida Department of Health filed an Administrative
Complaint against Dr. Chico (Case Nos. 2011-13668 & 2011-15168), charging her with four
counts: (1) Section 459.015(1)(x) Florida Statutes (Malpractice); (2) Section 459.015(1)(t) Florida
Statutes (Prescribing, Dispensing, or Otherwise Supplying Legend Drugs (Controlled Substances)
Other Than In the Course of the Practice of Osteopathic Medicine); (3) Section 459.015(1)(o)
Florida Statutes (Failure to Keep Legible Medical Records); and (4) Section 459.015(1)(pp) Florida
Statutes (Failure to Follow Florida Controlled Substance Prescribing Guidelines). The facts
supporting the four counts related to a lengthy and involved investigation of Dr. Chico’s
controlled substances prescribing, administering, and dispensing practices related to five
particular patients at a business called East Coast Pain Management.

7. Based upon the facts and violations plead in the Administrative Complaint, the Florida
Department of Health temporarily suspended Dr. Chico’s Florida license as an emergency
suspension. As of the date of this Complaint, Dr. Chico’s Florida license remains suspended on
an emergency basis and the Administrative Complaint remains unresolved.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

8. The Board has jurisdiction in this matter because it licensed Dr. Chico (License No.
408). At the default hearing, the Board’s staff presented evidence that Dr. Chico had been
properly served a copy of the Complaint for Disciplinary Action in this matter through acceptance
of service by Dr. Chico's attorney-in-fact, Betsy Mascaro.

9. Dr. Chico's conviction in the United States District Court Southern District of Florida
in Case No. 10-80149-CR-MARRA/HOPKINS violated Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS)
633.131(1)(6)(2) and/or NRS 633.511(1) and/or NRS 633.511(2)(b).

10. Dr. Chico's emergency suspension of her Florida license by the Florida Department
of Health in Case Nos. 2011-13668 & 2011-15168 violated Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) NRS
633.511(3).

ORDER

Based upon the foregoing, the Board hereby revokes Dr. Chico's license to practice
osteopathic medicine (License No. 408) effective immediately upon the signature of the presiding
officer.

Signed this 12 day of June, 2014.

By: Ricardo Almaguer, D.O.
Vice President and Presiding Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I am an employee of the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine and that on
this day I deposited for certified mailing at Henderson, Nevada, postage prepaid, a true and correct copy
of the foregoing document addressed to the following:

CHRISTINE CHICO
c/o BETSY MASCARO, POWER OF ATTORNEY
840 U.S. HIGHWAY 1, SUITE 415
NORTH PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33408

Dated this 13 day of June, 2014.