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8 **BEFORE THE**
9 **BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS**
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. AC 2026-2073

13 **SETH B. LUEDERS**
10 W Fifth St
Watsonville, CA 95076

ACCUSATION

14 **Chiropractic License No. DC 19198**

15 Respondent.

16
17 **PARTIES**

18 1. Kristin Walker (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as
19 the Executive Officer of the Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Department of Consumer Affairs.

20 2. On or about January 1, 1988, the Board issued Chiropractic License Number DC
21 19198 to Seth B. Lueders (Respondent). The Chiropractic License was in full force and effect at
22 all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on December 31, 2026, unless
23 renewed.

24 **JURISDICTION**

25 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following
26 sections of the Chiropractic Act (Act).¹

27 ¹ The Chiropractic Act, an initiative measure approved by the electors on November 7,
28 1922, while not included in the Business and Professions Code by the legislature, is set out in
(continued...)

shall not apply where the patient states that he or she is already under the care of such other physician and surgeon or other licensed health care provider who is providing the appropriate management for that physical or mental condition, disease, or injury within his or her scope of practice.

...

COST RECOVERY

7. CCR, title 16, section 317.5, subdivision (a), states, in pertinent part:

In any order in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the Chiropractic Initiative Act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

8. On or about February 20, 2023, patient J.S. sought treatment from Respondent for neck pain and a headache. Respondent then began a consultation, examination and treatment. Respondent first performed a first rib maneuver and stretch, which made S.J. feel dizzy. Respondent then performed the same stretch in the opposite direction, which caused S.J. to feel even more dizzy.

9. Respondent then performed a brain laser, which helped S.J.'s pain, but not what Respondent called her "visual issue."

10. Respondent then put S.J. in an examination room to wait and see if her condition would improve. When it did not, Respondent did not instruct her to go to the emergency room, but instead told her that she could not drive, and that her husband should come pick her up, which he ultimately did.

11. After leaving Respondent's office, S.J.'s pain returned, and she went to the emergency room where diagnostic imaging tests revealed S.J. had suffered a stroke. Respondent later told a Board investigator that he believed the stroke had occurred approximately two weeks before he provided treatment to S.J.

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1 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 (Unprofessional Conduct – Gross Negligence)

3 12. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under CCR, section 317, subdivision (a),
4 in that Respondent committed acts of gross negligence, as set forth in paragraph 8, incorporated
5 herein, in that Respondent performed the same stretch on Respondent a second time, despite S.J.
6 informing Respondent that the first time he performed the stretch it had made her dizzy.

7 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

8 (Unprofessional Conduct - Incompetence)

9 13. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under CCR, title 16, section 317,
10 subdivision (c), in that Respondent committed acts of incompetence, in that Respondent failed to
11 ensure and/or refer appropriate emergency care for S.J. after observing her post-treatment
12 symptomology, as set forth in paragraphs 8-10, incorporated herein.

13 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

14 (Unprofessional Conduct - Failure to Refer)

15 14. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under CCR, section 317, subdivision (w),
16 in that Respondent failed to ensure and/or refer appropriate emergency care for S.J. after
17 observing her post-treatment symptomology, as set forth in paragraphs 8-10, incorporated herein.

18 **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

19 (Unprofessional Conduct – Improper Use of Laser)

20 15. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under CCR, subdivisions 302.5 and 317,
21 in that Respondent committed unprofessional conduct in using a laser in a manner which has not
22 been properly approved or cleared by the United States Food and Drug Administration, as set
23 forth in paragraph 9, incorporated herein.

24 **PRAYER**

25 WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,
26 and that following the hearing, the Board of Chiropractic Examiners issue a decision:

27 1. Revoking or suspending Chiropractic License Number DC 19198, issued to Seth B.
28 Lueders;

1 2. Ordering Seth B. Lueders to pay the Board of Chiropractic Examiners the reasonable
2 costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Title 16, California Code of
3 Regulations, section 317.5 and if placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring; and,

4 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
5

6 DATED: 7/2/2026

Signature on File

KRISTIN WALKER

Executive Officer

Board of Chiropractic Examiners

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

Complainant