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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 2026-2077

13 **CHRISTOPHER MANUEL CLEVELAND**
5001 Wilshire Blvd, Ste 114
Los Angeles, CA 90036

ACCUSATION

14 **Chiropractic License No. DC 27977**

15 Respondent.

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17
18 **PARTIES**

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

22 2. On or about December 28, 2001, the Board issued Chiropractic License Number DC
23 27977 to Christopher Manuel Cleveland (Respondent). The Chiropractic License was in full
24 force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on June 30,
25 2026, unless renewed.

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JURISDICTION

3. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Chiropractic Examiners (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following sections of the Chiropractic Initiative Act (Chiropractic Act or Act).¹ Business and Professions Code section 1000-10(a) provides that the Board may by rule or regulation adopt, amend or repeal rules of professional conduct appropriate to the establishment and maintenance of a high standard of professional service and the protection of the public. The regulations adopted by the board appear in Title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 300, *et seq.*

4. Section 10 of the Act states, in pertinent part, that the Board may suspend or revoke a license to practice chiropractic or may place the license on probation for violations of the rules and regulations adopted by the Board or for any cause specified in the Act.

5. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 372, states:

The suspension, expiration, or forfeiture by operation of law of a license issued by the board, or its suspension, or forfeiture by order of the board or by order of a court of law, or its surrender without the written consent of the board shall not, during any period in which it may be renewed, restored, reissued, or reinstated, deprive the board of its authority to institute or continue a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee upon any ground provided by law or to enter an order suspending or revoking the license or otherwise taking disciplinary action against the licensee on any such ground.

STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

6. Business and Professions Code section 726, subdivision (a), states:

(a) The commission of any act of sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a patient, client, or customer constitutes unprofessional conduct and grounds for disciplinary action for any person licensed under this division or under any initiative act referred to in this division.

...

7. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 316, states, in pertinent part:

, , ,

¹ The Chiropractic Act, an initiative measure approved by the electors on November 7, 1922, while not included in the Business and Professions Code by the legislature, is set out in West's Annotated California Codes as sections 1000-1 to 1000-19, and is included in Deering's California Codes as Appendix I, for convenient reference.

1 (b) Where a chiropractic license is used in connection with any premises,
2 structure or facility, no sexual acts or erotic behavior involving patients, patrons or
customers, including, but not necessarily limited to, sexual stimulation, masturbation
or prostitution, shall be permitted on said premises, structure or facility.

3 (c) The commission of any act of sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, or sexual
4 relations by a licensee with a patient, client, customer or employee is unprofessional
conduct and cause for disciplinary action. This conduct is substantially related to the
5 qualifications, functions, or duties of a chiropractic license.

6 This section shall not apply to sexual contact between a licensed chiropractor
and his or her spouse or person in an equivalent domestic relationship when that
7 chiropractor provides professional treatment.

8 8. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 317, states in pertinent part:

9 The board shall take action against any holder of a license who is guilty of
10 unprofessional conduct which has been brought to its attention, or whose license has
been procured by fraud or misrepresentation or issued by mistake.

11 Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

12 . . .

13 (b) Repeated negligent acts;

14 . . .

15 (e) Any conduct which has endangered or is likely to endanger the health, welfare, or
16 safety of the public;

17 . . .

18 (k) The commission of any act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty, or
corruption, whether the act is committed in the course of the individual's activities as
19 a license holder, or otherwise;

20 . . .

21 (m) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or
abetting in the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision or term of the Act
22 or the regulations adopted by the board thereunder;

23

24 9. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 318, states in pertinent part:

25 (a) Chiropractic Patient Records. Each licensed chiropractor is required to
26 maintain all active and inactive chiropractic patient records for five years from the
date of the doctor's last treatment of the patient unless state or federal laws require a
27 longer period of retention. Active chiropractic records are all chiropractic records of
patients treated within the last 12 months. Chiropractic patient records shall be
classified as inactive when there has elapsed a period of more than 12 months since
28 the date of the last patient treatment.

1 All chiropractic patient records shall be available to any representative of the
2 Board upon presentation of patient's written consent or a valid legal order. Active
3 chiropractic patient records shall be immediately available to any representative of
4 the Board at the chiropractic office where the patient has been or is being treated.
Inactive chiropractic patient records shall be available upon ten days notice to any
representative of the Board. The location of said inactive records shall be reported
immediately upon request.

5 Active and inactive chiropractic patient records must include all of the
6 following:

7 (1) Patient's full name, date of birth, and social security number (if
8 available);

9 (2) Patient gender, height and weight. An estimated height and weight is
10 acceptable where the physical condition of the patient prevents actual
11 measurement;

12 (3) Patient history, complaint, diagnosis/analysis, and treatment must be
13 signed by the primary treating doctor. Thereafter, any treatment rendered by
14 any other doctor must be signed or initialed by said doctor;

15 (4) Signature of patient;

16 (5) Date of each and every patient visit;

17 (6) All chiropractic X-rays, or evidence of the transfer of said X-rays;

18 (7) Signed written informed consent as specified in Section 319.1.

19 ...

20 10. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 319.1, states:

21 (a) A licensed doctor of chiropractic shall verbally and in writing inform each
22 patient of the material risks of proposed care. "Material" shall be defined as a
23 procedure inherently involving known risk of serious bodily harm. The chiropractor
24 shall obtain the patient's written informed consent prior to initiating clinical care. The
25 signed written consent shall become part of the patient's record.

26 (b) A violation of this section constitutes unprofessional conduct and may
27 subject the licensee to disciplinary action.

28 **COST RECOVERY**

11. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 317.5, subdivision (a), states, in
pertinent part:

(a) 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 licensee 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

12. At all relevant times, Respondent worked as a chiropractor at The Joint Chiropractic, located on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, California (Wilshire Clinic)² and owned by Shawn Lee (Chiropractic License No. DC 29789).

Patient E.L.

13. In or around early September 2024, Patient E.L. visited the Wilshire Clinic and received treatment from Respondent. During this appointment, Respondent made a comment about how he had lost weight. E.L. replied that she needed to lose some weight as well. Respondent stated, “Oh no, you look great,” or words to that effect. Respondent continued to make comments that she “looked good” and “looked pretty,” or words to that effect.

14. On or about September 27, 2024, E.L. returned to the Wilshire Clinic and received treatment from Respondent. E.L. informed Respondent that she felt tightness in her hip. Respondent then asked her, “Okay, is it okay with you if we do skin-to-skin contact?” or words to that effect. E.L. agreed. Respondent instructed E.L. to lay face down on the treatment table and covered her with a towel. Respondent then stuck his hand under both E.L.’s pants and underwear and started to massage her bare buttock with his hand.

15. On or about October 3, 2024, E.L. received treatment from Respondent. E.L. reported feeling tightness in her left groin area. Respondent instructed E.L. to lay face down on the treatment table and covered her with a towel. Respondent then massaged her left groin area over her pants, but repeatedly caressed her vagina with his fingers. Respondent then stated to E.L. “Well, I can’t stand up now. I am a man,” or words to that effect, which E.L. understood to mean that Respondent had an erection.

16. E.L. stated that Respondent could move on to treatment on her feet. However, Respondent told E.L. that he had to massage the other side of her groin area and proceeded to do so. E.L. had not reported pain on the other side of her groin area, and Respondent did not request permission to provide this treatment. While massaging the other side of E.L.’s groin area over her pants, Respondent touched E.L.’s vagina again. Respondent then stated, “Okay, I think we need

² The Joint Chiropractic is a nationwide franchise of chiropractic clinics.

1 to do skin-to-skin contact again,” or words to that effect. Respondent put his hand under E.L.’s
2 pants and inside the front of her underwear. After E.L. reacted uncomfortably to the contact,
3 Respondent removed his hand and stated, “Okay, maybe that’s too much,” or words to that effect.

4 17. Later on in the appointment, while sharing their weekend plans, E.L. provided
5 Respondent a card listing the gallery address to her art show. E.L. realized afterwards that the
6 card also listed her phone number. On or about October 6, 2024 (a Sunday), Respondent texted
7 E.L. about not attending her art show. When E.L. asked who was sending the texts, Respondent
8 replied, “It’s Doctor Chris silly” with a rose emoji and an arm emoji.

9 18. On or about October 7, 2024, E.L. filed a complaint with the Board regarding
10 Respondent’s misconduct.

11 Patient A.P.

12 19. From around August 27, 2024 to September 24, 2024, Patient A.P. visited the
13 Wilshire Clinic and received treatment from Respondent.

14 20. During her first appointment with Respondent, Respondent disclosed details about his
15 personal life, such as claiming he was a recovering alcoholic, a member of AA for over 20 years,
16 and a survivor of family sexual abuse.

17 21. During subsequent appointments, Respondent continued to share details of his
18 personal life with A.P., talking about sex and the number of times he had been married and
19 divorced. A.P. felt uncomfortable when Respondent repositioned her on the treatment table, as he
20 would put his hands on her bare skin and her hips.

21 22. During one appointment, Respondent told A.P. that he could bring his massage table
22 and provide her “body work” at her house. Respondent also offered A.P. to come to his house for
23 a massage.

24 23. During their final appointment, Respondent told A.P. that another female client had
25 filed a sexual harassment complaint against him because he had commented on her white toenail
26 polish.³ Respondent told A.P.: “All I told her was that I read something on Facebook that, you
27 know, women who like white toenail polish . . . they’re kind of into . . . some freaky stuff,” or

28 ³ Respondent is likely referring to Patient S.S., based on the facts and timeline of events.

1 words to that effect. Respondent then pointed to A.P.'s feet, which had an off-white toenail
2 polish.

3 24. On or about October 18, 2024, A.P. filed a complaint with the Board regarding
4 Respondent's misconduct.

5 Patient A.C.

6 25. On or about June 22, 2024, Patient A.C. visited the Wilshire Clinic and received
7 treatment from Respondent for the first time. During their initial encounter, A.C. became
8 uncomfortable with the way Respondent looked over her entire body. Respondent then
9 repeatedly fondled her hair. Respondent placed his hand under the left side of her buttocks and
10 pushed upward. Respondent did not discuss this physical adjustment during the initial
11 consultation, and did not inform A.C. prior to performing the adjustment.

12 26. On or about August 13, 2024, A.C. filed a complaint with the Board regarding
13 Respondent's misconduct.

14 Patient S.S.

15 27. In or around July 2024, Patient S.S. visited the Wilshire Clinic and received treatment
16 from Respondent for the first time. Respondent removed S.S.'s sandals in the treatment room and
17 commented on liking S.S.'s white toenail polish. The comment made S.S. feel uncomfortable.

18 Patient N.K.

19 28. On or about March 12, 2024, Patient N.K. visited the Wilshire Clinic and received
20 treatment from Respondent for the first time. Respondent made inappropriate comments to her
21 while providing treatment, which made her feel uncomfortable. Respondent also put his hand on
22 her stomach and pushed her to roll over to do an adjustment. Respondent did not provide N.K.
23 with any explanation before touching and repositioning her body in this manner. N.K. told
24 Respondent to "use your words" to provide her instructions, and Respondent ignored her.

25 K.S.

26 29. K.S. was employed as a Wellness Coordinator at the Wilshire Clinic since April 1,
27 2024. On or about June 18, 2024, K.S. went to Respondent's office to remind him a patient was
28 waiting. Respondent screamed at K.S. and pushed her out the door. At the end of her shift, K.S.

1 went to Respondent's office. When she started to speak to Respondent, Respondent stood up
2 from his desk, shouted at K.S., moved aggressively towards her, grabbed her by the shoulder, and
3 pushed her out the door.

4 30. K.S. also received treatment from Respondent on multiple occasions in or around
5 2024. Upon the Board's request for K.S.'s treatment records, Respondent failed to provide any.

6 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

7 **(Sexual Misconduct)**

8 31. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 10 of the Act; in
9 conjunction with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 316, subdivision (c), and
10 section 317, subdivision (m); and Business and Professions Code section 726, subdivision (a); in
11 that Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct by engaging in inappropriate contact or
12 communication of a sexual nature with Patients E.L., A.P., A.C., S.S., and N.K. Complainant
13 refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations set forth in above paragraphs 12
14 through 30, as though set forth in full herein.

15 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

16 **(Repeated Negligent Acts)**

17 32. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 10 of the Act, in
18 conjunction with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 317, subdivision (b), in that
19 Respondent committed repeated negligent acts towards Patients E.L., A.P., A.C., S.S., and N.K,
20 and individual K.S. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations set
21 forth in above paragraphs 12 through 30, as though set forth in full herein.

22 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

23 **(Endangering the Public)**

24 33. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 10 of the Act, in
25 conjunction with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 317, subdivision (e), in that
26 Respondent committed acts endangering, or likely to endanger, the health, welfare, or safety of
27 Patients E.L., A.P., A.C., S.S., and N.K, and individual K.S. Complainant refers to, and by this
28 reference incorporates, the allegations set forth in above paragraphs 12 through 30, as though set

1 forth in full herein.

2 **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

3 **(Acts of Moral Turpitude, Dishonesty, or Corruption)**

4 34. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 10 of the Act, in
5 conjunction with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 317, subdivision (k), in that
6 Respondent committed acts of moral turpitude, dishonesty, or corruption towards Patients E.L.,
7 A.P., A.C., S.S., and N.K, and individual K.S. Complainant refers to, and by this reference
8 incorporates, the allegations set forth in above paragraphs 12 through 30, as though set forth in
9 full herein.

10 **FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

11 **(Failure to Maintain Patient Records)**

12 35. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 10 of the Act, in
13 conjunction with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 317, subdivision (m), and
14 section 318, subdivision (a), in that Respondent failed to maintain patient records for treatment he
15 provided to K.S. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations set
16 forth in above paragraphs 12 through 30, as though set forth in full herein.

17 **SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

18 **(Failure to Obtain Written Informed Consent)**

19 36. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 10 of the Act, in
20 conjunction with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 317, subdivision (m), and
21 section 319.1, subdivision (a), in that Respondent failed to obtain written informed consent prior
22 to treatment he provided to K.S. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the
23 allegations set forth in above paragraphs 12 through 30, as though set forth in full herein.

24 **SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

25 **(Unprofessional Conduct)**

26 37. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 10 of the Act, in
27 conjunction with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 317, in that Respondent
28 committed unprofessional conduct towards Patients E.L., A.P., A.C., S.S., and N.K, and

individual K.S. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations set forth in above paragraphs 12 through 36, as though set forth in full herein.

DISCIPLINE CONSIDERATIONS

38. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent, Complainant alleges that on or about April 13, 2013, in a prior disciplinary action titled *In the Matter of the Accusation Against Christopher Manuel Cleveland* before the Board (Case Number 2011-896), Respondent's license was placed on probation for 3 years with terms and conditions.

39. The underlying facts in this case were that on or about April 5, 2011, Respondent sustained a criminal conviction of Penal Code section 549 [filing a false and fraudulent insurance claim], a felony.

PRAYER

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

1. Revoking or suspending Chiropractic License Number DC 27977, issued to Christopher Manuel Cleveland;

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

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

DATED: 5/20/2026

Signature on File

KRISTIN WALKER
Executive Officer
Board of Chiropractic Examiners
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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