

1 ROB BONTA  
2 Attorney General of California  
3 ANDREW M. STEINHEIMER  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
4 JEFF STONE  
Deputy Attorney General  
State Bar No. 155190  
1300 I Street, Suite 125  
5 Sacramento, CA 95814  
Telephone: (916) 210-7726  
6 Facsimile: (916) 327-8643  
E-mail: Jeff.Stone@doj.ca.gov  
7 *Attorneys for Complainant*

8

9

10 **BEFORE THE**  
11 **BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS**  
12 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
13 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

14 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

15 Case No. AC 2025-2062

16 **DARIN THOMAS HAWORTH**  
2264 Lake Tahoe Blvd, Suite 9  
17 South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

ACCUSATION

18 **Chiropractic License No. DC 33416**

19 Respondent.

20

21 **PARTIES**

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

25 2. On or about November 10, 2015, the Board issued Chiropractic License Number DC  
26 33416 to Darin Thomas Haworth (Respondent). The Chiropractic License was in full force and  
27 effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on September 30, 2025,  
28 unless renewed.

## **JURISDICTION**

3. This Accusation is brought before the Board under the authority of the following sections of the Chiropractic Act (Act).<sup>1</sup>

4. Section 477 of the Code provides, in pertinent part:

• • •

(b) "License" includes certificate, registration or other means to engage in a business or profession regulated by this code.

5. Section 10, subdivision (a) of the Act states:

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. Such rules or regulations shall be adopted, amended, or repealed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 11371) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code as it now reads or as it may be hereafter amended by the Legislature.

6. California Code of Regulations, title 16 (CCR), 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.

## **REGULATORY PROVISIONS**

7. CCR, section 317, provides, in pertinent part:

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

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

(a) Gross negligence;

1

(e) Any conduct which has endangered the health, welfare, or safety of the public.

<sup>1</sup> 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               ....

2               (w) Not referring a patient to a physician and surgeon or other licensed health

3               care provider who can provide the appropriate management of a patient's physical or

4               mental condition, disease or injury within his or her scope of practice, if in the course

5               of a diagnostic evaluation a chiropractor detects an abnormality that indicates that the

6               patient has a physical or mental condition, disease, or injury that is not subject to

7               appropriate management by chiropractic methods and techniques. This subsection

8               shall not apply where the patient states that he or she is already under the care of such

9               other physician and surgeon or other licensed health care provider who is providing

10               the appropriate management for that physical or mental condition, disease, or injury

11               within his or her scope of practice.

12               ....

13               8.       CCR, section 319.1, states:

14               (a) A licensed doctor of chiropractic shall verbally and in writing inform each

15               patient of the material risks of proposed care. "Material" shall be defined as a

16               procedure inherently involving known risk of serious bodily harm. The chiropractor

17               shall obtain the patient's written informed consent prior to initiating clinical care. The

18               signed written consent shall become part of the patient's record.

19               (b) A violation of this section constitutes unprofessional conduct and may

20               subject the licensee to disciplinary action.

#### COST RECOVERY

21               9.       CCR, section 317.5, subdivision (a), provides, in pertinent part:

22               In any order in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the Board of

23               Chiropractic Examiners, the board may request the administrative law judge to direct

24               a licensee found to have committed a violation or violations of the Chiropractic

25               Initiative Act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and

26               enforcement of the case.

#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

27               10.      On January 16, 2023, A.H. visited Respondent's office at 2264 Lake Tahoe Blvd.,

28               Suite 9, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 regarding treatment for stress related soreness.

29               Respondent did not verbally inform A.H. regarding any risks of chiropractic treatment, and she

30               was not aware of any.

31               11.      During A.H.'s treatment, Respondent performed spinal manipulative therapy.

32               Immediately following, A.H. experienced, among other things, dizziness, loss of vision, double

33               vision, neck pain, headache, and numbness in the left neck and arm areas. A.H. informed

34               Respondent of her pain, discomfort, and symptomology, and Respondent had A.H. lay down with

1 the lights off with an ice pack for approximately 45 minutes. Unable to drive, A.H. was later  
2 picked up at Respondent's office. Respondent's records of that date specifically identify A.H.'s  
3 complaints of dizziness, double vision, neck pain and throbbing in the C-1 vertebral area, inability  
4 to drive, and accompanying anxiety.

5 12. The next day, January 17, 2023, A.H. went to the Carson-Tahoe Hospital with  
6 continuing symptomology. The Carson-Tahoe records confirm A.H.'s reporting of dizziness and  
7 double vision, as well as numbness of the left neck and arm. A computed tomography (CT) scan  
8 was taken, Respondent was diagnosed with a sprained neck and cervical impingement, and  
9 released.

10 13. With continuing symptomology and distress the following day, January 18, 2023,  
11 A.H. went to her primary care physician, who ordered an immediate Magnetic Resonance  
12 Imaging (MRI) of A.H. A.H. was told there was a significant abnormality, and to return to the  
13 Carson-Tahoe Hospital. A.H. did so, where she was admitted for treatment, and diagnosed with a  
14 vertebral artery dissection which had resulted in approximately three strokes.

15 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

16 (Unprofessional Conduct - Gross Negligence)

17 14. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under CCR, section 317, subdivision (a),  
18 in that Respondent committed acts of gross negligence, including failing to ensure appropriate  
19 emergency medical care for A.H after observing her post-treatment symptomology, as set forth  
20 above in paragraphs 10 through 13 above, incorporated herein.

21 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

22 (Unprofessional Conduct - Endangering Health, Welfare or Safety)

23 15. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under CCR, section 317, subdivision (e),  
24 in that Respondent committed acts endangering the health, welfare, or safety of patient A.H.,  
25 including failing to ensure appropriate emergency medical care for A.H after observing her post-  
26 treatment symptomology, as set forth above in paragraphs 10 through 14 above, incorporated  
27 herein.

28 ///

### **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

### (Unprofessional Conduct - Failure to Refer)

16. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under CCR, section 317, subdivision (w), in that Respondent failed to ensure/refer appropriate emergency medical care for A.H after observing her post-treatment symptomology, as set forth above in paragraphs 10 through 15 above, incorporated herein.

## **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

### (Unprofessional Conduct - Informed Consent)

17. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under CCR, section 319.1, subdivision (a), in that Respondent failed to verbally inform A.H. of the material risks of his proposed care, including risk of stroke, as set forth above in paragraphs 10 through 13 above, incorporated herein.

## **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 33416, issued to Darin Thomas Haworth;

2. Ordering Darin Thomas Haworth 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: 9.17.2025

Signature on File  
KRISTIN WALKER  
Executive Officer  
Board of Chiropractic Examiners  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
State of California  
*Complainant*

SA2025303809/Accusation.docx