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

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. AC 2025-2065

13 **CHRISTOPHER DOUGLAS MCLAINE**
14 **3679 Voltaire St, Suite A**
San Diego, CA 92106

ACCUSATION

15 **Chiropractic License No. DC 33782**

16 Respondent.

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19 **PARTIES**

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

23 2. On or about February 3, 2017, Board of Chiropractic Examiners issued Chiropractic
24 License Number DC 33782 to Christopher Douglas McLaine (Respondent). The Chiropractic
25 License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will
26 expire on March 31, 2026, unless renewed.

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JURISDICTION

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

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 Chiropractic Initiative Act.

5. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 372, provides that the suspension, expiration, forfeiture, or surrender of a license shall not deprive the Board of its authority to institute or continue a disciplinary proceeding against a licensee, or its authority to suspend, revoke, or take other disciplinary action against the license.

STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

6. Section 490 of the Code states:

(a) In addition to any other action that a board is permitted to take against a licensee, a board may suspend or revoke a license on the ground that the licensee has been convicted of a crime, if the crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the license was issued.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a board may exercise any authority to discipline a licensee for conviction of a crime that is independent of the authority granted under subdivision (a) only if the crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the licensee's license was issued.

(c) A conviction within the meaning of this section means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. Any action that a board is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code.

(d) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the application of this section has been made unclear by the holding in *Petropoulos v. Department of Real Estate* (2006) 142 Cal.App.4th 554, and that the holding in that case has

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.

placed a significant number of statutes and regulations in question, resulting in potential harm to the consumers of California from licensees who have been convicted of crimes. Therefore, the Legislature finds and declares that this section establishes an independent basis for a board to impose discipline upon a licensee, and that the amendments to this section made by Senate Bill 797 of the 2007 -08 Regular Session do not constitute a change to, but rather are declaratory of, existing law.

7. Section 493 of the Code states:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in a proceeding conducted by a board within the department pursuant to law to deny an application for a license or to suspend or revoke a license or otherwise take disciplinary action against a person who holds a license, upon the ground that the applicant or the licensee has been convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of the licensee in question, the record of conviction of the crime shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that the conviction occurred, but only of that fact, and the board may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime in order to fix the degree of discipline or to determine if the conviction is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of the licensee in question.

As used in this section, 'license' includes 'certificate,' 'permit,' 'authority,' and 'registration.'

8. Section 726 of the Code 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 or under any initiative act referred to in this division.

(b) This section shall not apply to consensual sexual contact between a licensee and his or her spouse or person in an equivalent domestic relationship when that licensee provides medical treatment, to his or her spouse or person in an equivalent domestic relationship.

9. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 316, states:

(b) Where a chiropractic license is used in connection with any premises, 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.

(c) The commission of any act of sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, or sexual 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 qualifications, functions, or duties of a chiropractic license.

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10. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 317, states:

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:

....

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

....

(g) Conviction of a crime which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a chiropractor;

....

COSTS

11. California Code of Regulations, 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 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.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Criminal Conviction for Battery and Lewd Acts)

12. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Business and Professions Code section 490 and section 10 of the Act, and California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 317, subdivision (g) in that Respondent was convicted of a crime that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a chiropractor. The circumstances are as follows:

a. On or about May 7, 2025, in a criminal proceeding entitled *People of the State of California v. Christopher D. McLaine*, San Diego Superior Case Number SWF1201936, Respondent plead guilty to one misdemeanor count of violating Penal Code section 647 (a), lewd acts, and one misdemeanor count of violating Penal Code section 242, battery. Three

1 misdemeanor counts of Penal Code section 243.4(e)(1) (sexual battery) were dismissed pursuant
2 to the plea agreement.

3 b. As a result of his conviction, Respondent was sentenced to one-year formal
4 probation, 50 hours of volunteer work, 26 sessions of counseling, ordered to pay fines and fees,
5 and required to pay victim restitution.

6 c. The facts that lead to the conviction are as follows:

7 i. Patient 1: On or about July 29, 2023, Respondent assaulted Patient 1 during
8 her chiropractic treatment session. During the treatment, Respondent's hand went under Patient's
9 underwear and touched her vagina. Respondent then grabbed Patient 1's hand and told her to feel
10 the energy flowing over her vagina and physically directed Patient 1's hand to touch her own
11 vagina.

12 ii. Patient 2: On or about June 14, 2023, Respondent completed an "internal
13 adjustment" on Patient 2 by placing his fingers inside of her vagina without gloves on and then
14 popping her hips. After the adjustment, Respondent moved Patient 2's underwear and stated that
15 he needed to adjust "down here" while trying to touch her clitoris.

16 iii. Patient 3: On or about July 18, 2023, Respondent was providing
17 chiropractic treatment to Patient 3. While adjusting Patient 3, Respondent was working on her left
18 leg and his hand began to move up the leg. Respondent's fingers began to go into Patient 3's
19 underwear and Patient 3 moved away and stopped Respondent.

20 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

21 **(Unprofessional Conduct – Engaging in Conduct Which Endangers the Health, Welfare, or** 22 **Safety of the Public)**

23 13. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 10 of the Act, and
24 California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 317, subdivision (e) in that Respondent engaged
25 in conduct which endangered the health, welfare or safety of the public, as detailed in paragraph
26 12, above.

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THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct - Commission of Acts of Sexual Misconduct with Patients)

14. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 10 of the Act, Business and Professions Code section 726, and California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 317, subdivision (m), in that Respondent committed multiple acts of sexual misconduct against multiple patients in violation of California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 316, subdivision (c), as described in paragraph 12, above.

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 33782, issued to Christopher Douglas McLaine;
- 2. Ordering Christopher Douglas McLaine 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: 09/17/2025

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

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