

DOCKET NO. 2002-26

IN THE MATTER

§

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF

OF THE LICENSE OF

§

DENICE R. GRIFFIN, D.V.M.

§

VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

RECEIVED  
MAY 13 2002  
State Board of Veterinary  
Medical Examiners

### AGREED ORDER

On this, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2002 came on to be considered by the Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") the matter of the license of Denice R. Griffin, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 801.408, Texas Occupations Code and Board Rule 575.27, Respondent was invited to an informal conference held on March 21, 2002. Respondent did not appear at the conference. The Board was represented at the conference by the Board's Enforcement Committee.

Respondent, without admitting the truth of the findings and conclusions set out in this Agreed Order, wishes to waive a formal adjudicative hearing and thereby informally dispose of the compliance issues set out below. Respondent agrees to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in this Order. In waiving an adjudicative hearing, Respondent acknowledges her understanding of the alleged violations and the adequacy and sufficiency of the notice mailed to her.

Upon the recommendation of the Enforcement Committee and with Respondent's consent, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and enters this Agreed Order as set forth below.

#### Findings of Fact

1. On December 4, 2001 Board investigators conducted a compliance inspection at the Benbrook Animal Hospital, Benbrook, Texas. During the inspection, Denice R. Griffin, D.V.M., was asked to produce her Department of Public Safety (DPS) Controlled Substance Registration. Dr. Griffin was unable to produce the document. It was determined from the DPS database that Dr. Griffin was not currently registered with the DPS.
2. Dr. Griffin received her veterinary medical license on May 14, 1999. On February 12, 2002, the Board received a copy of Dr. Griffin's DPS registration which was issued on January 4, 2002. Dr. Griffin is authorized to practice under the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Controlled Substance Registration issued to her employer.

#### Conclusions of Law

1. Respondent is required to comply with the provisions of the Veterinary Licensing Act,

Chapter 801, Texas Occupations Code, and with the Board's rules.

2. Based on Findings of Fact 1 and 2, Respondent has violated Rule 573.43, MISUSE OF DEA NARCOTICS REGISTRATION, of the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct, which states that it is unprofessional conduct for a licensee to prescribe, dispense, deliver or order delivered, any controlled substance, unless she is currently registered with the DEA and the DPS.

3. Based on Conclusions of Law 1 and 2, Respondent has violated Section 801.402 (6) of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code, and is subject to disciplinary action by the Board:

801.402. GENERAL GROUNDS FOR LICENSE DENIAL OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION. A person is subject to denial of a license or to disciplinary action under Section 801.402 if the person:

(6) engages in practices or conduct that violates the board's rules of professional conduct.

4. Based on Conclusion of Law 3, Respondent may be disciplined in the manner set out in Section 801.401, DISCIPLINARY POWERS OF BOARD, of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code, which may include revocation or suspension of a license, probation of a person whose license has been suspended, a reprimand, or a civil penalty.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD AND RESPONDENT AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

The Board ORDERS that Respondent be officially REPRIMANDED.

The Board further ORDERS that Respondent pay within 45 days of the date of this Order, a CIVIL PENALTY of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00).

The Board further ORDERS that the Respondent take and pass the Board's Jurisprudence Examination within 45 days of the date of this Order.

The Board further ORDERS that:

1. Respondent shall abide by the Rules of Professional Conduct, the Texas Veterinary Licensing Act and the laws of the State of Texas and the United States.

2. Respondent shall cooperate with the Board's attorneys, investigators, compliance officers and other employees and agents investigating Respondent's compliance with this order.

3. Failure by Respondent to comply with the terms of this Agreed Order or with any other provision of the Act or the Board Rules, may result in further disciplinary action.

Respondent, by signing this Agreed Order, acknowledges her understanding of the Agreed Order, the notice, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law herein set forth, and agrees that she will satisfactorily comply with the mandates of the Agreed Order in a timely manner or be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by the Board.

Respondent, by signing this Agreed Order, waives her right to a formal hearing and any right to seek judicial review of this Order. Respondent acknowledges that she is entitled to be represented by an attorney of Respondent's choice at his expense. Respondent has voluntarily represented himself.

RESPONDENT WAIVES ANY FURTHER HEARINGS OR APPEALS TO THE BOARD OR TO ANY COURT IN REGARD TO ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS AGREED ORDER. NOTHING IN THIS ORDER SHALL BE DEEMED A WAIVER OF RESPONDENT'S RIGHTS UNDER STATUTE OR UNDER THE UNITED STATES OR TEXAS CONSTITUTIONS TO APPEAL AN ORDER OR ACTION OF THE BOARD SUBSEQUENT TO THIS AGREED ORDER EXCEPT AS RESPONDENT MAY HAVE OTHERWISE AGREED TO HEREIN. RESPONDENT AGREES THAT THIS IS A FINAL ORDER.

The date of this Agreed Order shall be the date it is adopted by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

I, DENICE R. GRIFFIN, HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING AGREED ORDER. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING IT, I WAIVE CERTAIN RIGHTS. I SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS ORDER CONTAINS THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND THERE IS NO OTHER AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND, VERBAL, WRITTEN OR OTHERWISE.

Denice R. Griffin, DVM  
Denice R. Griffin, D.V.M.

5/10/02  
DATE

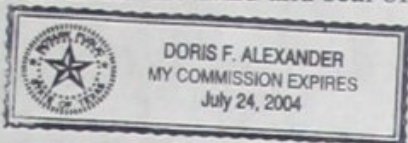
STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF Grain

BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared Denice R. Griffin, D.V.M., known to me to be

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the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing Agreed Order, and acknowledged to me that she executed the same for the purposes stated therein.

Given under the hand and seal of office this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2002



Doris Alexander  
Notary Public

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the 13 day of June, 2002

Martin E. Garcia  
Martin E. Garcia, D.V.M.  
President of the Board