

BEFORE THE  
OREGON BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS  
STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of,

**ROBERT SANDERS, DC,  
License No. 5983**

Case No. 2025-5001

# ORDER FOR EMERGENCY SUSPENSION OF LICENSE AND NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

The Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners (Board or OBCE) is the state agency responsible for licensing, regulating, and disciplining chiropractic physicians in the State of Oregon. Robert Sanders, D.C. (Licensee), is currently licensed by the Board to practice as a chiropractic physician in Oregon and is subject to the jurisdiction of the OBCE. Effective January 30, 2025, Licensee is ordered to immediately stop practicing chiropractic until further order of the Board.

## ORDER

1.

Under ORS 183.430(2) and ORS 684.100(3), the Board is authorized to enter a suspension order when it finds that the continued practice by a chiropractic physician presents a serious danger to the public health or safety. The Board finds that Licensee has been and will likely continue to engage in unprofessional or dishonorable conduct including multiple incidents of sexual misconduct, sexual violations, and sexual impropriety against several patients contrary to recognized standard of ethics of the chiropractic profession in violation of ORS 684.100(1)(f)(A), (C), ORS 684.100(1)(p), OAR 811-035-0015(1), 811-035-0015(11), 811-035-0015(24), 811-035-0019, 811-035-0019(1)(a), 811-035-0019(2), 811-035-0019(3)(g), 811-035-0019(3)(l), 811-035-0019(4)(d), 811-035-0019(4)(e), and 811-035-0019(4)(g). Such conduct constitutes a serious danger to the health or safety of patients and the public. Pursuant to ORS 684.100(9)(c) and OAR 811-035-0025, the Board is authorized to suspend a chiropractic physician's license for engaging in unprofessional or dishonorable conduct including sexual

misconduct, sexual violations, and sexual impropriety, for violations of any provision of ORS chapter 684 or any rule adopted thereunder, or for gross or repeated malpractice.

2.

The Board licensed Licensee to practice chiropractic in this state on or about April 3, 2019, and maintains an Oregon license. In June 2024, Licensee started working as an employee and chiropractic physician at Aspen Chiropractic in Cottage Grove, Oregon.

3.

The Board finds that Licensee engaged in and is likely to continue to engage in unprofessional or dishonorable conduct and gross or repeated malpractice including multiple incidents of sexual misconduct, sexual violations, and sexual impropriety against several patients contrary to recognized standard of ethics of the chiropractic profession as follows:

- Between June 2024 and the present, while working as a chiropractic physician, Licensee engaged in unprofessional conduct that is harmful to the public in violation of OAR 811-035-0015(1), 811-035-0015(24), 811-035-0019(1)(a), 811-035-0019(2), and 811-035-0019(4)(e) when Licensee told Patient 1 two separate times before adjusting the patient's ribs: "It's tittie time." Patient 1 also works as a Chiropractic Assistant at Aspen Chiropractic. Licensee's conduct is harmful to the public, departs from minimal standards of acceptable chiropractic practice, shows a willful or careless disregard for the health, welfare, or safety of patients, and may reasonably be interpreted as sexual and sexually demeaning, exploited the licensee-patient relationship in a sexual way. This conduct was not diagnostic or therapeutic, is devaluing, demeaning, and offensive, and creates an unsafe treatment environment.
- Between October 1, 2024 and January 11, 2025, while treating Patient 2, Licensee engaged in unprofessional conduct that is harmful to the public in violation of OAR 811-035-0015(1), 811-035-0015(11), 811-035-0015(24), 811-035-0019(1)(a), 811-035-0019(2), 811-035-0019(4)(e), (g) when Licensee made degrading, derogatory, vulgar, and offensive sexual comments to and in the presence of Patient 2 during treatment, including comments that Patient 2 reasonably understood to be references to Licensee being sexually aroused or excited around Patient 2, comments about Patient 2 being a "screamer" as a sexual reference, comments about Licensee's sexual performance (i.e. that he could go "all night long") and ("popping [a patient's] cherry"). Licensee's comments made Patient 2 uncomfortable, and Patient 2 told Licensee that. Licensee then discussed Patient 2's response with another patient (violating Patient 2's right to privacy), including that he did not understand why Patient 2 would have a problem with the sexualized jokes and comments. Licensee also spoke about other patients Licensee was treating in front of Patient 2. Licensee did not stop making sexualized and vulgar comments while treating Patient 2, including yelling "nice tits" as Patient 2 and another patient were leaving the clinic after Patient 2 had asked Licensee to cease making such comments. Licensee's conduct is harmful to the public,

1 departs from minimal standards of acceptable chiropractic practice, shows a willful or  
2 careless disregard for the health, welfare, or safety of patients. Licensee's conduct may  
3 reasonably be interpreted as sexual and sexually demeaning, exploited the licensee-  
patient relationship in a sexual way, was not diagnostic or therapeutic, is devaluing,  
demeaning, and offensive and creates an unsafe treatment environment.

- 4 • Between October 1, 2024 and January 11, 2025, while treating Patient 3, Licensee  
5 engaged in unprofessional conduct that is harmful to the public in violation of OAR  
6 811-035-0015(1), 811-035-0015(11), 811-035-0015(24), 811-035-0019(1)(a), and  
7 811-035-0019(2) when Licensee made sexual comments (referring to the first treatment  
8 as "popping [Patient 3]'s cherry"), asking if Patient 3 needed more foreplay, and  
9 making comments that were reasonably understood to refer to Licensee's genitals.  
10 Licensee continued to make sexualized jokes and references over the course of treating  
11 Patient 3. Licensee also spoke to Patient 3 about other patients Licensee was treating.  
12 Licensee's comments were made in the presence of Patient 2. Licensee's conduct is  
13 harmful to the public, departs from minimal standards of acceptable chiropractic  
14 practice, shows a willful or careless disregard for the health, welfare, or safety of  
15 patients. Licensee's conduct may reasonably be interpreted as sexual and sexually  
16 demeaning, exploited the licensee-patient relationship in a sexual way, was not  
17 diagnostic or therapeutic, is devaluing, demeaning, and offensive and creates an unsafe  
18 treatment environment.
- 19 • Between June 2024 and the present, while working as a chiropractic physician,  
20 Licensee engaged in unprofessional conduct that is harmful to the public in violation  
21 of ORS 684.100(1)(f)(A), OAR 811-035-0015(1), 811-035-0015(24), 811-035-  
22 0019(1)(a), 811-035-0019(2), 811-035-0019(4)(e), and 811-035-0019(4)(g) when  
23 Licensee inquired about a patient's sexual preferences (i.e., asking if Patient 4 was into  
24 "ribbon play" which Patient 4 reasonably understood to be a reference to sexual  
25 preferences including restraining a sexual partner). Licensee stared at Patient 4's  
26 breasts for an uncomfortably long time while shaking her to loosen the patient's chest  
muscles and commented that it is "fun" to watch the patient's "arms jiggle." Licensee  
yelled "nice tits" towards Patient 4 and another patient (Patient 2) while they walked  
together from the clinic and then clarified that he was talking about Patient 4's breasts.  
Licensee's conduct is harmful to the public, departs from minimal standards of  
acceptable chiropractic practice, shows a willful or careless disregard for the health,  
welfare, or safety of patients. Licensee's conduct may reasonably be interpreted as  
sexual and sexually demeaning, exploited the licensee-patient relationship in a sexual  
way, was not diagnostic or therapeutic, is devaluing, demeaning, and offensive and  
creates an unsafe treatment environment.
- Between June 2024 and the present, while working as a chiropractic physician,  
Licensee engaged in unprofessional conduct that is harmful to the public in violation  
of ORS 684.100(1)(f)(A), OAR 811-035-0015(1), 811-035-0015(24), 811-035-  
0019(1)(a), 811-035-0019(2), 811-035-0019, OAR 811-035-0019(1)(a), 811-035-  
0019(2), and 811-035-0019(3)(g) in the following ways:
  - repeatedly grabbing and slapping the buttocks of a Chiropractic Assistant at  
Aspen Chiropractic who was also Licensee's patient (Patient 5), as defined by  
OAR 811-010-0005(9) and 811-035-0019(5). This occurred daily and several  
times throughout the day while Patient 5 was working, including when bringing  
other patients to Licensee for treatment;

- grabbing Patient 5 in what may appear as a hug, without consent, and would not release Patient 5, would lift Patient 5 up in this position, and would carry Patient 5;
- pulling Patient 5's hair;
- slapping or cupping Patient 5's vagina from behind (Licensee called this "the reach-around slap"), including cupping his hand to Patient 5's vagina when they passed in the hallway;
- acknowledging that Licensee engaged in such conduct towards Patient 5 specifically to make Patient 5 uncomfortable;
- engaging in such conduct in front of other patients and employees;
- slapping Patient 5's buttocks during treatment on or about September 30, 2024, while saying "look at that thing go";
- putting hands on Patient 5 including over Patient 5's throat and holding Patient 5 by the ponytail while saying: "if only I could just get you alone" in a way that could reasonably be understood and Patient 5 did understand as threatening;
- making sexually explicit and sexually violent comments to Patient 5 (i.e. having a "wet dream" about Patient 5, dreaming about raping Patient 5, and about tying Patient 5 down);
- threatening to hurt Patient 5 if Patient 5 were to report Licensee's conduct while snapping Patient 5's elbow in a rough and severely painful manner.

- Licensee's conduct towards Patient 5 was ongoing. The conduct and behavior is seriously harmful to the public, departs from minimal standards of acceptable chiropractic practice, shows a willful or careless disregard for the health, welfare, or safety of patients. Licensee's conduct may reasonably be interpreted as sexual and sexually demeaning, exploited the licensee-patient relationship in a sexual way, was not diagnostic or therapeutic, is devaluing, demeaning, and offensive and creates an unsafe treatment environment.
- Between June 2024 and the present, while working as a chiropractic physician, Licensee engaged in unprofessional conduct that is harmful to the public in violation of OAR 811-035-0015(1), 811-035-0015(24), 811-035-0019(1)(a), 811-035-0019(3)(l), and 811-035-0019(4)(d) when during treatment, Licensee tried to grab Patient 6's hands, flirted with Patient 6, commented that Licensee was struggling to control himself, commented that Patient 6 dressed in a way that Licensee could not handle (a comment that made Patient 6 uncomfortable and appeared to Patient 6 as a sexual comment). Licensee then repeatedly contacted Patient 6, including via social media and by leaving recorded messages, asking Patient to go out on dates, invited Patient 7 to his home, and in response to her refusals, Licensee left voice messages saying he wanted to "fuck" Patient 6 and detailing how he would do that to Patient 6. These messages were offensive and scary to Patient 6. Patient 6 felt and continues to feel threatened, harassed, and unsafe. The conduct and behavior is seriously harmful to the public, departs from minimal standards of acceptable chiropractic practice, shows a willful or careless disregard for the health, welfare, or safety of patients. Licensee's conduct may reasonably be interpreted as sexual and sexually demeaning, exploited the licensee-patient relationship in a sexual way, was not diagnostic or therapeutic, is devaluing, demeaning, and offensive and creates an unsafe treatment environment.
- Between June 2024 and the present, while working as a chiropractic physician, Licensee engaged in unprofessional conduct that is harmful to the public in violation of OAR 811-035-0015(1), 811-035-0015(24), 811-035-0019(1)(a), 811-035-0019(3)(l) by hitting on (making sexual or romantic advances) towards Patient 7 while treating the patient. Patient 7 was Licensee's patient and a Chiropractic Assistant at

1 Aspen Chiropractic. Licensee's conduct is harmful to the public, departs from minimal  
2 standards of acceptable chiropractic practice, shows a willful or careless disregard for  
the health, welfare, or safety of patients, and may reasonably be interpreted as sexual  
or romantic and creates an unsafe treatment environment.

3 4.

4 On about January 15, 2025, Licensee notified the Board that he was no longer working at  
5 Aspen Chiropractic, was "working on a new clinic," and in the meantime, to use Licensee's  
6 home address. OAR 811-010-0015 requires that Licensee's maintain a current business and  
7 mailing addresses, including all practice locations, with the Board. The Board was further  
8 informed that Licensee was practicing out of his home and actively seeking patients.

9 5.

10 Since leaving Aspen Chiropractic, several patients have disclosed to other chiropractic  
11 physicians at Aspen Chiropractic that Licensee inappropriately touched their breasts, pubic areas,  
12 and/or buttocks areas while treating them. Some patients have revealed concerns but have  
13 expressed fear of Licensee if they provide additional details or reveal their identities. Licensee's  
14 conduct presents a serious danger to the public health or safety including, but not limited to,  
15 anyone seeking chiropractic care. Licensee's conduct is very dangerous to anyone seeking  
16 chiropractic care who has experienced trauma including violence or sexual abuse. In view of the  
17 nature of the alleged misconduct, the number of patients violated, the pervasive and ongoing  
18 nature of the conduct, Licensee's blatant disregard for requests that the conduct stop, that  
19 Licensee does these things in front of others, Licensee's threatening and violent behavior  
20 towards those who resist or refuse his advances, Licensee's threats to prevent anyone from  
21 disclosing the conduct, that Licensee continues to practice and is now doing so out of his home,  
22 the Board finds Licensee poses a serious danger to patients and the public health or safety if  
23 Licensee is permitted to continue to practice chiropractic prior to any completion of a hearing.

24 6.

25 Accordingly, Licensee's license is suspended effective January 30, 2025.

26 ///

1  
2 **NOTICE OF HEARING RIGHTS**

3 **7.**

4 You, Licensee, have the right, if requested, to a formal hearing to contest this suspension  
5 order. To have a hearing, you must request one in writing. Your written hearing request must be  
6 sent or delivered to OBCE at:

7 1225 Ferry St SE  
8 Salem, OR 97301

9 **8.**

10 The Board must **receive** your written hearing request within 90 days from the date this  
11 order was served on you by certified mail or your right to request a hearing will be waived.

12 **9.**

13 You have a right to demand that the hearing be held as soon as practicable after the Board  
14 receives your written request. If requested, such a hearing will be held pursuant to the  
15 Administrative Procedures Act in ORS Chapter 183. The hearing will be held by an  
16 Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings, as required by ORS  
17 183.635. You will be notified of the date, time, and place of the hearing. If you wish, you may  
18 hire an attorney to represent you in these proceedings and at the hearing. You have a right to  
19 respond to and present evidence and argument on all issues. If you have limited resources, legal  
20 aid organizations may be able to assist. Any respondent that is a corporation, partnership,  
21 limited liability company, unincorporated association, trust, or government body must be  
22 represented an attorney licensed to practice in Oregon, including in the request for hearing.  
23 After the hearing, an order confirming, altering or revoking this suspension order will be issued.

24 **10.**

25 If you timely request a hearing, but later withdraw your hearing request, fail to appear at  
26 the hearing, fail to appear at a scheduled hearing on time, or notify the Board or administrative

1 law judge that you do not intend to appear at the hearing, you will have waived your right to a  
2 hearing. In that event, the Board designates the relevant portions of its file, including all  
3 materials it obtained and that you have submitted, as the record for purposes of this emergency  
4 suspension order.


5 **NOTICE TO ACTIVE DUTY SERVICEMEMBERS**

6 11.

7 Active-duty service members have a right to stay these proceedings under the  
8 federal Service Members Civil Relief Act. For more information contact the Oregon State Bar at  
9 800-452-8260, the Oregon Military Department at 800-452-7500 or the nearest United States  
10 Armed Forces Legal Assistance Office through <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>.

11 DATED this 30<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025.

12 **BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS**  
13 State of Oregon

14   
15 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
16 Cassandra C. McLeod-Skinner, J.D.  
17 Executive Director  
18 Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Cassandra C. McLeod-Skinner, certify that on January 31, 2025, I served the foregoing Order of Emergency Suspension of License and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing with Notice to active duty servicemembers upon the party hereto, by mailing, certified mail, postage prepaid, a true, exact and full copy thereof to:

Robert Sanders

[REDACTED]

Robert Sanders

[REDACTED]

A copy by email to:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

Cassandra C. McLeod-Skinner, J.D.  
Executive Director  
Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners