

**BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF MEDICINE**

**IN RE: SHANNON MICHAEL FINCH, M.D.**  
**License Number: 0101-223610**  
**Case Numbers: 189522, 189238**


**ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2408.1(A), a quorum of the Board of Medicine ("Board") met by telephone conference call on October 4, 2018, after a good faith effort to convene a regular meeting of the Board had failed. The purpose of the meeting was to receive and act upon information indicating that Shannon Michael Finch, M.D., may have violated certain laws relating to the practice of medicine and surgery in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as more fully set forth in the "Notice of Formal Administrative Hearing and Statement of Allegations," which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.

WHEREUPON, pursuant to its authority under Virginia Code § 54.1-2408.1(A), the Board concludes that a substantial danger to public health or safety warrants this action and ORDERS that the license of Shannon Michael Finch, M.D., to practice medicine and surgery in the Commonwealth of Virginia is SUSPENDED. It is further ORDERED that a hearing be convened within a reasonable time of the date of entry of this Order to receive and act upon evidence in this matter.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400.2, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record and shall be made available for public inspection or copying on request.

**FOR THE BOARD**

*for*   
\_\_\_\_\_  
William L. Harp, M.D.  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Medicine

ENTERED: 10/4/2018

---

## STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS

---

The Board alleges that:

1. At all times relevant hereto, Shannon Michael Finch, M.D., was licensed to practice medicine and surgery in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

2. Dr. Finch violated Virginia Code § 54.1-2915.A(3), (12), (13), (16), (18), and (19) and 18 VAC 85-20-100.A and B of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Podiatry and Chiropractic (“Regulations”) in that, between on or about May 4, 2018 and on or about July 20, 2018, Dr. Finch engaged in sexual contact intended for his sexual arousal or gratification with Patient A, concurrent with and by virtue of the practitioner-patient relationship and/or, during the course of the practitioner/patient relationship, otherwise engaged in conduct of a sexual nature that a reasonable patient would consider lewd and offensive. Specifically:

a. On or about May 4, 2018, Patient A presented to Dr. Finch for treatment of chronic pain, degeneration of lumbar intervertebral disc, fibromyalgia, and migraine headaches, including pain from a recent back injury. Under the guise of a physical examination of Patient A’s back, Dr. Finch pushed up the sports bra Patient A was wearing, exposing her breasts. Dr. Finch then turned Patient A so that she was facing him and placed his mouth on her breast, while also guiding her hand to his penis.

b. On or about June 5, 2018, Patient A again presented to Dr. Finch for a treatment visit. At this time, Dr. Finch unbuttoned and unzipped Patient A’s pants, and attempted to remove them. Dr. Finch then placed his hand inside Patient A’s underwear and attempted to stimulate her sexually. Dr. Finch moved Patient A so that she was seated in a chair in front of him, unzipped his pants, and moved his erect penis to her mouth.

c. At the direction of the Bristol Virginia Police Department (“BVPD”), Patient A again presented to Dr. Finch for a treatment visit on or about July 20, 2018, with audio and video surveillance equipment provided by BVPD. The surveillance footage shows Dr. Finch pulling down Patient A’s shorts and underwear, touching her bare buttocks, and guiding her hand to his penis.

d. In interviews with a Senior Investigator for the Department of Health Professions (“Investigator”) on or about July 30 and 31, 2018, Dr. Finch admitted that he engaged in sexual contact with Patient A during her last three office visits, including touching her buttocks, putting his mouth on her breast, guiding her hand to his penis, and placing his penis in her mouth, as described above.

3. Dr. Finch violated Virginia Code § 54.1-2915.A(3), (12), (13), (16), (18), and (19) and 18 VAC 85-20-100.A and B of the Regulations in that, between in or about March 2015 and in or about June 2016, Dr. Finch engaged in sexual contact intended for his sexual arousal or gratification with Patient B, concurrent with and by virtue of the practitioner-patient relationship and/or, during the course of the practitioner/patient relationship otherwise engaged in conduct of a sexual nature that a reasonable patient would consider lewd and offensive. Specifically:

a. During a regular office visit, Dr. Finch asked to “look at” Patient B’s breasts. Assuming that Dr. Finch intended to perform a breast examination, Patient B lifted her shirt and unhooked her bra. Rather than perform a clinical examination, Dr. Finch began caressing Patient B’s breasts with both hands. Patient B immediately requested that Dr. Finch stop, which he did.

b. Subsequently, Dr. Finch would ask to “feel” Patient B’s breasts at each office visit, which she declined. Dr. Finch regularly made comments about her breast implants looking nice

and told her that she was pretty. On another occasion, ostensibly while conducting an examination of Patient B's back, Dr. Finch rubbed Patient B's buttocks.

c. Approximately three to four months after the events described in paragraph 3(a), *supra*, Patient B again presented to Dr. Finch's office for a routine medical appointment. When Dr. Finch entered the examination room, Patient B was seated in a chair and Dr. Finch sat in front of a computer and began asking questions about Patient B's health. Without warning, Dr. Finch stood and approached Patient B with his erect penis exposed. Before Patient B could react, Dr. Finch placed his penis in Patient B's mouth. An employee of Dr. Finch's practice then knocked on, and opened, the door to the examination room. Dr. Finch attempted to replace his clothing and return to his seat; however when Dr. Finch attempted to sit, he "missed" the chair/stool and fell in the floor. A former medical assistant in Dr. Finch's practice confirmed to a BVPD detective that she recalled an incident where she entered an examination room and saw Dr. Finch lying on his back on the floor, with a look of shock.

d. In a letter to the Investigator, dated September 5, 2018, Dr. Finch admitted that he inappropriately touched Patient B, to include touching her buttocks and breasts, on several occasions during 2016 office visits.

4. Dr. Finch violated Virginia Code § 54.1-2915.A(10) in that on or about July 30, 2018, regarding the acts described in Paragraph 2, *supra*, Dr. Finch was arrested and charged in the General District Court for Bristol, Virginia, with one count of attempted forcible sodomy, in violation of Virginia Code § 18.2-67.1, a felony; and three counts of sexual battery, in violation of Virginia Code § 18.2-67.4, a Class 1 misdemeanor. On or about August 13, 2018, regarding the acts described in paragraph 3, *supra*, Dr. Finch was arrested and charged in the General District Court for Bristol, Virginia, with one count of forcible sodomy, in violation of Virginia Code § 18.2-67.1, a felony.

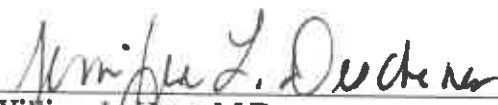
5. Dr. Finch violated Virginia Code §§ 54.1-2915.A(8), (13), (16), (17), and (18), 54.1-3303.A, 54.1-3408, 54-1-3408.01, and 18 VAC 85-20-29.A(1) of the Regulations in that, between on or about July 30, 2018, when Dr. Finch was arrested on the charges described in Paragraph 4, *supra*, and on or about July 31, 2018, when Dr. Finch was released from confinement on bond, Dr. Finch allowed unlicensed staff to authorize prescriptions and/or renewals in accordance with his office's previously established "protocol". On or about July 31, 2018, a pharmacist in Bristol, Virginia, contacted a Pharmacy Inspector for the Virginia Department of Health Professions and reported that they received an electronically transmitted prescription for hydrochlorothiazide, purportedly from Dr. Finch, when it was the pharmacy's understanding that Dr. Finch was in jail.

6. Dr. Finch violated Virginia Code § 54.1-2915.A(4) and (14) in that he is unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety, due to:

- a. the acts described in paragraphs 2 and 3, *supra*;
- b. representations by his attorney that Dr. Finch was diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder with sexual addiction; and
- c. Dr. Finch's self-report that he has a sex addiction, is addicted to pornography, and "needs help."

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400.2(K), the Board considered whether to disclose or not disclose Dr. Finch's health records or health services.

See Confidential Attachment for the names of the patients referenced above.

  
for William L. Harp, M.D.  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Medicine

10/4/2018  
Date