

**Law Offices of
George A. Shohet
A Professional Corporation**

September 11, 2023

Mr. George Parisotto, Administrative Director
Department of Industrial Relations
Division of Workers' Compensation
Office of the Administrative Director
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1700
Oakland, California 94612

Re: Provider Suspension Hearing – AD PS-23-16 (Frontline Medical Associates, Inc.)

Dear Mr. Parisotto,

This firm represents Frontline Medical Associates, Inc. (“Frontline”), a former medical corporation which ceased seeing patients in or about June 2010 and formally ceased being a medical corporation in or about July 2011.

By letter dated August 8, 2023, the Administrative Director notified Frontline that pursuant to Labor Code section 139.21(a)(1)(D) it would be suspended from participation in the California workers' compensation system because it is allegedly controlled by individuals Paul Turley, Rosa Bernal and Hector Sandoval all of whom have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor described in subparagraph (A) of Labor Code section 139.21.

Frontline's request for a hearing was granted by the Administrative Director. The hearing is set for September 26, 2023 before Workers' Compensation Judge Jeffrey Marrone. I may be contacted through the physical and email addresses and telephone numbers set forth in this letter.

Frontline contends that Labor Code section 139.21(a) is inapplicable for the following reasons, but reserves its right to add to, modify, amend or withdraw such grounds based on further factual and legal research evidence:

1. Neither Ms. Bernal nor Mr. Sandoval is a “physician, practitioner, or provider” which is a prerequisite to finding the statute applies.
2. Neither Ms. Bernal nor Mr. Sandoval were officers, directors or shareholders of Frontline until years after it ceased activity as a medical corporation. In other words, Frontline's patient care occurred years before any involvement by the two individuals and any bills, invoices or liens for medical services were generated prior to the involvement of these individuals.

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3. The criminal charges alleged against Ms. Bernal and Mr. Sandoval do not relate to Frontline.

4. Neither Ms. Bernal nor Mr. Sandoval had actual or defacto control of Frontline at any time and were simply providing basic, ministerial functions.¹

5. Paul Turley, DC ceased serving as an officer or director of Frontline in or about 2011. As stated above, Frontline had ceased being a medical corporation that same year.

6. Dr. Turley provided various managerial and business development services to Frontline and did not treat patients. He submitted no liens.

7. Dr. Turley did not exercise actual or defacto control of Frontline within the meaning of the statute.

8. Dr. Turley was convicted of certain crimes years after his involvement with Frontline.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Notice of Suspension. Should you have any questions or require anything further, please let me know.

Respectfully,



George A. Shohet

cc. Ana Andrade (AAndrade@dir.ca.gov)
Alison Chandler (AChandler@dir.ca.gov)
Cristina Santiago (CSantiago@dir.ca.gov)
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¹ Frontline acknowledges the holding in *Villanueva v. Teva Foods* (2019) WCAB Case No. ADJ9332041, 84 Cal. Comp. Cases 198, but reserves its right to challenge any allegations of defacto control on the grounds that the phrase is not in section 139.21 and adding the phrase into the statute is impermissible under the rules of statutory construction.