



Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospitals

Charlotte F. Martin, M.P.A.
Executive Director

Louisiana Physical Therapy Board

IN THE MATTER OF

GABRIEL SONNIER

LICENSE NO. 11763

COMPLAINT NUMBER

2025-I-014

CONSENT ORDER

Gabriel Sonnier ("Mr. Sonnier" or "Respondent") is a Physical Therapist ("PT"), as evidenced by License No. 11763, and is subject to the jurisdiction and the Rules and Regulations of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Practice Act (La. R.S. 37:2401, *et seq.*), and the Rules and Regulations of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board ("LPTB" or "Board") (LAC 46:LIV §103, *et seq.*), and enters in the following agreement ("Consent Order") relative to Complaint No. 2025-I-014.

FACTUAL BASIS FOR CONSENT ORDER

1. Respondent received his Physical Therapist license, number 11763, on or about May 16, 2024.
2. On March 19, 2025, the Board received notification that Respondent had been arrested on March 16, 2025, and charged with two counts of felony indecent behavior with juveniles, in violation of Louisiana Revised Statute 14:81, and three counts of felony obscenity, in violation of Louisiana Revised Statute 14:106.
3. On March 21, 2025, Respondent emailed the Board Office and advised of his March 16, 2025 arrest.
4. As a result, the Board initiated a complaint against Respondent, and an investigative committee of the Board was formed to investigate the allegations against Respondent.
5. On April 4, 2025, Respondent was sent a notice letter detailing the allegations made in the complaint, and providing the potential laws and rules of the Board that may have been violated by such conduct if the allegations were found to be true. Respondent was advised therein of his opportunity to show compliance with all lawful requirements for the retention of his

physical therapist license at an informal conference to take place on April 9, 2025. It was requested that Respondent provide a written response to the allegations by April 7, 2025.

6. On April 7, 2025, Respondent, through counsel, provided a written response to the Board, admitting to his presence at the location of the complained-of conduct and to his questioning and charges by law enforcement as a result of the incident. Respondent provided no response to the allegations of unlawful conduct. He advised that he plans to enter a plea of not guilty on all counts.
7. On April 8, 2025, Respondent, through counsel, provided a copy of the police report related to his March 16, 2025 arrest.
8. On April 9, 2025, the Investigative Committee met with Respondent and his counsel and conducted an informal conference.
9. Due to the serious nature of the allegations in the complaint, the Investigative Committee determined that Respondent should not practice physical therapy during the pendency of the investigation and/or administrative proceedings before the Board unless under continuous supervision and provided that he promptly complete an evaluation.
10. Mr. Sonnier, through counsel, agreed to submit to continuous supervision and a full evaluation pending further proceedings before the Board.
11. On April 21-23, 2025, Respondent submitted to a comprehensive psychosexual evaluation at Pine Grove Behavioral Health & Addiction Services, located at 2255 Broadway Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39402 ("Pine Grove"), to address the issues raised by the Investigative Committee.
12. On May 1, 2025, the evaluation team at Pine Grove provided the Board with a copy of Respondent's evaluation report ("the Pine Grove Report"). The Pine Grove Report provides detailed information regarding Respondent's evaluation and the evaluation team's diagnostic impressions, conclusions, and recommendations, all as more fully set forth in the Pine Grove Report.
13. The Pine Grove evaluation team concluded that Respondent is not fit to practice physical therapy with reasonable skill and safety at this time.
14. The Pine Grove evaluation team's recommendations are stated in the Pine Grove Report and include:
 - a. Successful completion of a Board-approved residential treatment program to address the issues set forth in the Pine Grove Report, inclusive of a component for professionals, and which program should be able to provide a determination of safety to practice at the end of his treatment course and to include the identification of any additional parameters necessary for him to return safely to the workplace;

- b. During his treatment course, an evaluation of Respondent's use of substances;
 - c. Repeat polygraph near the end of his treatment course to ensure all concerns have been adequately addressed;
 - d. Forensic psychosexual evaluation prior to returning to the practice of physical therapy, either during his treatment process or after the successful completion of a Board-approved treatment program, along with compliance with the recommendations of that evaluation;
 - e. Enter into a monitoring agreement with the Board, to include quarterly to biannual polygraph examinations, for a recommended period of five years; and
 - f. Arrange for a copy of the final evaluation report to be delivered to the program Respondent chooses, in order to facilitate an efficient treatment process.
15. The Investigative Committee determined that Respondent should not practice physical therapy pending fulfillment of the recommendations of the Pine Grove Report.

POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS RELATED TO RESPONDENT'S CONDUCT

Respondent's conduct described above and otherwise reviewed in this action, if true, may be a violation of the following provisions of law regarding his practice of physical therapy:

1. La R.S. 37:2420(A): After due notice and hearing, the board may refuse to license any applicant, or may refuse to renew the license of any person, or may restrict, suspend, or revoke any license upon proof that the person has: (1) Practiced physical therapy in violation of the provisions of this Chapter, the rules of the board, or standards of practice . . . (7) Been found guilty of unprofessional conduct . . . including but not limited to departure from, or failure to conform to, the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing physical therapy practice, in which proceeding actual injury to a patient need not be established . . .
2. LAC 46 LIV §345(A): The board shall deem a violation any charge of conduct which fails to conform to the Practice Act, and board rules to carry out the provisions of the Act, and shall take appropriate action where violations are found. The rules of this Chapter complement the board's authority to deny, suspend, revoke or take such other action against a licensee, or Compact Privilege holder as it deems appropriate.
3. LAC 46:LIV §345(B)(1)(a) - As used in R.S. 37:2420(A)(7) of the Practice Act and in these rules, the term unprofessional conduct does not require actual injury to a patient, and includes, but is not limited to, the following: (1) departure from, failure to conform to, or failure to perform on a continuing basis to the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing physical therapy practice as defined in §123, or the commission of any act contrary to honesty, justice, good morals, patient safety or the best interest of the patient,

whether committed in the course of the licensee's practice or otherwise, regardless of whether actual injury to a patient results therefrom, including, but not limited to: (a) failure to use sound professional judgment.

4. LAC 46:LIV §345(B)(5) - sexual misconduct—inappropriate sexual or intimate conduct, includes, but is not limited to sexual intimacy, contact, exposure, gratification, abuse, exploitation or other sexual behavior with or in the presence of a patient or any other individual in connection to the licensee's practice of physical therapy regardless of consent by the patient. Such conduct may be verbal, physical, visual, written or electronic, or it may consist of expressions of thoughts, feelings or gestures that are sexual or reasonably may be construed by a patient or other individual as sexual or which may reasonably be interpreted as intended for the sexual arousal or gratification of the practitioner, the patient, or another individual. Sexual misconduct between a licensee and a former patient after termination of the therapist–patient relationship may also constitute unprofessional conduct if the sexual misconduct is a result of the exploitation of trust, knowledge, influence or emotions derived from the professional relationship.

ORDER

Pursuant to the foregoing Factual Basis for Consent Order and Violations Related to Respondent's Conduct, and in order to avoid an emergency suspension of his license and further administrative and judicial proceedings, Respondent and the Board, by vote of quorum, agree as follows:

1. Respondent's physical therapist license (PT License No. 11763) shall be and is hereby **SUSPENDED** until such time that Respondent complies with all recommendations of the evaluation team, as stated in the Pine Grove Report dated May 1, 2025. As recommended, Respondent shall complete a treatment program and, following completion of the treatment program, Respondent shall submit to a forensic psychosexual evaluation which shall determine whether Respondent is safe to return to the practice of physical therapy with reasonable skill and safety to the public. Respondent will schedule and complete the treatment program and the evaluation at his own expense. The evaluation report must be sent directly to the Board upon completion for review. Respondent's license will remain suspended until receipt by the Board of documentation establishing his fulfillment of all recommendations of the Pine Grove Report and receipt by the Board of an evaluation report from a Board-approved provider stating that Respondent is safe to return to the practice of physical therapy with reasonable skill and safety to the public.
2. Respondent agrees to follow all treatment recommendations resulting from the treatment program and the forensic psychosexual evaluation. If individual therapy/treatment is recommended, Respondent shall choose an individual treatment provider that meets the LPTB Criteria for Individual Treatment Providers. Respondent shall sign all necessary medical release forms for the evaluation and any treatment discharge summaries to be released directly to the individual treatment provider and to the LPTB. Respondent further agrees to allow the LPTB to send a copy of this Consent Order and any other Orders issued by the Board relative to Respondent to the individual treatment provider. Individual therapy

reports shall be sent directly to the LPTB from the individual therapy provider on a quarterly basis, to be received no later than the 15th of January, April, July, and October.

3. Once Respondent's license is reinstated after the suspension period set forth at Paragraph 1, above, Respondent's license shall be on probation for a minimum of five (5) years, beginning with the date of the Board's reinstatement of Respondent's license. Not less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to completion of the probationary period, Respondent shall submit to the Board Executive Director in writing a request for a letter from the Board, formally acknowledging the close of the probationary period. Respondent's probationary period concludes upon receipt by Respondent of a letter from the Board acknowledging the close of the probationary period and a final exit interview with the Board to be scheduled by the Board Executive Director;
4. Respondent shall complete a RPTP Participation Agreement. During the suspension and probationary period, Respondent shall participate in the Recovering Physical Therapy Program ("RPTP") and follow all terms and conditions set forth in the RPTP Participation Agreement.
5. During the probationary period, Respondent shall submit to quarterly polygraph examinations. Respondent shall be responsible for scheduling the examinations and shall reimburse the Board for expenses related to the examinations as invoiced. Invoices shall be paid within thirty (30) days of receipt. Respondent shall sign all necessary release forms for the examination and any resulting reports to be released directly to the LPTB.
6. During the probationary period, the Board may make random unannounced monitoring visits to Respondent's work site. In the event of a monitoring visit, Respondent shall fully cooperate with the Board representative making the visit and Respondent shall provide complete access to his place of employment, employment and/or business records, patient treatment and billing records, and all other documentation necessary for a full legal compliance review. Respondent shall reimburse the Board for expenses related to the monitoring visit as invoiced and must be paid within thirty (30) days of receipt of invoice;
7. The five-year probation period shall be extended for any period of time in which Respondent is not employed as a physical therapist within the State of Louisiana and regularly working an aggregate over the month that is at least eighty (80) hours per month. If Respondent ceases to be regularly employed as a physical therapist in Louisiana, he shall notify the Executive Director in writing within ten (10) calendar days of the last date he has practiced physical therapy in Louisiana. Likewise, if Respondent returns to work as a physical therapist assistant within the State of Louisiana, he shall notify the Executive Director in writing within ten (10) calendar days of his return to practice;
8. During the five-year probationary period, Respondent shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to his employer(s), direct supervisor(s), and any physical therapist(s), physical therapist assistant(s), or physical therapy technician(s) who are supervised by, work for, or contract with Respondent at any business, including, but not limited to, any business(es) Respondent owns, operates or manages before providing physical therapy services and shall have such person(s) notify the Executive Director in writing that he/she has received and reviewed a copy of this Consent Order prior to Respondent providing physical therapy

services. Respondent shall do this also with any new or subsequent employer(s), direct supervisor(s), physical therapist(s), physical therapist assistant(s), or physical therapy technician(s) during the probationary period;

9. Respondent shall submit to supervised clinical practice for the duration of the five-year probationary period. Respondent may only practice under the on-premises and full workday supervision of the supervising PT. Respondent may only practice under the supervision of a board-recognized PT who has practiced no less than three (3) years with a Louisiana license in good standing. A supervision agreement must be approved by the Executive Director. The supervision agreement shall be in force for the entire supervisory period. Respondent may only practice in those facilities and under the supervision of the PT named in the approved supervision agreement. Any change in practice site or supervisor must be submitted in a revised supervision agreement prior to the change taking place. At the end of the supervisory period, the supervising PT of record shall report to the Board the satisfactory or unsatisfactory completion of the supervision period. If an unsatisfactory supervision period is reported by the supervising PT of record, the Board, in its discretion, may require an additional supervisory period;
10. The parties further agree that should Respondent be found guilty of, enter a guilty plea, or a plea of nolo contendere, or any other plea under La. C.Cr.P. art. 893 or 894 (or any related article) to any criminal offense relating to sexual misconduct in any matter in the Seventeenth Judicial District Court or in any other jurisdiction or in any case involving sexual misconduct, Louisiana Physical Therapy License No.11763 belonging to Gabriel Sonnier will automatically be revoked; Gabriel Sonnier hereby waives his right to an informal conference, to a notice of hearing, to a final administrative hearing, and to judicial review of the revocation.
11. Respondent shall pay the Board the sum of \$4,847.50 in partial reimbursement for legal and administrative expenses incurred in this matter. Failure to reimburse associated fees will require the Board to take further action in collection of this debt. Respondent has twenty-four (24) months from the signing of this Order by all parties to reimburse the expenses before the debt will be considered final and transferred to the Louisiana Office of Debt Recovery (ODR). After transfer, the debt is subject to an additional collection fee of up to twenty-five percent (25%) of the total debt liability, as provided for in La. R.S. 47:1676(E);
12. Respondent shall comply with La R.S. 37:2415(B) and notify the Executive Director of the Board in writing and prior to a change of residence to another country, state, or jurisdiction. Upon relocation, all provisions of this Consent Order, except Paragraph 9 pertaining to reimbursement of legal and administrative expenses, are suspended until Respondent again resides within Louisiana, notifies the Executive Director of his Louisiana residence, and receives written confirmation from the Executive Director;
13. Respondent shall meet with the Board, or with the Board's representative, whenever requested during the probationary period, and shall fully cooperate in providing information and documents requested in such meetings;

14. Respondent shall have reliable access to a computer, internet, and telephone. In accordance with Board Rule §385, Respondent shall provide to the Executive Director his preferred telephone number and/or email address in writing for expedited communications regarding compliance with this Consent Order within forty-eight (48) hours of signing the Consent Order. Respondent shall reply to Board emails and telephone calls within four (4) hours of such communication. Respondent shall notify the Executive Director in writing of any change to his preferred telephone number and/or email address immediately upon such change;
15. Respondent declares that, before signing this Consent Order, he is of sound mind, has carefully read this document, understands the contents, and freely consents to it as valid and binding upon him. He is aware of his right to a hearing before the Board to afford him an opportunity to present evidence that the cause for license suspension no longer exists, and he freely waives that right. He is aware of his right to a notice of hearing, to a formal administrative hearing, and to judicial review of an administrative finding, and freely waives those rights. Further, he has had the opportunity to be represented by legal counsel in this matter and in the negotiation of this Consent Order;
16. Respondent acknowledges that his failure to comply with any term of this Consent Order is a basis for the immediate summary suspension of his license and for further disciplinary action by the Board;
17. Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Order only addresses the specific violations outlined above;
18. Respondent authorizes the Investigating Board Member and legal counsel assisting the Investigating Board Member to present this Consent Order to the full Board for its consideration and to fully disclose and discuss with the Board the nature and results of the investigation to this point. Respondent waives any objection to such disclosures under La. R.S. 49:977.2 and expressly acknowledges that the disclosure of such information to the Board shall be without prejudice to the Investigative Board Member's or prosecuting attorney's authority to file a formal Administrative Complaint against him, or to the Board's capacity, as currently comprised, or any future composition of the Board, to adjudicate such Complaint, should the Board decline to approve this Consent Order. Should the Board decline to approve this Consent Order, Respondent retains all rights to due process including, but not limited to, his right to have notice of any allegations or charges against him, to administrative adjudication of such allegations or charges, and to a subsequent final decision rendered upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law;
19. Respondent acknowledges that presentation to and consideration by the Board of this Consent Order, including presented documentary evidence and information, shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice or preclude the Board, or any of its members, as the Board is currently constituted, or any future appointments to the Board, from further participation in hearings or resolution to these proceedings;
20. Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Order becomes effective only upon signature by the Board Chair; and

21. Respondent acknowledges that all communication(s) regarding compliance with and/or fulfillment of the requirements of this Consent Order shall be in writing between Respondent and the Board Executive Director. No verbal communication(s) shall be considered proof of compliance or commitment. Respondent acknowledges that it is the responsibility of the Respondent to fully comply with the Consent Order and proactively communicate with the Board Executive Director.

I, GABRIEL SONNIER, have read this Consent Order, understand it, and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions.


GABRIEL SONNIER

SWORN TO and subscribed before me, Notary Public this 10th day of ^{June}~~May~~, 2025, in

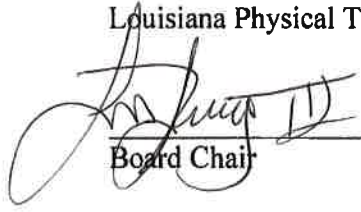
Terrebonne, Louisiana.


Notary Public

Cheleste H. Gottschalk
Notary Name printed (#39011)
Bar Roll

AGREED AND ACCEPTED by official action of the Board, this 18 day of ^{June}~~May~~, 2025,
at Lo GAYLE BR, Louisiana.

Louisiana Physical Therapy Board


Board Chair