

CAITLYN SALTER STEPHENS

DOCKET NO. C-20264336

VERSUS

15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

LOUISIANA PHYSICAL THERAPY
BOARD

LAFAYETTE PARISH, LOUISIANA

**ALTERNATIVE EX PARTE ORDER GRANTING TEMPORARY RESTRAINING
ORDER AND RULE TO SHOW CAUSE FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

Considering the *Ex Parte Motion for Statutory Stay Pursuant to La. R.S. 49:978.1(C) and Request for Expedited Consideration, or, Alternatively, for Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction*, the supporting memorandum and affidavit, the pleadings, and applicable law:

The Court finds that the facts established by the evidence submitted by the Petitioner, Caitlyn Salter Stephens, demonstrates that she has made a prima facie showing that she will prevail on the merits of Petitioner's Petition, as amended, including her claims that the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board's disciplinary order was issued through unlawful procedure, was affected by errors of law, exceeded the Board's statutory authority, and was arbitrary, capricious, or an abuse of discretion.

The Court further finds that the specific facts established by the supporting affidavits demonstrate that credentialing actions based upon the Final Order are ongoing and that immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or damage may result before the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board can be heard in opposition. Immediate relief without awaiting a contradictory hearing is therefore warranted.

IT IS ORDERED that Petitioner's alternative request for a Temporary Restraining Order is GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board is temporarily restrained from enforcing the disciplinary Order issued by the Board on March 23, 2026, and approved with modifications as the "Final Order" by the Occupational Licensing Review Program on June 3, 2026.



DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

CC:

LEE AYRES

CARRIE JONES

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the enforcement and operative effect of the Final Order are suspended for the duration of this Temporary Restraining Order, including the operative effect of Ms. Stephens's probationary status and all sanctions, restrictions, conditions, payment obligations, compliance requirements, and deadlines imposed by the Final Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all compliance, reporting, educational, and payment obligations and associated deadlines imposed by the Final Order are suspended and tolled for the duration of this Temporary Restraining Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, for the duration of this Temporary Restraining Order, the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board is prohibited from taking any licensing, disciplinary, or enforcement action to enforce any sanction, restriction, condition, obligation, or deadline imposed by the Final Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that security for the issuance of this Temporary Restraining Order is fixed in the amount of \$1, ~~XXXX~~ ^{\$25,000.00} pursuant to La. C.C.P. art. 3610, and that this Temporary Restraining Order shall become effective upon Petitioner's furnishing of that security.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board appear and show cause on the 21ST day of September, 2026, at 1:00 pm .m., why a Preliminary Injunction should not issue suspending the enforcement and operative effect of the Final Order pending final judgment on the Petitioner's Petition, as amended.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice of the foregoing hearing and copies of this Order, the Motion, supporting memorandum and affidavits, and proposed Preliminary Injunction be served upon the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board through its counsel of record.

This Temporary Restraining Order is issued at 3:00pm .m. on the 14th day of September, 2026, and shall expire at Until Hearing .m. on the _____ day of _____, 2026, unless extended, modified, or dissolved by further order of this Court or by consent as permitted by law.

SIGNED in Chambers at Lafayette, Louisiana, this _____ day of _____, 2026.



DISTRICT JUDGE

THOMAS R. DUPLANTIER
9/14/2026
LAFAYETTE, LA

PREPARED BY:

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ATTORNEYS FOR LOUISIANA
PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD



State of Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospitals

Louisiana Physical Therapy Board

IN THE MATTER OF:
CAITLYN SALTER, PT
LICENSE NO. 09917

NUMBER: 2021-I-021

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

The above captioned matter came for administrative hearing before the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board ("Board") on February 9 and 10, 2026, in accordance with applicable provisions of the Physical Therapy Practice Act, La. R.S. 37:2401-2425, the Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:950, *et seq.* and the Professional and Occupational Standards for Physical Therapists, L.A.C. 46:LIV.103-399.

Present were:

Amy Groves Lowe, Hearing Officer;

Board Members: Benjamin Gaines; Michael Hildebrand, PT; Lucien "Danny" Lewy, PT, Chair; Lee Rielly, PT, PhD; and Claude Tremblay, PT;

Sheri M. Morris, Attorney for the Board;

James Raines, Prosecuting Attorney;

Caitlyn Salter, PT, also known as Caitlyn Stephens ("Respondent"); and

Lawrence W. Pettiette and Thomas A. Pressley, Attorneys for Respondent.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent has been licensed by the Board as a physical therapist, as evidenced by PT License Number 09917, since on or about May 3, 2018.
2. At all times relevant to these proceedings, Respondent was employed by Shreveport Aquatic & Land Therapies ("SALT") as a physical therapist.
3. From March 20, 2020 through November 2021, C.C. was a patient of SALT receiving physical therapy services from Respondent.
4. From December 1, 2020 through September 4, 2021, R.S. was a patient of SALT receiving physical therapy services from Respondent.
5. On or about November 2, 2021, the Board received a complaint from Respondent's former boyfriend alleging Respondent was intimately involved with a patient.

6. On November 16, 2021, a Board Investigator interviewed the complainant, who stated Respondent advised him that a male patient confessed his feelings for her, and Respondent said she was going to discharge the patient. Complainant learned that Respondent had been texting the patient and hanging out with him outside of work. Complainant stated he reviewed Respondent's text messages and found messages indicating Respondent and Patient R.S. had been going out, getting physical, and calling each other "babe." Complainant further stated he observed text messages between Respondent and a SALT employee who encouraged Respondent to pursue a relationship with the patient.
7. The complainant provided copies of text messages between Respondent and the patient, text messages between Respondent and the SALT employee, and videos which complainant stated he copied from Respondent's phone to corroborate his statements. The text messages demonstrate that Respondent engaged in a relationship with Patient R.S. to secure personal gratification, gain or benefit unrelated to physical therapy services.
8. On or about December 7, 2021, the Board's Investigator interviewed a witness identified by the complainant who stated she had been friends with Respondent and complainant for several years. The witness stated 2–3 years prior, Respondent told the witness she asked out her patient C.C., who she provided physical therapy services to at SALT, and that C.C. turned her down and never spoke to Respondent again. Respondent also told the witness she had a friendly relationship with R.S., a patient of SALT who Respondent provided physical therapy services to, that their relationship became more serious, so Respondent discharged him. After Respondent broke up with complainant, the witness learned Respondent's relationship with R.S. was more serious.
9. The witness provided photographs and screenshots of text messages with Respondent regarding Patient C.C. and Patient R.S. to corroborate her statements. The text messages demonstrate that Respondent engaged in a relationships with Patient R.S. and Patient C.C. to secure personal gratification, gain or benefit unrelated to physical therapy services.
10. On February 9, 2022, in response to a request by the Board's staff, Respondent provided some of her text messages with patients Patient R.S. and Patient C.C. The text messages demonstrate that Respondent engaged in relationships with Patient R.S. and Patient C.C. to secure personal gratification, gain or benefit unrelated to physical therapy services.
12. R.S.'s medical records from SALT confirmed he was a patient of SALT, who received physical therapy services from Respondent until he was discharged on September 4, 2021. The discharge summary stated, "Patient did not want to continue with physical therapy;" however, notes from the last day of treatment, September 1, 2021, indicate the patient met two of his four long-term goals and would benefit from continued skilled physical therapy demonstrating the relationship interfered with patient care or could reasonably be expected to interfere with the process of delivering quality care and/or to jeopardize patient safety.
13. Respondent's personnel record from SALT included an investigative report detailing SALT's investigation into Respondent's relationship with a patient. Respondent provided limited text messages to SALT, including an undated message in which a patient expressed his feelings for Respondent, and an August 31, 2021 message where Respondent advised patient due to the blurring of lines between friendship and physical therapist, she would

have to discharge him. The SALT investigation included messages about cancelling appointments demonstrating the relationship interfered with patient care or could reasonably be expected to interfere with the process of delivering quality care and/or to jeopardize patient safety.

14. Informal conferences were held on January 18, 2022 with Respondent, on May 26, 2022 with her prior counsel and on August 8, 2023 and October 17, 2023 with Respondent and her current counsel. At the final informal conference, the Board's staff provided copies of all the text messages obtained during the investigation to Respondent.
15. On April 23, 2022, Respondent and R.S. were married and at the time of the hearing were still married.
16. As of the date of the hearing, Respondent was no longer employed by SALT. She was employed as a physical therapist on a part-time basis at another facility.
17. As of the date of the hearing, no patient complaints had been received by the Board regarding Respondent.
18. As of the date of the hearing, no additional complaints had been received by the Board regarding Respondent.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct by providing personal contact information to select male patients of SALT, specifically to C.C. and R.S., who she provided physical therapy services to.
2. Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct by attempting to pursue a relationship with patient C.C. to provide gratification to herself as evidenced by text messages between Respondent and C.C., and between Respondent and witness about C.C.
3. Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct by communicating in person, by text messages and through SnapChat with R.S., a patient of SALT who she provided physical therapy services to, in which she shared personal and private information leading to patient's discharge from SALT. Respondent's disruptive behavior could have reasonably been expected to interfere with the process of delivering quality care and/or jeopardize patient safety.
4. Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct by communicating in person, by text message and through Snapchat with C.C., a patient of SALT who she provided physical therapy services to, in which she shared personal and private information to provide gratification, gain, or benefit to herself. Respondent's disruptive behavior could have reasonably been expected to interfere with the process of delivering quality care and/or jeopardize patient safety.
5. Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct by offering to discharge R.S., a patient of SALT who she provided physical therapy services to and offered to continue to provide

physical therapy to him outside of SALT. Respondent's disruptive behavior could have reasonably been expected to interfere with the process of delivering quality care and/or jeopardize patient safety.

6. Respondent pursued romantic relationships with patients of SALT, who she provided physical therapy services to, which relationships were based on the exploitation of trust, knowledge, influence and emotions derived from the professional relationship.
7. The evidence and testimony presented during the administrative hearing proved Respondent violated the following:
 - A. La. R.S. 37:2420(A)(7) prohibiting unprofessional conduct or sexual misconduct, including but not limited to departure from, or failure to conform to, the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing physical therapy practice whether or not actual injury to a patient is established.
 - B. L.A.C. 46:LIV.345(A) requiring physical therapists to conform to the Practice Act.
 - C. L.A.C. 46:LIV.345(B)(4) prohibiting physical therapists from exercising undue influence and requiring physical therapists to exercise professional judgment in the best interests of patients.
 - D. L.A.C. 46:LIV.345(B)(4)(b) prohibiting physical therapists from exercising influence over patients in such a manner as to abuse or exploit the physical therapy provider/patient or client relationship for the purpose of securing personal ... gratification, gain or benefit of any kind or type, unrelated to the provision of physical therapy services.
 - E. L.A.C. 46:LIV.345(B)(5) prohibiting sexual misconduct including ... contact, ... in connection to the licensee's practice of physical therapy regardless of consent by the patient. Such contact may be verbal, physical, visual, written or electronic, or 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 ... gratification of the practitioner.
 - F. L.A.C. 46:LIV.345(B)(6) prohibiting disruptive behavior ... including but not limited to harassment, sexual or otherwise, manifested through personal interaction with ... patients ... which interferes with patient care or could reasonably be expected to interfere with the process of delivering quality care or jeopardize patient safety.

ORDER

Considering the evidence, testimony, applicable law and rules, arguments of counsel and mitigating factors presented;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that License No. 09917 issued to Caitlyn Salter, PT, shall be placed on probation for a period of three years during which she shall be actively engaged in the practice of physical therapy and during which she shall not:

1. violate any laws or rules applicable to the practice of physical therapy;

2. have any personal communications with current or former patients, except her husband, outside of the clinical environment; or
3. socialize with current or former patients, except her husband, outside the clinical environment.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, that while on probation Caitlyn Salter, PT shall:

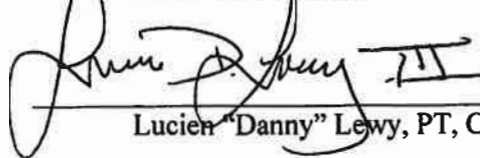
1. report any unsolicited personal communication received from a current or former patient outside the clinical environment to her employer within 24 hours of knowledge of receipt of the communication;
2. complete Board-approved coursework in professional boundaries within six months of the effective date of this Order;
3. complete Board-approved coursework in professionalism within six months of the effective date of this Order;
4. complete Board-approved coursework in ethics within six months of the effective date of this Order; and
5. be evaluated by a Board-approved supervisor, who shall submit a written evaluation regarding Respondent to the Board at least every six months within ten business days of each evaluation.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to La. R. S. 37:2405(B)(11) the costs of this proceeding shall be assessed to Caitlyn Salter, PT which may be paid monthly over a period not to exceed 96 months.

This Order is entered pending review by the Louisiana Department of Justice, Occupational Licensing Review Program. If approved or determined not to require approval by the Occupational Licensing Review Program, the effective date of this Order shall be the date of the Louisiana Department of Justice's determination.

Signed March 23, 2026.

LOUISIANA PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD



Lucien "Danny" Lewy, PT, Chair

PLEASE SERVE:

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STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
P.O. BOX 94005
BATON ROUGE, LA
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To: Ms. Charlotte Martin
Executive Director
Louisiana Physical Therapy Board

From: Jessica Weimer
Louisiana Department of Justice
Occupational Licensing Review Program

Date: June 3, 2026

Subject: Louisiana Physical Therapy Board
Addendum to OLRP Determination
Proposed Disciplinary Action
In Re: Board Order Case #2021-I-021 Caitlyn Salter Stephens (the “**Order**”)
PT License Number 09917

I. PURPOSE

This Addendum is issued by the Occupational Licensing Review Program (the “**OLRP**”) to clarify and finalize its determination letter dated May 11, 2026 regarding the above-referenced disciplinary action and to incorporate modifications made pursuant to La. R.S. 49:260(G).

This Addendum provides clarification and reflects the final approved disciplinary action.

II. AUTHORITY TO MODIFY

Pursuant to La. R.S. 49:260(G), the OLRP has the authority to approve, reverse, veto, or modify disciplinary actions to ensure consistency with clearly articulated state policy and avoid unnecessary restraints on lawful conduct.

Upon review, the OLRP has determined that limited modification is necessary to ensure the conditions imposed are narrowly tailored to the identified public protection concerns. This modification reflects the OLRP’s continued review and application of its statutory authority to ensure the final approved Order is consistent with state policy.

III. MODIFICATION TO THE ORDER

Accordingly, the “Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law and Order” in case Number 2021-I-021 signed March 23, 2026 (the “**Order**”) is hereby modified as follows:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that License No. 09917 issued to Caitlyn Salter, PT, shall be placed on probation for a period of three (3) years, during which she shall be actively engaged in the practice of physical therapy and shall:

1. Not violate any laws or rules applicable to the practice of physical therapy;
2. Not initiate or engage in personal or intimate communications or relationships with any current patient outside the clinical or professional context;
3. Not initiate or engage in personal or intimate communications or relationships with any former patient where such interactions would reasonably be expected to exploit trust, knowledge, influence, or emotional dependence derived from the prior therapist-patient relationship;
4. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to prohibit incidental social contact or pre-existing personal relationships unrelated to the provision of physical therapy services and not involving exploitation of the professional relationship.

All other provisions of the Order remain unchanged.

IV. CLARIFICATION OF COSTS

The OLRP notes that the Order requires payment of the costs of the proceedings but does not specify the total amount assessed. While this does not affect the competitive analysis or the substantive outcome of the disciplinary action, identification by the Board to the licensee of the total amount would promote transparency and provide clear notice to the licensee of her final obligations.

V. FINAL DETERMINATION AND APPROVAL

The OLRP confirms that, as modified by this Addendum, the Board's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order are consistent with clearly articulated state policy and constitute a proper exercise of the Board's disciplinary and regulatory authority.

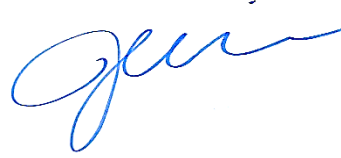
This Addendum constitutes the final action of the Occupational Licensing Review Program for purposes of La. R.S. 49:260 and active state supervision. The Order, as modified herein, reflects the final approved disciplinary action.

Any prior determination or interpretation should be read in conjunction with this Addendum. To the extent of inconsistency, this Addendum shall control.

This determination reflects the OLRP's application of its statutory authority to ensure that the final approved Order is consistent with state policy and appropriately tailored to the identified public protection concerns.

This Addendum constitutes the final approval of the Order, as modified herein. The Board may proceed with the disciplinary action, as modified and approved, in accordance with the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING REVIEW PROGRAM



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