



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

GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS

LICENSE NO. 04772F

NUMBER 2014-I-004

And

IN THE MATTER OF

GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS

LICENSE NO. 04772F

NUMBERS 2019-I-002 AND 2020-I-006

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Pursuant to La. R.S. 49:977.3, the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board ("LPTB" or "Board") summarily suspends License Number 04772F issued to Gretchen Duplantis ("Ms. Duplantis"), pending an administrative hearing scheduled for August 20, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

This Order of Summary Suspension was rendered at the regularly scheduled meeting of the LPTB on June 18, 2025, subject to a written Order being issued and approval by the Louisiana Department of Justice. Upon execution of this Order, Ms. Duplantis is not authorized to engage in the practice of physical therapy and must immediately cease and desist from the practice of physical therapy, as defined by La. R.S. 37:2407. Further, Ms. Duplantis must cease and desist from referring to herself as a licensed Physical Therapist.

I. FACTUAL BASIS FOR ORDER

To protect public health, safety, and welfare, emergency action is required due to the nature of the allegations against Ms. Duplantis. Due to prior issues related to substance abuse and a felony

criminal conviction, Ms. Duplantis was the subject of two prior Board Orders, including Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law issued by the Board on April 26, 2016, in Case Number 2014-I-004, and Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Board Order issued on November 20, 2020, in Case Numbers 2019-I-002 and 2020-I-006. In addition, as will be addressed below, the Board approved a Consent Agreement and Order relative to the above cases on May 5, 2025. The facts and terms set forth in the three prior orders are incorporated herein as if copied *in extenso*.

In her initial order, Ms. Duplantis was required to participate in the Board's Recovering Physical Therapy Program (RPTP). In association with her participation in the RPTP, Ms. Duplantis was required to participate in regular drug screens, among other things. In 2024, Ms. Duplantis was still a participant in the RPTP, and required to participate in ongoing screens.

On July 9, 2024, the Board Office sent notice to Ms. Duplantis that she was not in compliance with the 2016 Board Order and her Participation Agreement. Specifically:

- a. On June 17, 2024, she failed to check-in to her Affinity account and missed a scheduled drug screen.
- b. On June 19, 2024, the RPTP Manager contacted her via Affinity messaging stating that she had missed a drug screen and asked if she had an explanation.
- c. On June 19, 2024, Ms. Duplantis replied via Affinity messaging stating, in part: "I forgot to check in Monday Morning. It wasn't my usual morning with work, so I forgot. How can I have missed a drug screen if I didn't even check in?"
- d. On June 20, 2024, the RPTP Manager replied via Affinity messaging stating: "Dear Ms. Duplantis, There are two ways to miss a drug screen. First, you can have a missed drug screen by failing to check-in to receive notification. The second is to check-in, receive notification, but fail to submit a specimen. Both would result in a 'No Show'. Sincerely, Kathie Pohlman."

The July 9, 2024 notice advised Ms. Duplantis that due to her noncompliance, she would be required to undergo a fitness for duty evaluation by an independent evaluator, recognized by the LPTB-RPTP, prior to her return to the practice of physical therapy. On July 17, 2024, counsel for Ms. Duplantis contacted the Board's prosecutor, James Raines, to request the Board's review

of the 2016 Board Order and the 2020 Board Order. Ms. Duplantis sought an end to the terms of her discipline under the Board's orders, asserting that she could not satisfy them due to the restrictions they imposed on her employability. Specifically, Ms. Duplantis represented that she was unable to secure employment that provided continuous supervision, while under her current restriction from participation in any capacity in Medicare, Medicaid, and all Federal Health care programs, and thereby complete the probationary period imposed by the Board's Orders. By agreement of the parties, the matter was placed on the Board's agenda for its December 11, 2024 meeting.

As noted in the 2025 Consent Agreement, Ms. Duplantis was a "No Show" or missed check-ins for RPTP monitoring on 9/19/2024, 9/25/2024, 10/02/2024, 10/03/2024, 10/04/2024, 10/05/2024, 10/06/2024, 10/07/2024, 10/08/2024, 10/09/2024, 10/10/2024, 10/11/2024, 10/12/2024, 10/13/2024, 10/14/2024, 10/15/2024, 10/16/2024, 10/17/2024, 10/18/2024, 10/19/2024, 10/20/2024, 10/21/2024, 10/22/2024, 10/23/2024, 10/24/2024, 10/25/2024, 10/26/2024, 10/27/2024, 10/28/2024, 10/29/2024, 10/30/2024, and 10/31/2024. However, after October, 2024, Ms. Duplantis never resumed RPTP monitoring.

On November 25, 2024, counsel for Ms. Duplantis filed a "Motion to Declare That Gretchen Duplantis Has Satisfied Terms of Board Disciplinary Orders" and requested that the matter be placed on the Board's agenda for its December 11, 2024 meeting.

On December 11, 2024, the Board took up Ms. Duplantis's Motion for consideration. Following the presentation of testimony and evidence, and after discussing the matter in executive session, the Board voted to deny the motion and offer a Consent Order to Ms. Duplantis to resolve the outstanding terms of the 2016 Order and the 2020 Order while protecting the public health, safety, and welfare and providing a practical pathway for Ms. Duplantis to return to practice.

In association with the Board's directive at its meeting on December 11, 2024, a Consent Agreement and Order ("Consent Agreement") was prepared and offered to Ms. Duplantis, which she signed, and which was ultimately approved by the Board at its meeting and then signed by its Chairman on May 8, 2025. The Consent Agreement required Ms. Duplantis to complete a fitness for duty evaluation with a Board-recognized provider within thirty (30) days, and follow all treatment recommendations resulting from the fitness for duty evaluation (Order Paragraph 1). She was further directed to complete payment for outstanding costs remaining due in association with her prior cases in monthly installments of \$350 for sixty months (Order Paragraph 7). The Consent Agreement further provided that the failure of Ms. Duplantis to comply with any term of the Order is a basis for the immediate summary suspension of her license and further disciplinary action by the Board (Order Paragraph 11).

On May 8, 2025, counsel for LPTB advised Ms. Duplantis and her counsel that the consent order had been approved, and while he did not yet have a copy of it, he wanted to let them know as the Order required a fitness for duty evaluation within thirty days of the approval of the agreement. On May 9, 2025, counsel for LPTB sent the signed order to Ms. Duplantis and her attorney. On June 2, 2025, counsel for LPTB sent an email to counsel for Ms. Duplantis inquiring about whether Ms. Duplantis completed her fit for duty evaluation.

One day after the thirty-day timeframe for completing the fitness for duty evaluation, on June 9, 2025, Ms. Duplantis contacted counsel for LPTB and advised that she had difficulties in getting the evaluation scheduled and had not completed it as required by the Consent Agreement. The following date, on June 10, 2025, she advised that she scheduled the evaluation with an individual that was not approved by the Board to conduct the evaluation. Thereafter, on June 12, 2025, after consultation with the Investigative Committee, counsel for LPTB advised Ms. Duplantis that if she were to schedule evaluation with Palmetto, a Board-approved provider, by

4:00 p.m. on June 13, 2025, she could avoid a summary suspension of her license. Ms. Duplantis did not contact the Board to advise that she scheduled the evaluation as directed on June 13, 2025.

By correspondence dated June 17, 2025, Ms. Duplantis was advised that the Board would be discussing her non-compliance with the Consent Agreement at its meeting on June 18, 2025. In lieu of appearing at the Board meeting, Ms. Duplantis sent a statement by email to be read to the Board at its meeting. Therein, Ms. Duplantis stated that she contacted Palmetto in early February (prior to signing the May 2025 Consent Agreement) regarding the fitness for duty evaluation, and chose not to schedule the evaluation due to its cost, which was “simply unaffordable at this time.” She further stated that she “can no longer emotionally or financially continue down this path.” She further advised that “regarding my financial obligations, I will continue to send monthly payments of \$50, as \$350 per month is simply not feasible for me at this time.”

At the June 18, 2025 Board meeting, after reviewing the June 17, 2025, email from Ms. Duplantis, and considering the terms of her 2025 Consent Agreement, the Board voted to summarily suspend the license of Ms. Duplantis due to her non-compliance with the 2025 Consent Agreement pending a hearing at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Based on the foregoing, it is alleged that Ms. Duplantis may have violated the following, which are applicable to her as a licensee subject to the jurisdiction and the Rules and Regulations of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Practice Act (La. R.S. 37:2401, *et seq.*), and of the LPTB (LAC 46:LIV §103, *et seq.*):

VIOLATIONS

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 §361: When a licensee ceases to be in compliance with his RPTP Agreement, he shall be referred back to the board for regular disciplinary proceedings or such action as authorized in the RPTP agreement.
4. LAC 46:LIV §379(A) EMERGENCY ACTION

In accordance with R.S. 49:961, if the board finds that public health, safety, and welfare require emergency action and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, a summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for suspension, revocation or other action. Such proceedings shall be promptly instituted and determined.

II. DECISION AND ORDER

To maintain public health, safety, and welfare, emergency action is required due to the allegations set forth above, specifically that Ms. Duplantis failed to comply with the terms of the May 8, 2025 Consent Agreement, which required, among other things, that she complete a fitness for duty evaluation within thirty (30) days and pay the amount of \$350 per month for outstanding costs owed to the Board.

Based on the order of Board, made by unanimous vote of the members present at the meeting on June 18, 2025, LPTB License Number 04772F issued to Gretchen Duplantis is SUSPENDED, effective immediately, pending proceedings for suspension, revocation of licensure or other action(s) as the Board deems fit.

Proceedings before the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board shall be promptly instituted and determined. Accordingly, an administrative hearing before the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board is scheduled for August 20, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., at the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board, located at 214 Jefferson Street, Suite 102, Lafayette, LA 70501. The hearing panel will consist of current Board Members or ad hoc members appointed for the purpose of the hearing. The hearing will be

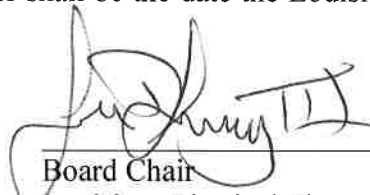
conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, the Louisiana Physical Therapy Practice Act, and the rules promulgated by the Board.

Ms. Duplantis will be given a full opportunity to appear and be heard, with or without counsel, and is entitled to hear a statement of what accusations have been made against her, to present evidence, to cross-examine witnesses, and to have witnesses subpoenaed. Ms. Duplantis may request that subpoenas be issued by the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board and must send a request to the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board office at least 15 days prior to the hearing, listing the names and addresses of the individuals to be subpoenaed, along with a brief summary as to what each individual will testify. The testimony will be under oath and a court reporter will record the proceedings at the hearing, and any party wishing to obtain a transcript of the hearing may do so at their expense.

This Order is entered pending review and written approval by the Louisiana Department of Justice. If approved, the date of the final Order shall be the date the Louisiana Department of Justice issued written approval of the Order.

Date:

7/19/2025



Board Chair

Louisiana Physical Therapy Board