



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**

**NUMBER: 2014-I-004**

**GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS**

**LICENSE NO. 04772F**

**And**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

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

**GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS**

**LICENSE NO. 04772F**

### **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF LICENSE**

**WHEREAS**, GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS (“Ms. Duplantis” or “Respondent”) is a Physical Therapist (“PT”), as evidenced by License No. 04772F, 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 relative to Complaint Nos. 2014-I-004, 2019-I-002, and 2020-I-006;

**WHEREAS**, the parties present the following facts as the basis for the Voluntary Surrender of License:

1. Respondent received her Physical Therapist license, number 04772F, on or about March 28, 2001.
3. On July 19, 2025, to protect public health, safety, and welfare, took emergency action due to the nature of the allegations against Ms. Duplantis, the Board summarily suspended the license of MS. DUPLANTIS.
4. 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, 20126, 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*.
5. 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.
6. 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.”

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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).

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.”

15. 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.

16. An Order of Summary Suspension was signed by the Board chair on July 19, 2025, pending an administrative hearing before the Board initially scheduled for August 20, 2025. Due to scheduling issues a new Notice of Hearing was issued to Ms. Duplantis, wherein the administrative hearing was rescheduled to September 10, 2025.

**WHEREAS**, Respondent, Ms. Duplantis, through counsel, communicated her desire to voluntarily surrender her PT license in lieu of further disciplinary proceedings;

**WHEREAS**, Respondent, Ms. Duplantis, acknowledges that the following will result due to her voluntary surrender of her license with the LPTB:

1. A report of this Voluntary Surrender of License and the conditions under which the license was surrendered shall be submitted to the National Practitioners Data Bank ("NPDB").
2. Public notification of this Voluntary Surrender of License by posting a copy of this Voluntary Surrender of License on the LPTB website.
3. Prior to applying for licensure with the LPTB, Ms. Duplantis must comply with the terms of her May 5, 2025 Consent Order regarding the submission to a Fit for Duty evaluation by a Board-recognized provider to determine if she can safely return to practice as well as all other requirements set forth therein.
4. A three (3) year waiting period before Ms. Duplantis will be eligible to apply for licensure with the LPTB.
5. In the event Ms. Duplantis applies for licensure, prior to the grant of licensure by the LPTB, a hearing shall be held by the LPTB to afford Ms. Duplantis an opportunity to present evidence that she is fit to practice as a Physical Therapist in Louisiana. After such hearing, the LPTB may deny or grant licensure, require the

completion of a specific program or remedial education approved by the Board, and/or require monitoring of Ms. Duplantis' practice as specified by the Board.

6. Paragraph 7 of the May 5, 2025 Consent Order regarding the reimbursement owed to the Board shall remain in effect. In addition to the fees stated therein, Respondent shall pay the Board the sum of \$2,915.00 in partial reimbursement for legal and administrative expenses incurred in this matter since the May 5, 2025 Consent Agreement, for a total amount owed of \$22,315.00. Failure to reimburse associated fees will require the Board to take further action in collection of this debt. Respondent shall pay the Board a minimum of ONE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$100.00) per month toward this balance. If Ms. Duplantis fails to pay this amount, it 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. 46:1676(E).

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Duplantis acknowledges that she has had the opportunity to thoroughly review the content of this Voluntary Surrender of License and that she is informed of and understands her rights to due process in connection with administrative charges, and that prior to final disciplinary action against her license, she would be entitled to have notice of a hearing on the allegations and charges asserted against him through the filing of an Administrative Complaint, and to have an administrative adjudication of such charges, at which time Ms. Duplantis would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses and to present evidence on her own behalf in defense or in mitigation of the charges made, and to a decision thereon by the Board based upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law pursuant to La. R.S. 49:950, *et seq.*;

**WHEREAS**, Notwithstanding her right to an administrative hearing and a decision thereon as provided by La. R.S. 49:975, *et seq.*, in recognition of the stipulations set forth above and for the final disposition of this administrative action, Ms. Duplantis, nonetheless, waives her right to formal adjudication and voluntarily surrenders to the Board her license to practice as a physical therapist in the state of Louisiana as evidenced by License No. 04772F. Ms. Duplantis also hereby

authorizes a member of the Investigative Committee or the Board attorney to present this Voluntary Surrender of License to the LTPB for its consideration, and to fully disclose to and discuss with the Board the nature and results of the investigation, and she waives any objection to such disclosures under La. R.S. 49:950, *et seq.*;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Duplantis acknowledges, stipulates and agrees that the voluntary surrender of her license in lieu of an administrative action shall have, and shall be deemed by the Board to have the same effect as if the Board had entered an order of revocation upon the conclusion of formal administrative proceedings. Ms. Duplantis further acknowledges, stipulates and agrees that as a result of the voluntary surrender of her license, she shall not have any right or entitlement to reinstate or renew her license to practice as a physical therapist in the state of Louisiana, except as set forth above;

**WHEREAS**, by the voluntary surrender of her license in lieu of disciplinary action, Ms. Duplantis, moreover, acknowledges, stipulates, and agrees that she waives any right to which she may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act or which otherwise may be afforded to her by law, to contest her agreement to, or the force and effect of this document in any Court related to the matters referred to herein;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Duplantis acknowledges that she has had the opportunity to seek the advice and guidance of legal counsel with respect to this Stipulation;

**WHEREAS**, based upon the above, Ms. Duplantis surrenders her license held with the LPTB, particularly No. 04772F.

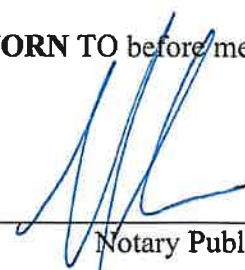
  
GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS

  
Date

I, **GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS**, have read the Voluntary Surrender of License, understand it, and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions.

DATED: 090925   
GRETCHEN DUPLANTIS Louviere

**SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO** before me this 9 day of September, 2025,  
at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

  
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Notary Public  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_  
**MELISSA MCMANUS**  
NOTARY PUBLIC ID #157216  
**STATE OF LOUISIANA**  
MY COMMISSION IS FOR LIFE



## **ORDER**


The Louisiana Physical Therapy Board, represented herein by its Chair, having examined the Voluntary Surrender of License, Case Nos. 2014-I-004, 2019-I-002, and 2020-I-006, accepts the Voluntary Surrender of License in this matter on this 10th day of September, 2025.

Accordingly, the Board orders as follows:

1. A report of this Voluntary Surrender of License and the conditions under which the license was surrendered shall be submitted to the National Practitioners Data Bank ("NPDB").
2. Public notification of this Voluntary Surrender of License by posting a copy of this Voluntary Surrender of License on the LPTB website.
3. Prior to applying for licensure with the LPTB, Ms. Duplantis must comply with the terms of her May 5, 2025 Consent Order regarding the submission to a Fit for Duty evaluation by a Board-recognized provider to determine if she can safely return to practice as well as all other requirements set forth therein.
4. A three (3) year waiting period before Ms. Duplantis will be eligible to apply for licensure with the LPTB.
5. In the event Ms. Duplantis applies for licensure, prior to the grant of licensure by the LPTB, a hearing shall be held by the LPTB to afford Ms. Duplantis an opportunity to present evidence that she is fit to practice as a Physical Therapist in Louisiana. After such hearing, the LPTB may deny or grant licensure, require the completion of a specific program or remedial education approved by the Board, and/or require monitoring of Ms. Duplantis' practice as specified by the Board.
6. Paragraph 7 of the May 5, 2025 Consent Order regarding the reimbursement owed to the Board shall remain in effect. In addition to the fees stated therein, Respondent shall pay the Board the sum of \$2,915.00 in partial reimbursement for legal and administrative expenses incurred in this matter since the May 5, 2025 Consent Agreement, for a total amount owed of \$22,315.00. Failure to reimburse associated fees will require the Board to take further action in collection of this debt. Respondent shall pay the Board a minimum of ONE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$100.00) per month toward this balance. If Ms. Duplantis fails to pay this amount, it 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. 46:1676(E).

Date: 9/10/2025

  
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Lucien "Danny" Lewy, PT, Chairman