



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

SAMUEL FORESTER
LICENSE NO. 04559

NUMBERS 2024-I-021 and 2025-I-009

CONSENT ORDER

SAMUEL FORESTER (“Mr. Forester” or “Respondent”) is a Physical Therapist (“PT”), as evidenced by License No. 04559, 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 Numbers 2024-I-021 and 2025-I-009.

FACTUAL BASIS FOR CONSENT ORDER

1. Respondent received his Physical Therapist license, number 04559, on or about June 29, 2000.
2. On August 29, 2024, the Board received a confidential complaint alleging numerous violations by Mr. Forester of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Practice Act (“Practice Act”) and Board Rules and Regulations (“Rules”) including, but not limited to, improper billing and improper documentation (“Complaint No. 2024-I-021”). It was alleged that Mr. Forester consistently billed for more physical therapy service units than were performed. It was also alleged that he altered the original exercise flow sheets maintained by his office in order to match what was billed. Mr. Forester denies this allegation.
3. Pursuant to LAC 46:LIV §123, an investigative committee of the Board was formed to review and address the complaint against the Respondent.

4. During the course of the investigation, several witnesses were interviewed, and documents were subpoenaed from Rapides Physical Therapy, where the Respondent was clinic co-owner and its only physical therapist. The information gathered during the course of the Board's investigation revealed multiple violations of the Practice Act and Board Rules. In particular, records produced by the Respondent's clinic demonstrated that actual patient treatment times were not documented. Additionally, the records provided did not support the number of units billed for the vast majority of timed CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) codes. The investigation identified at least nine (9) instances where patients were billed for services rendered when the patient was not present for the entire time billed. The investigation also revealed that numerous exercises were billed that were not documented..
5. On November 7, 2024, Respondent was sent a notice letter detailing the allegations made in Complaint No. 2024-I-021, 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. It was requested that Respondent cooperate with the Board's investigation of the complaint and provide, within thirty (30) days, a written response to the allegations.
6. On January 9, 2025, the Board received the written statement of the Respondent, in which he asserted that all billing for services was for treatment time for the services actually afforded, any exercises documented were actually performed, and the physical therapy technicians under his supervision only performed functions within the scope of their training and education.
7. On February 21, 2025, the Board received a second confidential complaint alleging numerous violations by Mr. Forester of the Practice Act and Rules including, but not limited to, improper documentation and lack of proper supervision of supportive personnel ("Complaint No. 2025-I-009"). It was alleged that Mr. Forester was not providing one-on-one treatments with patients, including patients who are fall risks or have other complications that require direct one-on-one treatment by licensed therapists. It was also alleged that Respondent did not see his patients, including on their sixth visit unless absolutely necessary.
8. On April 14, 2025, Respondent's attorney notified the Board office of recoupment efforts by the Louisiana Department of Health ("LDH") addressed in an April 3, 2025 letter to Respondent from the LDH Office of Program Integrity, wherein allegations of overpayment of services and billing for services with inadequate and/or incomplete documentation were addressed. Specifically, it was alleged that on two hundred nine (209) occasions, Respondent's clinic billed and was paid for Procedure Code 97110 (Therapeutic Exercises) with incomplete documentation (no start and end time for therapy services). The billing period of LDH's review overlapped with the billing period made the subject of the Board's investigation. All recoupment sums sought by LDH have been fully and finally paid by Mr. Forester.
9. On May 5, 2025, Respondent was sent a second notice letter detailing the allegations made in both Complaint No. 2024-I-021 and Complaint No. 2025-I-009, 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. The Board notified the Respondent 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 June 10, 2025.

10. On June 10, 2025, the Investigative Committee conducted an informal conference. Respondent attended the informal conference with his attorney, Victor Sooter. During the conference, Respondent advised that he did not intend to improperly bill, and billed Medicaid as he was advised by other practitioners. However, he admitted that he consistently billed four units for each visit with Medicaid patients.
11. According to documentation provided to Board counsel by the LDH Office of Program Integrity, an informal hearing was conducted in the LDH review (Case #P2024-001188) on July 10, 2025. As a result of the informal hearing, by LDH letter dated July 17, 2025, it was reaffirmed that a recoupment of \$16,361.24 was owed to LDH for overpayments for billings by Respondent's clinic identified in LDH's audit.

VIOLATIONS RELATED TO RESPONDENT'S CONDUCT

Respondent's conduct described above and otherwise reviewed in this action is subject to and/or in violation of the following provisions of law regarding his practice of physical therapy:

1. La. R.S. 37:2420(A)(1) - 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;
2. La. R.S. 37:2420(A)(7) - 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: (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;
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)(3)(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: (3) failing to create or maintain medical record—a licensee shall create and maintain adequate and legible patient records. In

addition, a licensee shall: a. Not falsely create or alter a medical record;

5. LAC 46:LIV §345(B)(10) – 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: (10) making or participating in any communication, advertisement, or solicitation which is false, fraudulent, deceptive, misleading or unfair in violation of board rules, or which contains a false, fraudulent, deceptive, misleading or unfair statement or claim, including, but not limited to: a. documenting services provided which have not been provided as documented or billing for services which have not been provided;
6. LAC 46:LIV §345(B)(2)(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: (2) improperly delegating or supervising—a PT retains responsibility to his patient for the training, delivery and results of physical therapy services rendered to his patient. A PT shall not: a. delegate professional, physical therapy, or, if applicable, physical therapist assistant responsibilities to a person the PT or PTA knows, or has reason to know, is not qualified by education, training, experience or licensure to perform the function or responsibility involved;
7. LAC 46:LIV §335(A)(1) - The level of responsibility assigned to a PT technician is at the discretion of a Supervising PT of Record who is ultimately responsible for the care provided by the technician. Documentation of education or in-service training completed by the physical therapy technician shall be maintained in the technician's personnel file. (1) In all practice settings, during the provision of physical therapy services, the supervising PT shall provide continuous, in-person supervision of the physical therapy technician;

ORDER

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

1. Respondent's physical therapist license (License No. 04559) shall be and is hereby SUSPENDED for a period of six (6) months, which suspension shall be effective on February 9, 2026. For the entirety of the suspension period, Respondent shall not participate in any physical therapy patient care services;
2. Following the suspension period set forth above, Respondent's license shall be on probation for a minimum of two (2) 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;

3. 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;
4. Within the first six (6) months of the probationary period, Respondent shall complete the following continuing education courses: (i) APTA Learning Center - Preventing Fraud, Abuse, and Waste: A Primer for Physical Therapists; (ii) APTA Learning Center - Professionalism and Ethics in Physical Therapy: 4-Part Course Series; and (iii) Elite Learning - Billing Basics for the Healthcare Professional: Coding and Reimbursement. Respondent shall provide documentation in the form of course completion certificates to the Board Executive Director within five (5) calendar days of receipt of such documentation;
5. The two-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 within the State of Louisiana, he shall notify the Executive Director in writing within ten (10) calendar days of his return to practice;
6. During the two-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;
7. Respondent shall pay the Board the sum of Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-One and 01/100 Dollars (\$9,861.01) 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);
8. 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 7 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;

9. 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;
10. 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;
11. 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 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;
12. 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;
13. Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Order only addresses the specific violations outlined above, and that the Board reserves the right to proceed with further disciplinary action should the Board receive new information and/or complaints, or if Respondent should have any criminal action taken against him;
14. 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. 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 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;

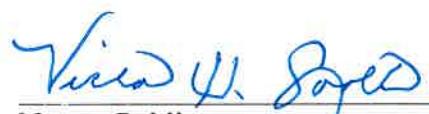
15. Respondent acknowledges that presentation to and consideration by the Board of this Consent Order, including presented documentary evidence and information, shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice or preclude the Board, or any of its members, as the Board is currently constituted, or any future appointments to the Board, from further participation in hearings or resolution to these proceedings;
16. Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Order becomes effective only upon signature by the Board Chair; and
17. 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, SAMUEL FORESTER, have read this Consent Order, understand it, and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions.



SAMUEL FORESTER

SWORN TO and subscribed before me, Notary Public this 30 day of January, 2026,
in Alexandria, Louisiana.



Victor H. Souter
Notary Public



Victor H. Souter
Notary Name printed (#)
12263

AGREED AND ACCEPTED by official action of the Board, this 9th day of January, 2026, at Lafayette, Louisiana.

Louisiana Physical Therapy Board



Board Chairman