

STATE OF LOUISIANA



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

CHARLOTTE F. MARTIN, M.P.A.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS
Louisiana Physical Therapy Board

IN THE MATTER OF

CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE, PT

LICENSE NO. 05051

NUMBER: 2021-I-003

INTERIM CONSENT AGREEMENT AND BOARD ORDER

NOW COME, CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE (Louisiana Physical Therapist License No. 05051) and the LOUISIANA PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD (hereinafter "Board"), appearing through its Chairman, JUDITH HALVERSON, who agree as follows:

1.

CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE was licensed by the Board as a physical therapist in the State of Louisiana, pursuant to the Louisiana Physical Therapy Act, La. R.S. 37:2401-2424 *et seq.*, as evidenced by Louisiana Physical Therapist License No. 05051.

2.

On or about December 18, 2020, a Bill of Information was filed against CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE in United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, on the charge of conspiracy to commit health care fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§1347 and 1349, a felony. The allegations are that CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE knowingly and willfully executed a scheme to defraud a health care benefit program, specifically TRICARE, to obtain, by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses and representations, money and property owned by the health care benefit program. CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE pled guilty to said allegations on February 24, 2021.

3.

Charges of conspiracy to commit health care fraud are pending in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, State of Louisiana, *United States of America v. Christopher Blackstone*, Criminal Docket No. 20-149.

4.

In order to avoid an emergency suspension hearing and a hearing on the disciplinary proceeding against CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE on the captioned matter under investigation by the Board, and to avoid a disciplinary hearing until the criminal matters have been resolved, the parties agree to the following, to be made Order of the Board:

- a. The Louisiana Physical Therapist License No. 05051 of CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE, is indefinitely SUSPENDED. Thus, while this Interim Consent Agreement and Board Order is in effect, CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE is precluded from practicing physical therapy in any capacity.
- b. Before further proceedings in this matter may take place, including an informal conference, filing of an administrative complaint, or an administrative hearing regarding the merits of the complaint against CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE, the following conditions must be met:
 - (1) The criminal case against CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE in the Eastern District of Louisiana resulting from the arrest noted above must be entirely concluded, including all appeals;
 - (2) CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE must have no criminal charges pending against him in any jurisdiction;
 - (3) CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE must have served the entire sentence, if any, arising from the pending criminal case, including probation, parole and/or supervised release.
 - (4) The matter before the Board under investigation in Complaint No. 2021-I-003 must be concluded.

5.

By signing this Interim Consent Agreement, CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE agrees that the Board has jurisdiction in this matter, waives his right to an informal conference, to a Notice of Hearing, to a formal Administrative Hearing, and to judicial review of this Interim Consent Agreement. However, CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE reserves the right to an informal conference, the filing of an administrative complaint, Notice of Hearing, and a formal administrative hearing relative to the merits of Complaint No. 2021-I-003.

6.

By signing this Interim Consent Agreement, CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE agrees that any failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement is a basis for discipline by the Board.

7.

CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE further understands that this Interim Consent Agreement shall constitute a Public Record pursuant to La. R.S. 44:1 *et seq.* and is considered disciplinary action by the Board.

8.

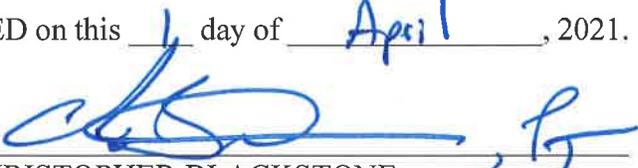
The parties agree that this Interim Consent Order does not serve as a resolution of the captioned complaint and is merely being entered into on an interim basis until the pending criminal charges are resolved.

9.

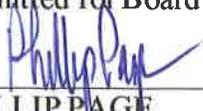
Both CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE and the Board stipulate that this Interim Consent Agreement shall not become effective and shall not become binding on the Board unless and until approved by the Board at formal meeting.

I, CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE, understand that this Agreement is effective upon affirmative vote by the Board at a formal meeting. It is also understood that should the Board not approve the Interim Consent Agreement, my agreement thereon does not preclude the Board from requiring a formal hearing of my case. I further understand that should this Interim Consent Agreement not be accepted by the Board, the presentation to and consideration by the Board of this Agreement, including presented documentary evidence and information, shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice or preclude the Board or any of its members from further participation in hearings or resolution of these proceedings. CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE also specifically authorizes a member of the Investigative Committee or the Board attorney to present this Agreement to the LTPB for its consideration, and to fully disclose to and discuss with the Board the nature and results of the investigation, and he waives any objection to such disclosures under La. R.S. 49:950, *et seq.*

SIGNED, AGREED TO, AND ENTERED on this 4 day of April, 2021.


CHRISTOPHER BLACKSTONE
(La. Physical Therapist License No. 05051)

Submitted for Board Approval By:

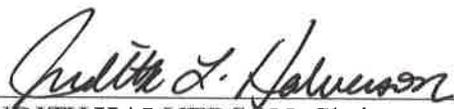


PHILLIP PAGE
Investigatory Committee Board Member

BOARD ORDER
and
ACCEPTANCE OF THE INTERIM CONSENT AGREEMENT
BY THE LOUISIANA PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD:

By a majority vote of the Board members voting in favor of the foregoing Interim Consent Agreement at the Board meeting on April 14, 2021, the Board hereby adopts said Agreement, and makes it an Order of this Board.

FOR THE BOARD:



JUDITH HALVERSON, Chair