

LOUISIANA PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF

Confidential Complaint No. 2020-I-017

CHRISTIAN STAFFORD

(LOUISIANA P. T. LICENSE NO. 08847)

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND BOARD ORDER

NOW COME, CHRISTIAN STAFFORD (Louisiana Physical Therapist License No. 08847) and the LOUISIANA PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD (hereinafter "Board"), appearing through its Chairman, Judith Halverson, PT, DPT, MHA, who agree as follows:

1.

CHRISTIAN STAFFORD 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. 08847.

2.

On or about June 8, 2020, the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board received a complaint regarding physical therapy evaluation and treatment on September 24, 2019 and September 26, 2019 for patient V.D. at PT Solutions, Tulane Institute of Sports Medicine by Respondent.

3.

Investigation of the complaint revealed that CHRISTIAN STAFFORD provided physical therapy services to a patient V.D. at PT Solutions, Tulane Institute of Sports Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana, on September 24, 2019 and September 26, 2019, which were not provided as documented.

a. The following services were documented by CHRISTIAN STAFFORD that were not performed, including procedures requiring one on one supervision, specifically:

- (1) In Treatment Notes for physical therapy rendered to patient V.D. at PT Solutions Physical Therapy, Tulane Institute of Sports Medicine, on or about September 24, 2019, CHRISTIAN STAFFORD documented physical therapy services rendered that date by use of CPT Code 97110 and CPT Code 97112;
- (2) In Treatment Notes for physical therapy rendered to patient V.D. at PT Solutions Physical Therapy, Tulane Institute of Sports Medicine, on or about September 26, 2019, CHRISTIAN STAFFORD documented physical therapy services rendered that date by use of CPT Code 97110 and CPT Code 97112; and
- (3) CPT Code 97110 and CPT Code 97112 both require direct (one on one) patient contact with the patient.

- b. CHRISTIAN STAFFORD admitted that neither he nor any other individual working under his supervision, including a student intern, had one on one patient contact with patient V.D. on September 24, 2019 or September 26, 2019, for the duration of the documented services, contrary to what was represented in his documentation.

4.

The erroneous documentation of services not performed caused billing for services to the physical therapy patient that Respondent did not perform, both of which are in violation of:

- a. La R.S. 37: §2420(A)(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; and

- b. LAC 46: LIV §345(B)(10)(a) – Unprofessional conduct includes ... (10)a. documenting services provided which have not been provided as documented or billing for services which have not been provided.

5.

An informal conference was held on December 18, 2020, with CHRISTIAN STAFFORD and his attorney, Cynthia Sonnier, participating.

6.

In order to avoid a hearing on the disciplinary proceeding against CHRISTIAN STAFFORD on the captioned matter under investigation by the Board, and to avoid any further administrative or judicial proceedings, the parties agree to the following, to be made Order of the Board:

- a. The Louisiana Physical Therapist License No. 08847 of CHRISTIAN STAFFORD, is placed on probation for two years subject to the following conditions:
  - (1) Respondent's probationary period begins on Board approval of the Consent Agreement and Board Order.
  - (2) Respondent's probationary period concludes upon receipt by respondent of the Board a letter acknowledging the close of the probationary period and final exit interview with the Board to be scheduled by the Board Executive Director;
  - (3) During the two year probationary period Respondent shall fully cooperate with the Board representatives making random unannounced monitoring visits to his work sites and 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 \$150.00 for each such monitoring visit;

- (4) During the two year probationary period, Respondent shall provide a copy of this Consent Agreement and Board 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 has received and reviewed a copy of this Consent Agreement and Board 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;
- (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 at least 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) Respondent shall pay the Board the sum of \$4,955.00 in partial reimbursement for legal and administrative expenses incurred in this matter, this amount may be paid in a lump sum, or monthly installments, if arranged in writing in advance with the Executive Director, over the one year of his probation. In the event that the Respondent reimburses the Board in monthly installments, payment shall be submitted to the Board Executive Director no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month. Failure to provide payment by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month three times is a basis for further disciplinary action by the Board;
- (7) Respondent shall comply with La R.S. 37:2415.B. and notify the Executive Director of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board in writing and prior to a change of residence to another country, state, or jurisdiction. Upon relocation, all provisions of this Consent Agreement and Board Order, except Paragraph (6) 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;
- (8) 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; and

- (9) Respondent shall have reliable access to a computer, internet, and telephone. In accordance with Board Rule §385 Respondent shall provide to the executive director their preferred telephone number and/or email address in writing for expedited communications regarding compliance with board order within forty-eight (48) hours of signing the Consent Agreement and Board 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 their preferred telephone number and/or email address immediately upon change.

7.

Respondent declares that, before signing this Consent Agreement and Board 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. As is his right, he has been represented by legal counsel, Cynthia Sonnier, in this matter.

8.

Respondent acknowledges that his failure to comply with any term of this Consent Agreement and Board Order is a basis for immediate summary suspension of his license and for further disciplinary action by the Board.

9.

Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Agreement and Board Order only addresses the specific violations outlined above.

10.

Respondent authorizes the Investigating Board Member, Kathryn Brittain, and legal counsel assisting the Investigating Board Member, to present this Consent Agreement and Board 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. 49:960 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 to adjudicate such Complaint, should the Board decline to approve this Consent Agreement and Board Order. Should the Board decline to approve this Consent Agreement and Board 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.

11.

Respondent acknowledges that presentation to and consideration by the Board of this Consent Agreement and Board Order, 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 to these proceedings.

12.

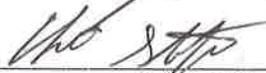
Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Agreement and Board Order becomes effective only upon signature by the Board Chair.

13.

Respondent acknowledges that all communication regarding compliance with and/or fulfillment of the requirements of this Consent Agreement and Board Order shall be in writing between Respondent and the Board Executive Director. No verbal communication shall be considered proof of compliance or commitment. Respondent acknowledges that it is the responsibility of the Respondent to fully comply with the Consent Agreement and Board Order and proactively communicate with the Board Executive Director.

I, CHRISTIAN STAFFORD, understand that this Agreement is effective upon affirmative vote by the Board at formal meeting. It is also understood that should the Board not approve the Consent Agreement and Board Order, my agreement thereon does not preclude the Board from requiring a formal hearing of my case. I further understand that should this Consent Agreement and Board Order not be accepted by the Board, the presentation to and consideration by the Board of this Consent Agreement and Board Order, 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.

SIGNED, AGREED TO AND ENTERED on this 30 day of June, 2021.



CHRISTIAN STAFFORD  
(La. Physical Therapist License No. 08847)  
414 Cranberry Drive  
Terrytown, LA 70056

  
CYNTHIA SONNIER

Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith, LLP  
1000 East Vermillion Street, Suite 3000  
Lafayette, LA 70501  
Phone: (337) 326-5778

*Attorney for Respondent, Christian Stafford*

Submitted for Board Approval By:



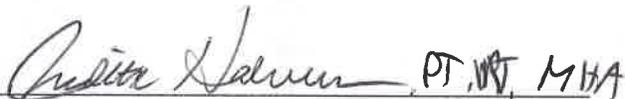
KATHRYN BRITTAIN

Investigatory Committee Board Member

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

By a majority vote of the Board members voting in favor of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Board Order at the Board meeting on August 11, 2021, the Board hereby adopts said Consent Agreement and Board Order, and makes it an Order of this Board.

FOR THE BOARD:



Judith Halverson, PT, DPT, MHA, Chair