
In the Matter of
STACEY ANDRUS, P.T.A.
License No. A
Respondent

* LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
* PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS
*
* Case Number 2007I033

CONSENT ORDER

A complaint was received by the Louisiana State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (Board) reporting the arrest of Stacey Andrus, P.T.A., in Rapides Parish on August 11, 2007 for four counts of possession of stolen goods valued at more than \$500; one count of possession of stolen goods valued at \$300-\$500; and four counts of possession of stolen goods valued at less than \$300. Investigation of the complaint indicated that Ms. Andrus was cooperating with authorities and had indicated to detectives that some of the stolen property came from the homes of patients she was treating as a physical therapist assistant while making home health calls.

After review of the information provided in the complaint and produced by the Board's investigator, the Board at its meeting on January 31, 2008 found that protection of public health, safety and welfare justified the emergency action provided by Rule 343, and summarily suspended the license of Stacey Andrus as a physical therapist assistant. Respondent was notified of the suspension of her license and requested to attend an informal conference in Alexandria on February 6, 2008. Participating in that informal conference were Investigating Board Member Todd Drury, Executive Director Cheryl Gaudin and Board counsel Glenn Ducote. Respondent appeared and cooperated fully with Board members and agreed to the terms of this Consent Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent has been charged by the Rapides Parish District Attorney with several counts of receiving stolen property from her boyfriend and assisting him in fraudulently pawning that property. These criminal charges are presently pending.

2. In the course of the investigation of the theft, receipt and pawning of this property, investigators learned that the stolen property, which was mostly jewelry, came from multiple sources. Respondent told investigators that she had taken some of the jewelry from a patient she was treating while employed with Red River Rehab doing home health visits.

3. Respondent has told Board investigators that she may have stolen property from other home health patients over an extended period of time when she was regularly using crystal meth and other mood altering, illegal substances. She indicates that her use was such that she does not have a memory of who she treated, where she went to provide treatment of what she may have taken from her patients' homes.

4. Respondent admitted to Board investigators that she has had a long-term addiction to crystal meth, extending approximately seven years. She advised Board investigators that she has completed intensive out-patient treatment for substance abuse, has been attending twelve step meetings and has abstained from mood-altering substances for almost six months. She is not

currently working as a physical therapist assistant and has not done so since her arrest in August, 2007. She is currently working as a bartender in a local restaurant and is residing with her parents.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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. The Board has the authority to suspend or revoke a license which it has issued, or place probationary conditions upon such license, upon proof that the licensee has been guilty of unprofessional conduct or is addicted to the use of habit-forming drugs. La. R. S. 37:2413A(5) and (7) and Board Rule 325.

2. As used in the Physical Therapy Practice Act, "unprofessional conduct" includes: departure from, or failure to conform to the standards of acceptable and prevailing physical therapy practice in the State of Louisiana, regardless of whether actual injury to a patient results therefrom. Rule 327E. Theft of property belonging to patients she is treating clearly constitutes "unprofessional conduct" as defined in the law.

3. The Board had just cause to take emergency action to suspend Respondent's license in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare from further criminal and negligent conduct by Respondent. Rule 343.

DECISION

Pursuant to the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and in order to avoid further administrative and judicial proceedings, Respondent and the Board, by vote of quorum, agree as follows:

A. Respondent's license as a physical therapist assistant is revoked.

B. At any time after March 1, 2010, Respondent may apply for reinstatement of her license in compliance with the requirements of Board Rule 349.

C. Respondent declares that, before signing this Consent Order, she has carefully read this document, fully reviewed it with an attorney (or waived counsel), understands the contents, and freely consents to it as valid and binding upon her. Recognizing her right to have notice of allegations or charges asserted against her, to administrative adjudication of such allegations or charges pursuant to La. R.S. 49:955-958, and to a subsequent final decision rendered upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law, Stacey Andrus nonetheless waives these rights and proceedings and, pursuant to La. R.S. 49:955D and Board Rule 335, agrees to entry of this Consent Order.

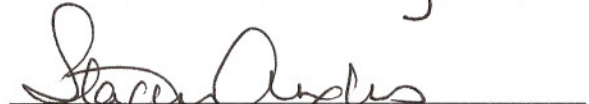
D. Respondent authorizes the Investigating Board Member, Todd Drury, M.D., and legal counsel assisting the Investigating Board Member, to present this Consent Order to the full Board for its consideration and to fully disclose to and discuss with the Board the nature and results of the investigation. 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 Investigating Board Member's authority to file a formal Administrative Complaint

against her, or to the Board's capacity 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, her right to have notice of any allegations or charges asserted against her, to administrative adjudication of such allegations or charges, and to a subsequent final decision rendered upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law.

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

F. All communication regarding this Consent Order or application for reinstatement shall be in writing between Respondent and the Board Executive Director. No verbal communication shall be considered as proof of compliance or commitment.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED on this 26 day of February, 2008.



Stacey Andrus

AGREED AND ACCEPTED by official action of the Board, the ____ day of February, 2008, at Lafayette, Louisiana.

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS**



Dan Wood, P.T., Chair