



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

CHRISTIAN A. KOESTLER

LICENSE NO. A11898

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

COMPLAINT NUMBERS

2024-I-022 & 2025-I-017

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Pursuant to La. R.S. 49:977.3, the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board ("LPTB" or "Board") summarily suspends License Number A11898 issued to Christian A. Koestler ("Mr. Koestler"), pending an administrative hearing scheduled for June 18, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

This Order of Summary Suspension is effective as of May 20, 2025. Upon execution of this Order, Mr. Koestler is not authorized to engage in the practice of physical therapy and must immediately cease and desist from the practice of physical therapy, as defined by La. R.S. 37:2407. Further, Mr. Koestler must cease and desist from referring to himself as a licensed Physical Therapist Assistant.

I. FACTUAL BASIS FOR ORDER

To protect public health, safety, and welfare, emergency action is required due to the nature of the allegations against Mr. Koestler. On August 30, 2024, the Board received a rapback report of an August 25, 2024 arrest of Mr. Koestler for operating a vehicle while intoxicated. As a result, the Board initiated a complaint against Mr. Koestler and an investigative committee of the Board was formed to investigate allegations against Mr. Koestler.

On September 3, 2024, Mr. Koestler was sent a notice letter detailing the allegations made in the complaint 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. Mr. Koestler was directed therein to provide a written statement to the Board giving his view of the situation, explaining fully the circumstances that led to the arrest, as well as any certified documents directly from the court describing the conclusion of any arrest and/or criminal proceedings. On September 21, 2024, the Board received a personal statement from Mr. Koestler in response to the Board's request. In addition to the letter explaining the circumstances that led the arrest, the letter also advised the Board that an attorney had been retained in the criminal and administrative matters, but not in related to the Board's investigation. The Investigative Committee determined that the investigation would remain open until the criminal matter is resolved.

On April 3, 2025, the Board received notification that Mr. Koestler had been involved in an incident on March 22, 2025 that led to an arrest for operating a vehicle while intoxicated, charge 2, first degree vehicular negligent injuring, reckless operation of a vehicle, and a felony hit and run. As a result, the Board initiated a complaint against Mr. Koestler, and an investigative committee of the Board was formed to investigate the allegations against Mr. Koestler.

On April 15, 2025, Mr. Koestler was sent a notice letter detailing the allegations made in the complaint 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. Mr. Koestler was directed therein by the Executive Director of the Board to submit to an inpatient evaluation at a provider recognized by the Board to address his current fitness and ability to practice physical therapy with reasonable skill and safety to patients.

On May 6 – 8, 2025, Mr. Koestler submitted to a psychological and substance use evaluation at Palmetto Addiction Recovery Center, located in Rayville, La ("Palmetto"), to address

the issues raised by the Investigative Committee and the two arrests related to habitual intemperance within a 7-month period. On May 16, 2025, the evaluation team at Palmetto provided the Board with a copy of Mr. Koestler's evaluation report ("the Palmetto Report"). The Palmetto Report provides detailed information regarding Mr. Koestler's evaluation and the evaluation team's diagnostic impressions, conclusions, and recommendations, all as more fully set forth in the Palmetto Report. The Palmetto evaluation team concluded that Mr. Koestler is not fit to practice physical therapy with reasonable skill and safety at this time. The Palmetto evaluation team's recommendations are stated in the Palmetto Report and include:

1. Sign and follow a five-year Louisiana Physical Therapy Board monitoring contract. Any violations of the contract or positive drug or alcohol screens should result in further inpatient evaluation.
2. Complete a PT Board approved Inpatient Treatment Program experienced in the treatment of chemically dependent professionals. Length of treatment should depend upon his progress in treatment.
3. Mr. Koestler is not ready to practice his profession with skill and safety until he has completed treatment, has a continuing care plan in place, has signed a PT Board agreement and has met with his treating addictionist following treatment to determine fitness to return to duty.
4. He should contact the La Physical Therapy Board as soon as possible after this evaluation to receive instruction.

Due to the findings of the Palmetto Report, the Investigative Committee determined that Mr. Koestler should not practice physical therapy.

Based on the foregoing, it is alleged that Mr. Koestler may have violated the following, which are applicable to him as a licensee subject to the jurisdiction and the Rules and Regulations of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Practice Act (La. R.S. 37:2401, *et seq.*), and of the LPTB (LAC 46:LIV §103, *et seq.*):

VIOLATIONS

1. La R.S. 37:2420(A): 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: (5) Been habitually intemperate or abused controlled dangerous substances as defined by federal or Louisiana law...(7) Been found guilty of unprofessional conduct or sexual misconduct, 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.
2. LAC 46:LIV §345(A): The board shall deem a violation any charge of conduct which fails to conform to the Practice Act, and board rules to carry out the provisions of the Act, and shall take appropriate action where violations are found. The rules of this Chapter complement the board's authority to deny, suspend, revoke or take such other action against a licensee, or Compact Privilege holder as it deems appropriate.
3. LAC 46:LIV §345(B)(15): 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: (15) failure to notify the board of a felony arrest or arrest related to habitual intemperance as defined in §351, institution of formal criminal charges either by indictment or bill of information, and conviction, including, but not limited to, a guilty plea or a plea of nolo contendere, within seven days of such arrest, criminal charge, or conviction.
4. LAC 46:LIV §379(A) EMERGENCY ACTION

In accordance with R.S. 49:961, if the board finds that public health, safety, and welfare require emergency action and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, a summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for suspension, revocation or other action. Such proceedings shall be promptly instituted and determined.

II. DECISION AND ORDER

To maintain public health, safety, and welfare, emergency action is required due to the allegations set forth above, specifically that Mr. Koestler is not fit to return to duty as a physical therapist assistant until he complies with all recommendations of the Palmetto Report dated May 16, 2025, including signing and following a five-year Louisiana Physical Therapy Board monitoring contract, any violations of the contract or positive drug or alcohol screens should result in further inpatient evaluation; completing a PT Board approved Inpatient Treatment Program experienced in the treatment of chemically dependent professionals, length of treatment should

depend upon his progress in treatment; and complete treatment, have a continuing care plan in place, have signed a PT Board agreement and have met with his treating addictionist following treatment to determine fitness to return to duty.

Pursuant to an Order of the Board at its meeting on March 19, 2025, the Board's Executive Director was granted the authority to issue Summary Suspension Orders upon the unanimous approval of the Investigative Committee. The Investigative Committee reviewed the information outlined above and confirmed unanimously their support for the issuance of a summary suspension of the license of Mr. Sonnier. Accordingly, LPTB License Number A11898 issued to Christian A. Koestler is **SUSPENDED**, effective immediately, pending proceedings for suspension, revocation of licensure or other action(s) as the Board deems fit.

Proceedings before the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board shall be promptly instituted and determined. Accordingly, an administrative hearing before the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board is scheduled for June 18, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., at the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board, located at 214 Jefferson Street, Suite 102, Lafayette, LA 70501. The hearing panel will consist of current Board Members or ad hoc members appointed for the purpose of the hearing. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, the Louisiana Physical Therapy Practice Act, and the rules promulgated by the Board.

Mr. Koestler will be given a full opportunity to appear and be heard, with or without counsel, and is entitled to hear a statement of what accusations have been made against him, to present evidence, to cross-examine witnesses, and to have witnesses subpoenaed. Mr. Koestler may request that subpoenas be issued by the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board and must send a request to the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board office at least 15 days prior to the hearing, listing the names and addresses of the individuals to be subpoenaed, along with a brief summary as to what each individual will testify. The testimony will be under oath and a court reporter will record

the proceedings at the hearing, and any party wishing to obtain a transcript of the hearing may do so at their expense.

This Order is entered pending review and written approval by the Louisiana Department of Justice. If approved, the date of the final Order shall be the date the Louisiana Department of Justice issues written approval of the Order.

Date: 05/20/2025

Charlotte F. Martin
Charlotte F. Martin, Executive Director
Louisiana Physical Therapy Board