



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

LAUREN LUKE

LICENSE NO. 07854

CONSENT ORDER

NUMBER: 2024-I-012

### CONSENT ORDER

LAUREN LUKE (“Ms. Luke” or “Respondent”) is a Physical Therapist (“PT”), as evidenced by License No. 07854, 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 No. 2023-I-012.

### FACTUAL BASIS FOR CONSENT ORDER

1. Respondent received her Physical Therapist license, number 07854, on or about June 24, 2010.
2. On January 2, 2024, the Board sent notice that the window for license renewal for PTs was opening. The Board sent 2024 renewal reminders to all PTs on February 1, 2024, March 1, 2024, and March 25, 2024. The Board sent 2024 late renewal reminders to all PTs on April 2, 2024, and April 15, 2024. All notices were sent to Respondent via her contact information registered with the Board.
3. On April 15 and 16, 2024, Board staff emailed Respondent directly to advise her that she had not yet renewed her license, explaining how to complete the process. Respondent emailed the Board on April 15 and 16, 2024 and indicated that she would complete the process for renewal, and believed that she did complete the renewal process.
4. On April 25, 2024, the Board sent a final renewal reminder to all PTs, advising that the

deadline to renew was April 30, 2024. The notice was sent to Respondent via her contact information registered with the Board.

5. Respondent denies receipt of the April 25, 2024 final renewal reminder.
6. On April 30, 2024, Respondent's license expired due to her failure to timely renew her license.
7. On May 1, 2024, the Board sent Respondent an Expiration Notice to her email address on file with the Board, advising Respondent that she failed to renew her license, and that if she practiced without a license, she may face legal or disciplinary action. The notice also advised Respondent to immediately contact the Board if she wished to continue to practice.
8. Respondent denies that she received the Board's May 1, 2024 Expiration Notice.
9. On or about May 8, 2024, Board staff spoke with Respondent, advising her that her license had expired and that she could not treat patients.
10. On May 16, 2024, the Board Office sent notice to Respondent advising her that a complaint had been initiated by the Board due to her failure to timely renew her license and continuing to practice with an expired license, and requesting that she provide, within thirty days, a written statement giving her view of the situation and explaining fully the circumstances involved.
11. By correspondence received by the Board on or about May 29, 2024, Respondent provided a response to the notice, admitting her unintentional failure to renew her license.
12. An informal conference (Bertucci Hearing) was held on June 6, 2024, between the Investigative Committee and Respondent. During the conference, Respondent acknowledged receiving Board notices regarding renewal and admitted that the Board office telephoned and spoke to her on or about May 8th to further make her aware that her license had lapsed. During the informal conference, Respondent also admitted that she continued to see patients and provide services that were within the scope of her physical therapy practice after her May 8, 2024 phone call with the Board office, and until June 5, 2024.
13. Following the June 6, 2024 informal conference, Respondent denies that she provided services that were within the scope of her physical therapy practice after her May 8, 2024 phone call with the Board office.

## **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 her 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. La. R.S. 37:2417(B) – Any license not renewed in accordance with the rules of the Board shall automatically expire at the end of its term, after which the licensee shall not practice in Louisiana.

## 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 license shall be on probation for one (1) year upon reinstatement of her license. Respondent shall submit to the Board Executive Director in writing not less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to completion of the probationary period 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 the Board letter acknowledging the close of the probationary period and a final exit interview with the Board to be scheduled by the Board Executive Director.
2. Respondent must fulfill the requirements under LAC 46 LIV §187 for reinstatement of her lapsed license, including but not limited to those set forth at §187(C). No later than December 31, 2024, Respondent shall submit to the Board (i) a sworn statement affirming that she has reimbursed and/or reversed all charges that were made for patient treatment between May 1, 2024 and the date of reinstatement of her license, and (ii) proof of the completion of such reimbursement and/or reversal of charges. In the event that Respondent fails to satisfy these requirements, or is found later to have made false, dishonest, or misleading representations in the submissions required herein, then her license will be subject to additional discipline.
3. During the first six months of the probation period, Respondent shall complete the following additional coursework: HPSO Physical Therapy Spotlight:

These hours are required in addition to all standard requirements for PT licensure renewal during each renewal cycle.

4. The one (1) year probation period shall be extended for any period of time in which Respondent is not employed as a PT 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 PT in Louisiana, she shall notify the Executive Director in writing within *ten (10) calendar days* of the last date she has practiced physical therapy in Louisiana. Likewise, if Respondent returns to work as a physical therapist within the State of Louisiana, she shall notify the Executive Director in writing within *ten (10) calendar days* of her return to practice.
5. Respondent shall pay the Board the sum of \$2,600.00 in 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 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).
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Respondent shall have reliable access to a computer, internet, and telephone. In accordance with Board Rule §385, Respondent shall provide to the Executive Director her preferred telephone number and/or email address in writing for expedited communications regarding compliance with this Board Order within forty-eight (48) hours of signing the Consent Order. Respondent shall notify the Executive Director in writing of any change to her preferred telephone number and/or email address immediately upon such change.
9. Respondent declares that, before signing this Consent Order, she is of sound mind has carefully read this document, understands the contents, and freely consents to it as valid and binding upon her. She is aware of her right to a notice of hearing, to a formal administrative hearing and to judicial review of an administrative finding, and freely waives those rights.
10. Respondent acknowledges that her failure to comply with any term of this Consent Order is a basis for the immediate summary suspension of her license and for further disciplinary action by the Board.

11. Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Order only addresses the specific violations outlined above.
12. Respondent authorizes the Investigative Committee and legal counsel assisting the Investigative Committee, 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 her, 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, her right to have notice of any allegations or charges 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.
13. Respondent acknowledges that presentation to and consideration by the Board of this Consent Agreement, 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.
14. Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Order becomes effective only upon signature by the Board Chair.
15. 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, LAUREN LUKE, have read this Consent Order, understand it, and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions.

Lauren Luke  
LAUREN LUKE

SWORN TO and subscribed before me, Notary Public this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



K. Landreneau  
Notary Public  
Kevin P. Landreneau  
Notary Name printed (# )

AGREED AND ACCEPTED by official action of the Board, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024, at Lafayette, Louisiana.

Louisiana Physical Therapy Board

[Signature]  
Lucien "Danny" Lewy, PT, Chair